

The Briefly

The newsletter for the parish community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2331 E. Adams • Tucson, AZ 85719
520-327-6857 • www.gsptucson.org

December 2015/
January 2016



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Rector's Letter

Welcome to the beginning. The season of Advent is upon us as we start the church year and also begin our time of hopeful expectation. Unlike other liturgical seasons, when we commemorate important events in the life of those of who make up the church, Advent is the time when nothing happens, when we must learn how to wait. Waiting is a lost art in our culture of immediate gratification. We are encouraged to get whatever we want immediately, whether or not we actually need it or can afford it. Indeed, the whole idea of Advent is counter-cultural. For this reason alone, having a season of nothingness where we must learn patience cannot help but be a good thing.

But of course, Advent is so much more. What we are waiting for is perhaps the most important idea that humankind has ever experienced. Most Christians would argue that resurrection is the central element of our faith, and therefore Easter is our most important holiday. But for me, it is incarnation that represents the fabric of our faith. Incarnation is what makes Christianity so unique from other religious traditions. We believe in a God that cares so much for us that God became one of us. Our God does not just sit in a lofty aerie overlooking the universe. Our God is right here in the trenches with us, living in the midst of the freezing cold with the poor, suffering with us in our sorrows, and rejoicing with us in our joys.

For many, this understanding of God who gets down in the mud with us, is abhorrent. And even for many Christians, what is most important is a God who would die for them. But for me, it is not Jesus' death that marks the essence of my faith, but his life. That God would choose to be born and live into poverty says everything to me about what religion and life is all about. A God who is willing to live with me, teaches me what true leadership is all about and how I must live with others. A God who wants to love us and embrace us so much that God becomes one with us tells me more about the

C Advent is the time when nothing happens, when we must learn how to wait...

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Parish Ministries came out to display their various wares on Connections Sunday, Nov. 8, filling the labyrinth and McBride Hall. *More pictures, Page 9.*



Submissions to The Briefly

Submit articles
to Joyce Henderson,
[BrieflyEditor@grace-
stpauls.org](mailto:BrieflyEditor@grace-stpauls.org).

John Banks receives
photos, charts, and
graphics at [jdbanks@
gmail.com](mailto:jdbanks@gmail.com).

The deadline for
the Feb. 2016 issue
will be Tuesday,
Jan. 12, 2016.

Rector's Letter

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nature of the universe and the true kingdom of God than anything else I have ever learned.

That is why for me, Christmas remains the central element of my faith. And as any child can tell you, it is the anticipation of that event that creates the most powerful emotions.

Here at Grace St. Paul's, we will give you plenty of opportunity to be contemplative this season in the midst of the rush and frenetic activity around you. Our Sunday Advent liturgies are especially designed to create meditative space. Our Tuesday evening prayer services are always followed by a centering prayer meditation, another opportunity for inner reflection. On Dec. 17 at 5:30, we will have a winter solstice celebration, linking us with the quiet of the season in another way. And we will have a special Spirit Song Taizé' worship on a special day, Dec. 20. That will be a perfect way to prepare for the onslaught around us as the week leading to Christmas begins. As the crush of the holiday surrounds you, I urge each of you to take the time to take a step back and reflect. If you feel like you don't have time for quiet reflection at this time of year, that is a

sure sign you *need* it.

In addition to preparation for the coming of Jesus into our hearts, I also urge all of you to take special care in loving one another during this season. Let's all take some extra time in embracing each other and caring for those of us who are in pain. On the evening of Dec. 13, we will continue the GSP tradition of Blue Christmas. This is a service specifically designed to aid all of us carrying heavy burdens this season. Through the great gift of incarnation, none of us are alone. Christ is with us now, and it is our job together to be sure that all of us truly *feel* the presence of Christ within us.

I pray that all of you become intimately aware of the gift of divine presence that God has given us, and that you are overwhelmed with that presence in your hearts during Advent and the twelve days of Christmas that follow.

Christ be with you,



Schedule of Christmas Services

Blue Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

Winter Solstice

Thursday, Dec. 17, 5:30-7 p.m., Sanctuary & Labyrinth

Las Posadas

Saturday, Dec. 19, Time & Location TBA

Spirit Song Taizé

Sunday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

Christmas Eve

Intergenerational Service, 5 p.m.

Carols, 9:30 p.m.

Eucharist, 10 p.m.

Christmas Day

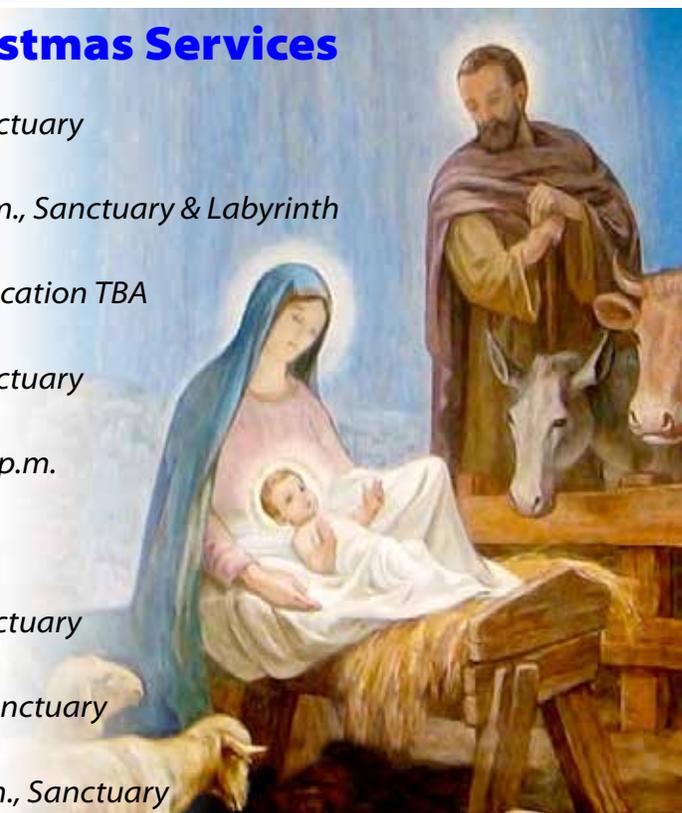
Friday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m., Sanctuary

New Year's Chants

Thursday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

Epiphany

Sunday, Jan. 3, 7:45 & 10 a.m., Sanctuary



Liturgy Discussion of the Month

By The Rev. Steve Keplinger



Resolved that we acknowledge the Episcopal Church's long-standing tolerance for the use of alcohol which, in some cases, has contributed to its misuse, and has undermined a climate of wholeness and holiness for all; that our Church culture too often avoids hard conversations about alcohol use... and that The Episcopal Church now commits to create a new normal in our relationship with alcohol..."

So states the preamble of A158, one of several resolutions passed at General Convention this year regarding the use of alcohol in our Church. Individual congregations are left to consider how we create this new normal in our relationship to alcohol. Your liturgy committee and staff have been doing just that. We are always looking for ways to create a more inclusive setting for all, and since Convention we have discussed how best to respond to the needs of those of us who are alcoholics.

We considered, but rejected the idea of having two choices at communion, regular or non-alcoholic wine. We believed that this kind of segregation was not representative of the inclusiveness we always aspire to create. Should we consider changing to all non-alcoholic wine as a symbol of hospitality for all? One of the issues around that is the hygienic benefits that alcohol offers in sharing the common cup with each other. But research has shown that non-alcoholic wine does offer the same benefit.

Incidentally, this and the theological issues are the reasons we also rejected the use of grape juice.

Non-alcoholic wines have come a long way in the last few years in taste and texture, but of course they cannot replicate the body of the port that we have used for years. So as an experiment, we used non-alcoholic wine for a few Sundays unannounced, to gauge unbiased reactions to it. For the most part, there was no reaction to the change. Most people either didn't notice the difference or didn't care. But there was also a small, but very vocal minority who reacted very adversely, not liking the taste of the new wine at all. Interestingly, a couple people continued to complain about the taste of the new wine after we stopped using it.

There is no simple answer to this issue because those with alcohol addictions respond differently to alcoholic stimuli. For some, non-alcoholic drinks are a life saver. For others, non-alcoholic substitutes continue to trigger a physical or emotional reaction.

What do you think? Should GSP switch to non-alcoholic wine as a hospitality measure and a sign of solidarity with our alcoholic sisters and brothers? Can we or should we live without the rich port flavor at communion? We will be in the court of public opinion during December and January. Please share with me your thoughts as we look to make a decision by February.



Blue Christmas Service

By Deacon Nancy Meister

Sunday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m.

The Blue Christmas Service is a community-wide tradition that was started at Grace St. Paul's by The Rev. Gordon McBride in 2001. It is a special quiet and meditative liturgy for those experiencing loss, pain or loneliness during the holiday season.

The music and prayers are designed to be comforting and to lift your spirits. It is open to all in the Tucson community who would like to be with others experiencing loss of a loved one, be it, a child, a parent, a partner, spouse, friend or pet. Some people come each year to remember their loved one even though their loss may have been many years ago. For some their loss may have been very recent.

There is a candle lighting ritual where we remember those persons who have been loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, or their voices. People may feel the loss of health or loss of a job, loss of a relationship. People may feel alienated from the culture around them because they are depressed and not joyful.

There are several opportunities for healing: lighting candles, writing a message, listening to music or just sitting quietly. As we express our grief, we can become reconciled to it. We never get over our loss. But hope emerges. Pastoral care givers and Community of Hope members will be present to listen, offer support and provide resources. Join us for hot cider and cookies after the service.

Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



The daily paper is a horror show these days, particularly in the category of human's inhumanity to human, not to mention to animals and the rest of the planet. Peace on earth seems impossible. Yet we live in hope that someday soon, people will not blow each other up or shoot each other down or turn their backs while others suffer and die. It's hard to believe that research shows the world is a less violent place than in the past.

Our little acts of generosity pale in significance to the need out there, and yet we must keep on trying to live into the promise of ages, that the day is coming when the lion will lie down with the lamb and a little child will lead them. We can't control the world. We can't even control ourselves. Our job is to hand it to God and change the things we can. So as Jesus and his family were refugees, God help us be with refugees struggling to find a place to live in safety and with folks everywhere longing to live their lives without fear of being killed.

In this darkest of seasons, we have the light of Christ coming into the world as a weak infant, clutched in his mother's arms as they flee the threats of Herod. Not much has changed in the millennia between then and now, and yet there is always a candle in the dark, or perhaps a glowing cellphone. A kind soul giving a helping hand, a warm blanket, medical care, and counseling to push back against the catastrophe. The matrix of love that encompasses the world contains all those things.

I'm not a theologian, just a musician, and at this time of year a rather challenged one, as I try to bind together the many threads that comprise the Christmas and Epiphany seasons in the church year. "Detail" is not my middle name. How is it possible to overthink one thing and completely overlook another? Yet it will come together, as it always does, and the strands will be woven into a cloth of beauty, because the music of this season is transcendently beautiful.

Achieving balance—the task of a lifetime, of course—is important. The music should be accessible for the choir, but challenging enough to maintain interest, bearing in mind that we

also need to prepare extra music for Christmas Eve. It should resonate with the lectionary readings and with the congregation to enhance the liturgy. It should take into account the folks at hand. Much as I'd love to schedule certain anthems, if the tenor part sits high, we won't go there. We are blessed with a rich and full-bodied men's section (we're talking tonally, here), but we don't have high tenors.

I started the over-thinking with Advent. Luckily, Fr. Steve pulled me out of a tail-spin when he said we could still do the good old hymns, despite their theology. Words matter as much as tunes, of course, but there comes a point where I don't freaking care, I just want something singable on paper. Augh!

The choral music for Advent incorporates recent and ancient, from Kristopher Lindquist to William Byrd. Scott Mason is playing hooky (with permission) from St. Michael's to sing the alto solos in Byrd's "Magnificat" with us on Dec. 20. The Grace St. Paul's Sunday School Choir, directed by Wesley Hunter, will sing a song for St. Nicholas Sunday (Dec. 6) entitled "St. Nicholas Song." Truth in advertising. Mary Lonsdale Baker will play piano for communion on Dec. 13. She is moving to California in the New Year to be closer to family, so we are happy she can share her excellence with us once more. While it's sad for us, we wish her many musical adventures in her new home.

Karen Hanson will play Native American flute again this year at the Blue Christmas service on Dec. 13. Her flute set the perfect tone for that service last year; we're grateful for her willingness to play. It's a tough time of year for many, and that service is a blessing.

The big news for Christmas Eve, apart from that of Jesus's birth, is that the service times are an hour earlier. The family service starts at 5 p.m., the carol service at 9:30, and the late service at 10 p.m. Wow! The possibility exists that musicians in this parish will no longer find their exhausted faces planted in the brussels sprouts at Christmas dinner.

The Zombies and the Sunday School Choir will sing anthems for the 5 o'clock service. I overthought the Zombie offertory and

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Choir Notes

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ordered something new. Although I liked that 14th C. carol, I'm not sure they would have (unison, a million verses, in archaic English—what's not to like?) The Judith Herrington Choral Series is wonderful—her arrangements are ace. I've ordered SAB versions of the Spanish dance carol "Fum Fum Fum" (in English, actually) and "Duérmete mi Corazon", a lovely Bolivian lullaby. This year, Fiona Fischer will sing the solo verse of "Silent Night" with Wesley Hunter playing viola.

The Adult Choir is making merry with its Anglican roots this Christmas. The offertory will be Gustav Holst's "Christmas Day"; the communion anthem will be John Rutter's "Past Three O'Clock." At least we presume so, barring traffic accidents involving Pamela, like last year, God forbid. Jane Click has done a setting of "Mary, Did You Know" for members of the Lieto Ensemble and soprano Wendy Pipentacos for the carol service. Jane is such a moveable feast!

Christmas Day and the Feast of Epiphany will be celebrated with hymn sings in place of choral anthems. The choir always has the Sunday after Christmas off; music for Dec. 27 will be provided by members of the Tucson Repertory Orchestra in trade for their use of the church for concerts. However, the choir rehearsal for Sunday, Jan. 3, falls on New Year's Eve. I will be in Scotland with Martin's family until Jan. 6, so it seemed like a plan to sing a few extra carols for Epiphany.

The choir returns for Jan. 10; that Sunday we have Mozart's "Laudate Dominum," with Barbara Pritchard on the soprano solo, and Kristopher Lindquist's "Crashing waters at creation." I've ordered some cool arrangements by Moses Hogan—"I'm gonna sing 'til the Spirit moves in my heart" and "I know the Lord has laid his hands on me" for Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday and beyond.

For Annual Meeting Sunday, Jan. 31, I've selected "Somos el barco" (Lorre Wyatt)—if you're up for it, you get to sing along—and "Love never ends" (James Biery).

And the so new year is launched and I can turn my attention to over-thinking Lent. Blessings to all this holiday season. May you enjoy its fruits, and may the world lie in solemn stillness as the angels cry "Peace on earth, goodwill to humankind." And all of creation.

Paz, salud, y amor,

Christina



Save the Date! Las Posadas is Dec. 19

The GSP Children, Youth & Family Ministry Team will continue the tradition of Las Posadas this year on Saturday, Dec. 19, so save the date!

The specific details are still in the works, so stay tuned for our exciting plans which we will announce in forthcoming Sunday Bulletins, Sunday announcements, weekly e-blasts, and Facebook posts.

If you have questions, contact the parish office at 327-6857.

News from your GSP Youth Ministry Team:

Kristen Bury, Nursery & Interactive Children's & Youth Service Interim Ministry Coordinator; Brianna Devereux, High School Youth Group Interim Youth Leader; Martha Farnham, Middle School Youth Group Interim Youth Leader; Father Steve Keplinger, GSP Rector.

At Grace St. Paul's, the youth ministry is inclusive and welcoming to all youth, ages infant-18. There is a new structure for our Sunday Children's & Youth Ministries, in the Undercroft, below the church:

- Infant and toddler care (newborn to 3+) from 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in St. Teresa's of Avila Room. These hours provide childcare during the 9 a.m. Adult Spiritual Formation programs.

- Interactive Children's & Youth Service (3+ to 8th grade) 10-11:30 a.m. in the Weeks Room. At this service we worship with music, instruments, singing, Liturgy of the Gospel, storytelling, an activity according to age/grade level, and a small snack while the children wait to be signed out. Pre-K/K students celebrate with music worship then are invited to the Pre-K/K class with developmentally age appropriate activities and lessons.

- Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grade) 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in the St. Francis Room.

- High School Youth Group (9th-12th grade) 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in the Mary of Bethany Room.

It is our priority to create a safe environment and community for all God's children. All adult volunteers have received background checks, additional training for safeguarding children, and we use sign-in/out sheets

for the Nursery and Interactive Children's & Youth Service. We work together as a Youth Leadership team and ask parents/guardians to help us by observing the following guidelines:

Children of all ages are invited to attend the 10 a.m. Communion Service and sit with an adult (parent, guardian, or family friend) or with the GSP Middle/High School Adult Youth Leaders in the pews near the front of the church behind the new children's soft space;

Children and Youth (3+ to 8th grade) are invited to attend Interactive Children's & Youth Service;

Children are also invited to serve as Acolytes or Readers in the service (scheduled in advance);

We ask that children be attended by an adult at all times;

If children wish to sit in the balcony, they must be accompanied by an adult parent, guardian, or family friend. If they are not accompanied by an adult, they will be asked to join us in either the Interactive Children's & Youth Service (3+ yrs. - 8th grade) or with the M.S./H.S. Youth Leaders in the front of the church.

We are honored to share in Sunday worship with your child/youth, and to be a part of their spiritual journey and path!

Senior Focus

Danielle Philips, Resilient Woman

By Ann Schlumberger

Clos, a medium-sized schnauzer, greeted me enthusiastically when I called on Danielle Phillips, nee Grace, to interview her for this column. Inside her home, she pointed to a copy of Jean Francois Millet's famous painting "The Angelus," and remarked that cousins of her French grandmother were the models for the painting. I knew then that



Danielle Philips

Danielle must have a fascinating background! I discovered that her father and mother were introduced because of horses. Her English father raised them, and her French grandfather was a huntsman for the French nobility who was always looking for the best mounts. No wonder Danielle became an excellent horsewoman.

Danielle was born on April 26, 1925, in her grandmother's home in Fleury-en-Biere (Seine-et-Marne), France. Childhood pictures show her to be an active little girl with straight, paper white blond hair. She says she was the image of her blond father, shared his birthday, and was named after him. Yet, how she longed for the dark curling ringlets of her older sister, who took after her mother!

After World War II, Danielle, who was bilingual in French and English, obtained work as a French interpreter for the U.S. Army map company 7714 Engineer Topography Corps in Germany. In Heidelberg, she met her American husband Jack Phillips, who was an officer in the U.S. Army Engineering Corps. They married in February 1953 and lived in many places during their life together. After he was honorably discharged from the service, they returned to Jack's family ranch in Colorado. Their daughter Margaret was born in Colorado in December 1953. Following that, they moved to Syracuse, N.Y., where Jack completed his masters degree

in geology and next to Cambridge, Mass., where Jack worked on his Ph.D. at Harvard University. In 1957, Danielle with Margaret went to England to be with her mother to await son Hugh's birth while Jack was finishing up his doctorate. Upon graduation, Jack got a job with a Canadian company that sent him to work in Prescott, Ariz. Eager to be reunited with her husband, Danielle had to wait to travel until little Margaret, who was in a body cast due to a broken leg, recovered from the chicken pox. However, the trip was further delayed because Hugh caught the disease. Finally, the family was able reunite in Prescott.

As a field geologist, Jack was frequently transferred both inside and outside the U.S. When possible, Danielle and the children accompanied him in the field during the summers. Yellowstone was a favorite spot, and Haiti was their most exotic summer destination. The family lived in Prescott for five years. Taking part in that town's Centennial Days, Danielle wore an elegant 19th Century dress that had been given by a French princess to Danielle's aunt, who was a lady-in-waiting. It was the only actual dress from the period worn during the Prescott celebration. (A photograph testifies that Danielle looked wonderful in it!) After Prescott, Jack was assigned to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for two years.

Next, they were in Tucson, where the family joined St. Paul's Episcopal Church. But after only two years, the family moved to Minnesota, with its winter snow and summer mosquitoes. Daughter Margaret Rose graduated first in her class from high school there because of her abilities in math and science. (After college in Washington State and a master's degree in agronomy, Margaret would go on to join the Peace Corps in Costa Rica.) During Jack's stint in Salt Lake City in the 1970s, Danielle earned her master's degree in French and taught "little monsters" in a junior high. The family next relocated to Littleton, Colo., where Hugh graduated high school.

Their last assignment was in Santiago, Chile. During their four years in the Altiplano, Danielle never got mountain sickness, but it was in Chile in 1987 that Jack was killed in a plane crash. Danielle learned of her husband's death

Senior Focus

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while watching the local TV news. She returned to the United States, and several months later, tragedy struck again. Margaret, now married with a nine-month-old son, died of an asthma attack. Danielle gave the rose garden in front of Grace St. Paul's in Jack's and Margaret Rose's memory, and she annually donates pink altar flowers in memory of them. Their ashes rest at the family ranch in Florence, Colo., as Jack stipulated. It was blessed by the Phillips' former minister in Littleton, and is a very peaceful site.

After the deaths of her husband and daughter, Danielle joined her son Hugh in Tucson, where he attended the University of Arizona to earn his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry. Danielle again affiliated with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, helping out in the office and with the altar flowers. Fr. McBride encouraged her to return to teaching, and thus Danielle started her popular French class, which she has led for almost 30 years. (Among others, parishioners Dick Steele and Jim Cooke were dedicated members of it.) Then after St. Paul's and Grace Church merged in 1991, Danielle also served as a translator for French speakers who were served by the refugee program that was housed in the GSP undercroft. Through this ministry, she met many interesting people and became good friends with some who still keep in touch with her.

Being married to a geologist required Danielle to be constantly on the move. Among the rock specimens displayed on her bookshelf are a crystal in the shape of a cross that Jack found in Prescott and some small pebbles that she found in a stream in Chile. The mineralization of these pebbles also features a cross design, reminding Danielle that God is always present, no matter what her circumstances are.



Work to revitalize and renew the Memorial Garden on the church's east side was carried out during late October and early November. Members of a Saturday morning crew wield shovels and hoes to put new plants and flowers in place. If you have not checked out the Memorial Garden recently, please do so soon!

Vestry Candidate Forum & Annual Meeting Coming Soon

The congregation's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, Jan. 31**, following the 10 a.m. service.

During this important gathering, reports will be offered by various ministries, the 2016 budget will be presented, and new members of the Vestry will be elected.

A Nominations Committee, consisting of four Vestry members whose terms

expire this year and four parish members appointed by the Rector, will prepare a slate of eligible candidates.

Vestry candidates will introduce themselves and answer your questions at a special Candidate Forum, **Sunday, Jan. 24**, in McBride Hall, after both morning services. Please watch for more details.

Calling All Ministry Leaders: Annual Report Deadline!

The Annual Meeting of Grace St. Paul's is coming: **Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016, after the 10 a.m. service**. And that means it's time for the Annual Report!

Let us know your ministry's people, accomplishments, milestones, dreams. We'd like reports from as many GSP ministries as possible.

If you'd like to share photos of your ministry's activity, that would be wonderful! Either prints or digital photos are fine; if you're going to send digital photos, please send photos taken at the highest resolution

your camera provides, without any editing or resizing, in JPG/JPEG format.

Please e-mail your reports (in either Word or WordPerfect format, if possible) to David Wachter, at annualreport@grace-stpauls.org, no later than **Monday, Jan. 11, 2016**. Again, that address is annualreport@grace-stpauls.org. This will help make sure that nothing goes astray!

Thank you!

David Wachter,
Annual Report Editor

Post from the Pantry

By Andrew Gardner,
Pantry Team Leader



Thank you, GSP, for your continued, extraordinary support. We reported in the bulletin that our inventory was running low, and Sunday, Nov. 8, we received more food in the Sunday morning donation basket that I can ever remember. Thank you so much.

Holiday Party

For as long as I can remember, the volunteers of Joseph's Pantry have hosted a Holiday Party for the members of the Pantry community, and I hope we will be able to do so again this year. It is always a wonderful event, full of the kind of joy and hope that we all wish for at this time of year. If you'd like to learn more or to help host this event, please call me at 520-275-2148 or email me at Andrew.Scott.Gardner@gmail.com.

Stories from the Pantry

There is always coffee at Joseph's Pantry. It's the first sign for new members of our community that they will be welcomed and find kindness here, rather than bureaucratic efficiency. Because I am shy myself, I am often very surprised by the stories that people will tell over that cup of coffee. Sometimes the stories are mutual aid as community members help each other navigate the realities of poverty or homelessness, sharing resources and encouragement. Other times we hear recipes for the food on offer: how to prepare a butternut squash or a favorite memory of a particular dish.

There are stories, too, that burden a person's heart, and sometimes that burden is lifted if the story is told. I have paraphrased below a few that have been told to me. My hope is that as we share the burden of these stories, we resolve to remake the world into a kinder, gentler place.

"My granddaughter has come to live with me. Her mother, my daughter, struggled with drug addiction before she got pregnant, but she changed her life for her daughter. She's struggling again, and can't take care of my granddaughter. I applied for food stamps since I've only got Social Security for income, but we've run out of food for today."

"Two years ago, I was married. I had a job and a truck and a house. Now, I'm divorced. I'm looking for work, walking wherever I need to go, and sleeping on a friend's couch. It's like my whole life has turned upside down."

"When I left the pantry yesterday, I took a package of grape tomatoes with me. I met a man, just out of prison, homeless, who couldn't sleep because he hadn't eaten in a long time. I gave him the tomatoes, and he was so happy to have something, anything to eat."

In the pantry, we can't heal the pain of addiction or remake the economy or end homelessness, but we can relieve some of the hunger, some of the suffering in our community. I am so grateful for the GSP community that supports the pantry and makes so much possible.



Now we don't want to start Christmas like this, do we?

Welcome to the December GSP First Friday Play Reading! On **Dec. 4** we will assemble to read and enjoy a seriously entertaining look at the misery and hijinks of an average family Christmas, "Season's Greetings," by Alan Ayckbourn. What could be better than cheating at snakes and ladders, two warring uncles, an interminable puppet show about little pigs, and a bungled infidelity under the Christmas tree? And why is the invited guest caught ripping open presents?

Three times!

As usual, the evening is an unrehearsed reading and begins at **6:30 p.m. in the Bloom Room**. Scripts will be provided. No theatre or public speaking experience is necessary; parts will be randomly assigned to anyone who attends and wishes to read. Non-readers are welcome as well, and can participate as an "audience".

This script is suitable for middle-school-ers through adults. This evening will include tasty Christmas intermission goodies.

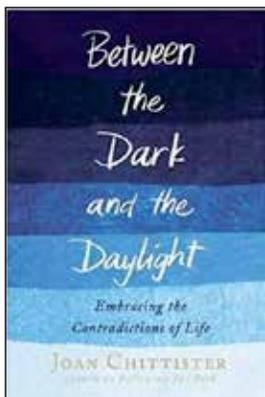
Facilitated by Nanalee Raphael, theatre designer and aficionado.

Celebrating Our Connections

Not your
Mother's
Ministry
Fair!



NEW OFFERINGS



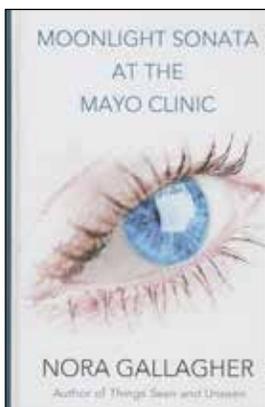
Embracing the Contradictions of Life

Sundays in Advent, Dec. 6, 13 & 20, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

“There is a part of the soul that stirs at night, in the dark and soundless times of day, when our defenses are down and our daylight distractions no longer serve to protect us from ourselves. It’s then, in the still of life, when we least expect it, that questions emerge...they call for the contemplation of possibility.” — Joan Chittister, *Between the Dark and the Daylight*

The season of Advent, between dark and light, is a perfect time to explore some of the concerns of modern life. Join us for a four-week study and dialogue as we explore some of the contradictions of life, to better understand ourselves, each another and God. Topics will be drawn from Joan Chittister’s most recent book, *Between the Dark and the Daylight*. It is not necessary to have read the book for the class.

Facilitated by Margaret Moore and Catherine Penn Williams, co-chairs of Adult Spiritual Formation.



GSP Readers Group

Friday, Dec. 11, 9:30-11 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Life-changing moments take place on seemingly ordinary days when we least expect it. That is one of the many lessons writer Nora Gallagher shares in her compelling memoir, *Moonlight Sonata at the Mayo Clinic*. When her doctor finds something amiss during a routine eye examination, she begins a long journey on a difficult road. Gallagher’s memoir is about many things: illness, mortality, faith and doubt, work, busyness, navigating through the crazy quilt that is the American health-care system, and, ultimately, about regaining one’s health and one’s place in the universe.

“A fabulous book—brilliant, tender soulful. Nora Gallagher is everything I love—smart, searching, vulnerable, faithful, doubting, deeply real, and a beautiful writer.” —Anne Lamott

All are welcome! No registration necessary. For more info, please contact the church office at 327-6857.

**No 9 a.m. Class on Sunday, Dec. 27—
Enjoy the Christmas holidays!**

Exploring Today’s Lectionary

Sunday, Jan. 3, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Does it all just seem like Greek to you? One Sunday a month we provide an opportunity to discuss the Bible readings for that day in more depth in a small group setting. Come join us for a thoughtful but always lively conversation about scripture.

Facilitated by Margaret Moore, co-chair of Adult Spiritual Formation at GSP.

Workshop Series on Caring

Saturday, Jan. 9, 9:30-11 a.m., Bloom Education Center

We all have colleagues, friends and family who face difficult times. Sometimes we don’t know what to say or do. The traditional phrases and actions seem so old and worn. This Saturday morning series leads you to think about how to respond to those who hurt and to feel competent and comfortable about your response. Each session includes a 20-30 minute presentation (live or video) and discussion.

Session 3: We Grieve—People experience many types of losses in their lives; loss of a job, divorce, declining health, loss of a friendship, death of a loved one. Deacon Chris Ledyard will show us how to help others through the journey of grief.

Please register by Friday, Jan. 8, so there will be enough chairs and handouts. Call the GSP office (520-327-6857) or check in at the Welcome Desk.

To Be Announced

Sunday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

To Be Announced

Sunday, Jan. 17, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

No 9 a.m. Class on Sunday, Jan. 24—

Please attend the

Vestry Candidates Forum in McBride Hall

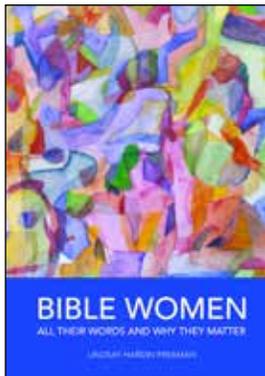
Exploring Today’s Lectionary

Sunday, Jan. 31, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Does it all just seem like Greek to you? One Sunday a month we provide an opportunity to discuss the Bible readings for that day in more depth in a small group setting. Come join us for a thoughtful but always lively conversation about scripture.

Facilitated by Margaret Moore, co-chair of Adult Spiritual Formation at GSP.

BIBLE STUDY @ GSP



Bible Women

Fridays, Dec. 4 & 18, & Jan. 15, 10-11:30 a.m., Weeks Room

Where are the voices of women in the Bible? What do they have to say to us about our own lives? This is the first meeting of a new class to study the Bible through the voices of women in the Old and New Testaments. We will use *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter* by Lindsay Hardin Freeman as a resource. The book is available from Amazon in softcover (\$22) or Kindle (\$9.99). All are welcome. No registration necessary!

[NOTE: The group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month—except for New Year's Day.]

For more information about this class contact Catherine Penn Williams, co-chair of Adult Spiritual Formation.

For Men: Coffee, Bagels and Bible Stuff

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 a.m., McBride Hall

This is your invitation to join a diverse group of men in a discussion of the Book of Luke. (After 6 months we finished the Book of Acts.) Many of the men are attending their first bible study and are enjoying the attempt to put the weekly readings into historical perspective while finding current application. ALL materials are provided. Drop-ins are welcome and we start and end on time.

[NOTE: The group will not meet on Dec. 24 or Dec. 31.]

Facilitated by Bill Moore, GSP member.

WEEKLY SMALL GROUPS



Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys

Mondays, 10 a.m.-12 Noon, Bloom Education Center

For many, our understanding of what it means to be a Christian has been shaped by church teachings but also, more importantly, by time and experience over the course of our own unique spiritual journeys. In this small group we undertake a shared conversation about what matters most to us as followers of Jesus and how we practice this in our individual lives and the life of our community.

Each meeting focuses on a different intersection between spirituality and religion, and the conversation takes us where the Spirit guides. Each session stands alone and all are welcome. No registration is necessary.

[NOTE: The group will not meet on Mon, Dec. 28, but will resume on Mon, Jan. 4.]

Co-facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams and Brian Arthur. Brian is a longtime EFM mentor at GSP and Catherine is the co-chair of Adult Spiritual Formation.

Saturday Java Jive: Coffee & Conversation

Saturdays, 8:30-11 a.m., Epic Café (745 N. Fourth Ave., corner of Fourth Ave. & University Blvd.)

Want to meet and get to know folks in a relaxed and friendly environment? All are welcome to join this long-running motley crew that meets every Saturday morning for coffee and conversation. We never know who will show up, the topic is always up for grabs and hilarity often ensues.

Epic has free WiFi so tablets and laptops are welcome (you never know when Wikipedia will need to be consulted...).

Look for us at the group of little round tables in the back of the café.



Grace St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Grace St. Paul's: A Progressive Community—Loving God, Serving Others, Journeying Together

What's Happening in December 2015

WEEKLY SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Sundays

- 8 a.m., [Holy Communion](#)
- 8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation
- 9:45 a.m., Child Care
- 10 a.m., [Holy Communion](#)
- 10 a.m., Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour
- 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups

Mondays

- 11:30 a.m., Spiritual Direction
- 4 p.m., Spirit Dojo
- 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

Tuesdays

- 9 a.m., Spiritual Book Discussion
- 6 p.m., [Evening Prayer & Communion](#)
- 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m., [Holy Communion](#)
- 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters
- 5 p.m., Spirit Dojo

Thursdays

- 10 a.m., Bridge Group
- 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
- 5:30 p.m., [Spirit Now—An Emerging Worship Experience](#)

Saturdays

- 9 a.m., Altar Guild

2nd 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

3rd 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

4th 9:30 a.m., GSP Readers Group

10 a.m., *Women's Bible Study*

6:30 p.m., **Spirit Players Play-Reading**

5th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive: Epic Café**

6th **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Dog & Cat Food Collection

9 a.m., *Embracing Contradictions*

7th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

10th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

12th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

13th **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9 a.m., *Embracing Contradictions*

6 p.m., **Blue Christmas**

14th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

7 p.m., **Joseph's Pantry meeting**

16th 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

17th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

18th 10 a.m., *Women's Bible Study*

6:30 p.m., **Film & Fellowship**

19th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

6 p.m., *Las Posadas*

20th **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9 a.m., *Embracing Contradictions*

6 p.m., **SpiritSong: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé**

21st 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

22nd 6:30 p.m., **Vestry Meeting**

24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Office will close at 12 Noon

5 p.m., **Intergenerational Service**

6:30 p.m., **Reception**

9:30 p.m., **Carols**

10 p.m., **Candlelight Service**

25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Office, Social Service Ministry,

& Joseph's Pantry closed

10 a.m., Service with Carols

26th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

28th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

31st 7 p.m., **New Year's Chants**

Coming in January 2016

1st **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Office, Social Service Ministry,

& Joseph's Pantry closed

2nd 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

3rd **EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

9 a.m., *Exploring Today's Lectionary*

4th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

6th 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

7th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

8th 6:30 p.m., **Spirits Players Play-Reading**

9th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

9:30 a.m., *Caring Workshop*

10th 9 a.m., *Adult Forum TBA*

6 p.m., **SpiritSong: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé**

11th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

7 p.m., **Joseph's Pantry meeting**

14th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

15th 10 a.m., *Women's Bible Study*

6:30 p.m., **Film & Fellowship**

16th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive: Epic Café**

17th 9 a.m., *Adult Forum TBA*

18th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

20th 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

21st 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

22nd 9:30 a.m., GSP Readers Group

23rd 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive: Epic Café**

24th **MEET THE VESTRY CANDIDATES**

after both services

25th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

26th 6:30 p.m., **Vestry Meeting**

28th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

30th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive: Epic Café**

31st 9 a.m., *Exploring Today's Lectionary*

11:30 a.m., **ANNUAL MEETING**

