



The Briefly

The newsletter for the parish community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2331 E. Adams • Tucson, AZ 85719
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December 2016/
January 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Generosity, Kindness & Grief

(pg 2)

Musings from the Associate

(pg 3)

Blue Christmas & New Year's Chants

(pg 6)

Senior Focus

(pg 7)

Post from the Pantry

(pg 8)

Winter Film & Fellowship

(pg 9)

Rector's Letter

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The time of waiting and anticipation is upon us once again as we enter the season of Advent. Waiting is a lost art in the post-modern world and that is why I often urge all of you to embrace this season, and the counter-cultural opportunity it gives us to do everything the opposite of what is going on around us. As the world goes frenetic, we are asked to sit meditatively and wait. As the country begins celebrating Christmas right after Halloween, and are sick and tired of it by Christmas day, we don't celebrate a thing until Christmas Eve night, bursting into fits of joy while the rest of the world says enough already.

C If ever there was a time to live in hopeful anticipation of the God who will create a home of inclusion, it is this Christmas.

This year, however, waiting has taken on a slightly

different meaning than it has in the past. It is with some trepidation and fear that some of us are anticipating what will occur on Jan. 20, 2017. That is the day when the balance of power shifts in the United States and the country moves from a figurehead that symbolized a patchwork quilt nation of immigrant people who have come together to create a beautiful mosaic, to one who suggests that immigrants have no place in this country, the borders should be sealed and we should isolate ourselves from those crazy people abroad. A new leader who, at the very least, tolerates misogyny and racism.

How in the world do we live in hopeful anticipation of that? In two words, we don't. Instead, let us focus this who comes before. Let us anticipate the birth of the one

Continued on Page 2



Holiday Services

Spirit Song Taizé

Thursday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m.,
Sanctuary

Gathering as the People of God: Rooted in Advent

Saturday, Dec. 3, 5 p.m.,
Education Center

Blue Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m.,
Sanctuary

Las Posadas

Saturday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.,
McBride Hall

Winter Solstice

Thursday, Dec. 22, 5:30 p.m.,
Sanctuary & Labyrinth

Christmas Eve

Saturday, Dec. 24
• Intergenerational Service, 5 p.m.
• Carols, 9:30 p.m.
• Candlelight Communion, 10 p.m.

Christmas Day

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

New Year's Chants

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

New Year's Day

Sunday, Jan. 1, 10 a.m.,
Sanctuary

Epiphany

Sunday, Jan. 8, 7:45 & 10 a.m.,
Sanctuary

Submissions to *The Briefly*

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

John Banks happily receives
photos, charts, and graphics at
jdbanks@gmail.com.

**The deadline for the
Feb. 2017 issue will be
Tuesday, Jan. 10.**

Rector's Letter

Continued from Page 1

who loves us so much, that he was willing to become a human being who was exposed to the same hatred and exclusivism we still suffer today. Let us wait in joyful hope for the one who will “scatter the proud in the thoughts of their hearts,” who will “bring down the powerful from their thrones,” who will “lift up the lowly; fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty.”

If ever there is a time when we need to live in hopeful anticipation of the God who stands with the immigrant, the one who will introduce a world of egalitarianism, the one who will create a home of acceptance and inclusion for all, it is this Christmas, 2016.

If we can experience the wonder and joy of that Jesus, the real Jesus, into our hearts this year, we will have all we need to move into the new year with confidence, joy, and hope for the brightest future. Let us wait patiently for that God, help all of our neighbors to feel that love of God through us, and continue to spread that love everywhere. Happy Waiting for the one who will bring Peace on Earth to a broken world.

Blessings, joy, and love to each of you!



Giving & Receiving

Generosity, Kindness and Grief

By Peggy Scott

GENEROSITY WITHOUT KINDNESS is hollow. Naomi Shibab Nye goes even further in her poem “Kindness”. She says, “Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside, you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.” This is a story about kindness and sorrow, lifted into the light by the Grief Ministry of GSP.

A few years ago, my father died. We were not exactly estranged, but we certainly weren't as close as I would have liked. When I was growing up he was my hero. Then as a young adult some events took place that caused me to see him as a flawed human being, and I resented him for that. How dare he be imperfect when I so needed a perfect Dad!

So when he died, I didn't realize how much I was struggling with his death. I saw an announcement of a grief group at GSP and I signed up, not really knowing what to expect. During the weeks of the group, I did some deeply moving things—I wrote a letter to my Dad telling him about what he meant to me and I shared it with my siblings. I enlarged a photograph of the two of us taken a couple of

weeks before he died, and I had it framed. It's not the greatest picture of either one of us, but it is my absolute favorite because it shows both sadness and joy. These things greatly helped me to process his death.



A couple of years ago, my husband and I had to put our beloved dog, Coco, to sleep. Oh how we loved that dog! She had been with us 17 and a half years. Our sorrow was deep and penetrating. GSP Grief Ministry came to the rescue again. Deacon Chris Ledyard met with us and helped us fashion a memorial service for Coco, and members of the congregation even came to the ceremony to share our sorrow. We still cannot speak of the beauty and

spirit of this service without tears. It was one of the most generous, kind acts anyone could have ever done for us.

All of us joining together in generosity and kindness make caring for others possible at GSP. We encourage you to complete your Estimate of Giving so that ministries such as the one described above can flourish.

We invite you to change the world.

Musings from the Associate Rector

By *The Rev. Richard Mallory*

LIKE MANY of you, I have been greatly impacted by the election of Donald Trump. At first I was numb, shocked and disbelieving. I had gone to bed early on Tuesday night and arose on Wednesday morning with a sinking feeling. I decided to get the results from my old friend, The New York Times, and there it was. By Thursday I was aware of fear. The country seemed less safe and I felt less secure.

A major turn-around for me came in attending a Saturday night healing service at St. Francis United Methodist Church. In a simple service of people sitting in two concentric circles with a bare altar that later received candles from people who

chose to speak and those who did not.

The first to share was a man holding back tears as he expressed his fear that his marriage might be nullified by the new administration. After expressing his hurt and fear, he seemed to settle in to the love, support and backing that was there for him in the room.

There were several people in their late sixties and seventies who stated how they had been activists in younger years and would be returning to a more empowered way of living. As one woman said, "I'll be out there protesting, go home and take a nap and then return."

One woman said that even if Hilary Clinton had won, we would still need to be having this service!

Indeed, with a country so divided, our work is to bridge the divide. One woman was aware of a growing silence with one of her neighbors, a Trump supporter. Her way was to call her in regards to a pregnant fellow neighbor and wonder how they might support her. They found common cause.

I experienced peace and strength by being in that community on Saturday night. I was

reminded of the power of community. So simple and so lacking throughout society. Then the next day, all glory broke out here at Grace St. Paul's in worship and hearing Fr. Steve's inspiring sermon. Once again, community in action.

This is a time to strengthen friendship and ties. This is a time to care more than ever for our connections and relationships starting with our basic connection to ourselves. This is a time not only to intellectually believe but get that belief down where it counts and can do some good. The power of love must be accentuated by getting it down to the scared or lonely parts of ourselves. Slow down. Be mindful of creeping pessimism and do not give quarter to it.

Stubborn resistance to the cult of fear is called for. By fanning the fires of fear he got elected. He has offered himself as the Rescuer-in-Chief and many have bought the con. Protect yourself from the fear. Choose to breathe in the Good News in all the forms it manifests. Intend to be the Good News and do your part. Love folks who voted differently. Open your hearts to them. At the same time, let us be alert and vigilant for what transpires in the days ahead.

Gandhi and King called their response to oppression nonviolent protest. We also call it love and justice in action. Our work is to support and embolden one another in following these wisdom teachers and know that Spirit is on our side no matter what the costs.



*Stubborn
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Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



THIS HAS BEEN a dire week. *The Briefly* articles were due to our editor on Election Day. That didn't go well. It's hard to look forward to Christmas and the New Year knowing that in January a man endorsed by the KKK is replacing our first black President. There are no words to describe how many of us feel about that, but let's try to think of some and raise our voices good and loud. As the union organizer Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (1837-1930) said, "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living."

We're launching into Advent, praying for the coming of a Savior and trusting that God is with us in our distress. Music for December includes a setting of the spiritual "God's going to build up Zion's walls," arranged by John Carter; "Pray that Jerusalem may have peace," by C. V. Stanford; "Virga Jesse floruit," by Anton Bruckner (that's a heavy chew in its late 19th century lushness and may be replaced if we don't have the personnel); "Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people," by Samuel Babcock, from *The Middlesex Harmony*, 1795; "Cum audisset Joannes," a pretty Advent motet by Spanish composer Diego de las Muelas (1698-1743); a nice setting of Charles Wesley's hymn text "Come, thou long-expected Jesus," by Leland B. Sateren; and "The Cherry Tree Carol," an English traditional carol set by David Willcocks.

For the last Sunday in Advent, the Lieto Ensemble will reprise Jane Click's setting of "Mary, did you know," with soloist Wendy Pipentacos. They did it last Christmas Eve at the 9:30 p.m. carol service, but people attending the early service didn't hear it, so now they can.

For Christmas Eve, we will be premiering a new anthem by Dr. Pamela Decker for the offertory entitled "Noël." It has a French character and includes stylistic hints of the Renaissance and Poulenc. It's very cool! Also on Christmas Eve, we will sing "The Candlelight Carol," by John Rutter, and a beautiful combination of "The Rose" with the carol "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming," by Craig Hella Johnson, who specializes in creating collages of sacred and secular, classical and

contemporary. The solo will be sung by James Neeley. I will sing the Brahms "Geistliches Wiegenlied, Opus 91, No. 2" with Wesley Hunter on viola for the carol service.

Jane has offered the services of The Lieto Ensemble to play for the 10 a.m. service on Jan. 1. This offer is especially kind, given that Jane is playing for the New Year's Eve Chants for Peace service. We are waiting to see whether other members of the ensemble are equally keen to get up before noon on New Year's Day. The choir is taking that Sunday off, because we always have a break after Christmas and Easter.

We're back at choir practice on Jan. 5, though, and we celebrate Epiphany on Jan. 8. The anthems will be "Of the Father's heart begotten," a melody from the *Piae Cantiones*, 1582, arranged by English composer and conductor David Willcocks, whose *Carols for Choirs* compilations have been so influential, and "O magnum mysterium," by Tomás Luis de Victoria.

On Sunday, Jan. 15, we will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which is on Monday, Jan. 16. Friday, Jan. 20, is Inauguration Day in Washington. The progress we've made on so many fronts in the last half century must not be rolled back. I rather think we are entering a whole new civil rights and protest era. And you thought the 1960s were over! The music that Sunday is "I believe that this is Jesus," a spiritual arranged by Undine Smith Moore, and if the Zombies are up for it, a rousing rendition of "Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around," a spiritual with additional text by Langston Hughes, arranged by Dr. Rollo Dilworth. We did it two years ago, but it seems too appropriate not to do it again.

That brings us to the Third Sunday after Epiphany and a rousing rendition of "His yoke is easy and his burden light," from Handel's *Messiah*. The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany is Annual Meeting Sunday. Last year, I really wanted to do "Saul," by Norwegian composer Egil Hovland, but we had to postpone it because of insufficient rehearsal time. It's a wild piece for narrator, mixed chorus and organ about the conversion of St. Paul. I'm going for it

Continued on Page 5



Face-painting fun at the Ministry Fair in November.

Gathering as the People of God: Rooted in Advent Saturday, Dec. 3, 5-7 p.m.

Join us in the Education Center as we share a meal, hear stories, learn about Advent traditions, and create wreaths and calendars to take these wonderful traditions home and celebrate all month long.

Looking Back to Celebrate

By Amy Cormode, Minister of Spiritual Formation for Children, Youth & Families

THIS SUMMER and fall have been full of good growth in the Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Let me share what I have witnessed and been a part of:

- A very warm and supportive welcome to me as I began the work of serving the parish and this ministry back in May.
- A vibrant, Spirit-filled fun week of Summer camp at the church with 22 children and youth coming each day, and more than 15 volunteers working in concert to make it all happen.
 - This summer, six of our own youth attended Chapel Rock, the Diocese church camp in Prescott, and I was on staff for one week.
 - We held three pool parties this summer with a combined attendance of over 60 people, where we cooled off and built community among the youth and families.
 - I have teamed up with the Acolyte coordinator, Wendy Pipentacos, to help coordinate acolyte training and a new system for reminding our people when it is their day to serve.
 - We began our Sunday morning formation using Godly Play this year, and have had an average attendance of 8 in the Pre-K thru 5th grade class, while sometimes bursting at the seams to include 15 children!
 - We have begun a Youth Spiritual Formation hour at 9 a.m. on Sundays, and this is steadily growing to include 7-8 of our Middle School and High School youth.
 - We have had a dedicated couple of sponsors available with a meal and activity every Sunday evening at 6 p.m. for any youth

who shows up.

- Our nursery attendance has been steadily growing with a record nine babies/toddlers present the first of November.
- We held a Pumpkin Carving Festival in conjunction with the Dia de los Muertos service and had 37 people of all ages join us for soup and carving and other art activities.
 - After much consideration and dialogue with parents and teachers as well as the vestry, we advocated for returning the benches in the front of the church in order to help our children participate in the service. If you have questions about this decision, I would be happy to talk together.

Looking ahead to Celebrate

- The season of Advent and Christmas is upon us. At the time of this writing, we are busily working as a team to plan our celebrations for the children and youth, so the dates are not yet settled. Here is what we know, check the bulletin and website for more details:
 - We will continue our wonderful tradition of a Los Posadas party
 - We will have a Christmas play/pageant of some sort on Christmas Eve during the family service
 - We will be hosting an Epiphany celebration evening on Jan. 7.

This is a season of anticipation, a chance to slow down and savor what is coming...the mystery of the Divine coming to be with us. How we live that truth is important. Join with me as we look for how Christ is being born in our lives, in our parish and in the world today.

Amy

Choir Notes

Continued from Page 4

again this year, hoping for a better outcome.

May you have a blessed holiday season! Keep the faith and carry on. Keep love and kindness close. As with everything under the

sun, even the Grand Canyon, this too shall pass.

Peace to all,

Christina

Calling All Ministry Leaders: Annual Report Deadline!

The Annual Meeting of Grace St. Paul's is coming: Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017, 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. 9, 2017**.

Again, that address is annualreport@gracestpauls.org. This will help make sure that nothing goes astray!

Thank you!

David Wachter,
Annual Report Editor

Vestry Candidate Forum & Annual Meeting Coming Soon

By Kyle Devereux, Senior Warden

THE CONGREGATION'S Annual Meeting this year is scheduled for **Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017**, following the 10 a.m. service. During this yearly gathering, reports will be offered by many of our ministries, the 2017 budget will be presented, and new members of the Vestry will be elected.

The Nominations Committee, consisting of no fewer than five people, at least two of which must be Vestry members whose terms

expire this year, will be appointed by the Rector and will prepare a slate of eligible candidates. If you are interested in being considered as a candidate, please contact the rector or Steve Mattix through the church office.

Vestry candidates will introduce themselves and answer your questions at a special Candidate Forum, **Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017**, in McBride Hall, after both morning services.

Please watch for more details.

Blue Christmas Service, Sunday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m.

By Deacon Nancy Meister

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.



Chants for Peace

JOIN US FOR a Grace St. Paul's tradition to chant for peace on **New Year's Eve, Saturday, Dec. 31**. We gather at 7 p.m. in the chancel to sing the simple chants composed by the late Kristopher Lindquist, played for us by GSP pianist Jane Click.

It's a lovely, meditative way to begin the evening's festivities and start the New Year, as we express our desire for a peace that passes all understanding and for a world in which all beings may be happy and free from suffering. All are welcome. Bring a friend—or several!

Senior Focus

Suzan Rolfe-Boutwell: Minister to the Marginalized

By Ann Schlumberger



Suzan Rolfe-Boutwell

BORN IN New York City on July 15, 1945, Suzan Jane was adopted when she was 14 months old and raised as an only child by the Rolfes from Rochester, N.Y. Her

Baptist adoptive father was an executive at the Sarah Coventry Jewelry Co., and her Catholic adoptive mother was a teacher.

Raised a Catholic, Suzan attended Catholic schools until she was “kicked out” her sophomore year for questioning the Virgin Birth.

In the summers, her family spent time in the lake house they owned in upstate New York, and Suzan rode horseback, played tennis, and waterskied. In her later teens, she taught swimming at Girl Scout camp.

Suzan attended Vermont College, a two-year finishing school and then transferred to Syracuse University to study journalism. After a year, she dropped out of college and went to New York City, where she worked as an editor in the textbook department of Random House. She loved her job but left to participate in the civil rights movement. She joined Martin Luther King’s March in Selma, where she was knocked on the head and sent to jail overnight.

Suzan met her first husband, an artist from New York City, while she was in Puerto Rico on assignment for a news organization. The couple married in 1967, lived in Manhattan, and had son David in 1969. After David’s birth, Suzan opened a branch of Sarah Coventry in New York City.

Divorced, Suzan became a foreign correspondent for the Harvard Political Review in Mallorca, Spain. She and David returned to the States when he was almost 5 so that he could have an American education.

She completed her bachelor’s degree in

political science at Harvard University. She met her second husband, Jeffery Boutwell, while working as graduate assistants for the same political science professor at MIT. There, they both earned master’s degrees in political science. Their daughter Sarah was born in 1981. After Jeffery completed his doctorate at MIT they traveled to Europe and South America, to gather information for Jeremy’s work as an international political writer.

In Boston, they attended the Episcopal Cathedral, where their work as civil rights activists attracted the attention of the Bishop. During this time, Suzan felt a call to the priesthood and attended the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge. She was ordained on June 4, 1988, and served as a priest in Massachusetts for 14 years. Being moved by Jesus’ call to care for the poor and unwanted, Suzan concentrated on prison ministry and hospice work. After 15 years of marriage, Suzan and Jeffery divorced, and Suzan moved to Tucson, where she helped out at various Episcopal churches, although she never formally joined the staff of any of them due to her poor health.

A few years ago, Suzan made contact with her birth mother, whose picture she keeps on her dresser with many other family photos. She liked her mother, although regrets that her mother chose never to reveal Suzan’s existence to her current family, including Suzan’s two half-brothers.

Eventually she met Raymond Lawton, “the best thing that has ever happened to me.” He was 21 years older than she, a paraplegic who had lost his legs when his tank was blown up in World War II. Ray was divorced, had five children, and was a Eucharistic minister at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. When she was hospitalized, he rode his electronic wheelchair every day to the hospital to be by her bedside. The couple loved to play chess and to listen to classical and popular music. She played the guitar, and he would sing. They attended Grace St. Paul’s together until riding SunTran became too exhausting. Ray passed away in March 2016. Suzan continues to live in their apartment at Arizona State Veteran Home, where she has an informal ministry helping the VA chaplains with services there.

Post from the Pantry

By Andrew S. Gardner, Pantry Team Leader

THANK YOU SO MUCH. The support that the Pantry receives from the Grace St. Paul's community is amazing, and we are so fortunate. Through your generosity, we are able to serve the basic needs of so many of our neighbors, doubling the food they would otherwise receive from the Community Food

Bank. We can do all of that in an environment of dignity and kindness, and it is wonderful to be a part of this.

Party

On Wednesday, December 14, the Pantry team will host its annual holiday party for the Pantry community. It is always a heartwarming and joyous event, and everyone in the GSP community is welcomed to attend. When we struggle financially, we are often dislocated from the lives we knew before. Our relationships are strained and we become accustomed to struggling through each day. We often do not have the time or the resources to relax. We eat to sustain ourselves, not to enjoy it. The Pantry holiday party is an opportunity to enjoy a meal, to enjoy the companionship and fellowship of our neighbors, to bear witness to the possibility of abundance. If you'd like to help organize this year's party, please call Andrew Gardner at 520-275-2148.

Girl Scout Cookies

January and February are Girl Scout cookie season in Southern Arizona. Troop 789, which meets in Midvale Park, has adopted the Pantry as its philanthropic project again this year, and they will offer their customers the opportunity to purchase boxes of cookies for the Pantry community. When you meet Girl Scouts out and about this cookie season, please consider buying a box and bringing it to GSP for the Pantry.

When we struggle financially, the very first thing we do is cut all of the luxuries from our budgets, all of the extras. For many of the people who are part of our Pantry community, a box of Girl Scout cookies is just that—a luxury that they cannot allow themselves. When we take the opportunity to share something extra, something joyous instead of nutritious or necessary, we are doing a great kindness to people who have become accustomed to struggle.

Bank. We can do all of that in an environment of dignity and kindness, and it is wonderful to be a part of this.

In May of this year, we switched from a paper-based system to a computerized one for tracking the food we distribute from the church. While the Community Food Bank has used a computerized system for years, we didn't know as much about how our food was being distributed, but now we do.

In the six months after May 1, we served 555 unique

households with food from the church. We had families that came only once during that time and families that came every month, but the average number of visits was three. We have long believed that we were providing a backstop against hunger for families that live on the line between hunger and abundance, but now we know that we are doing exactly that.

For the first ten months of 2016, we delivered 2,175 food boxes from the Community Food Bank, serving 3,382 people



Resurrection Lutheran Church had a food drive to benefit our pantry, and now we have the best problem ever: too much food and not enough room to store it. Took about an hour, but these fine volunteers got it all put away.

Film & Fellowship

Winter Focus is Bridging Cultures

By Eric Carr

AFTER A YEAR of seemingly endless division and “us versus them” conversations, we decided to focus on people and stories that bridge cultures. Eric and Kitt will return to host the winter season with three powerful and hopeful films that speak to the challenges of being an outsider while celebrating those who build bridges between disparate cultures.

For winter, we will also bring back to the potluck, with a theme of cultural foods!

December’s film (Dec. 16) will be the lush documentary, “The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble.” The film powerfully shows how the universal language of music crosses even the most extreme boundaries to bring people together. It also highlights the importance of music in preserving dying or persecuted cultures.

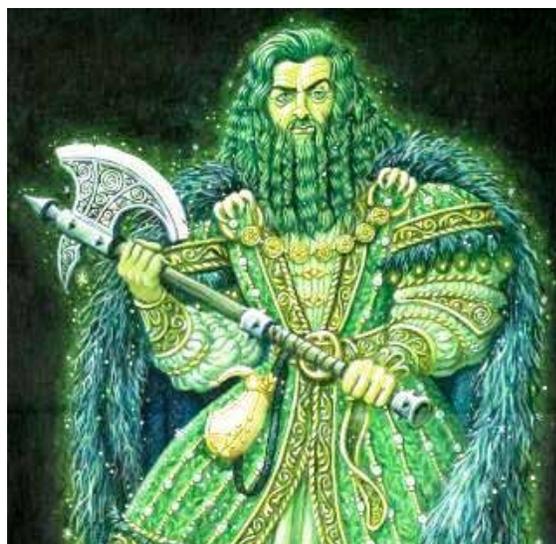
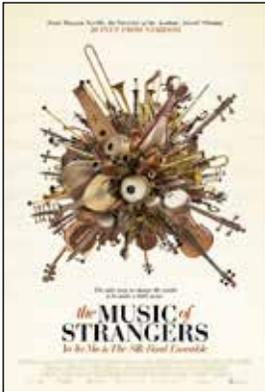
January’s offering (Jan. 20) is “The Good Lie,” a deeply moving film portraying the real stories of the “Lost Boys of Sudan,” starring Reese Witherspoon along with many actual

refugees from Sudan’s brutal war. The film did not enjoy major release because of its role in fundraising for UNICEF and other refugee-focused charities, so this is a great time to see it on our big screen!

The final film for the winter series is the critically-acclaimed “Dear White People” (Feb. 17), a scathing, hilarious, and ultimately heartfelt exploration of racial tension on college campuses (and everywhere else).

This was one of our Sundance favorites, and we are thrilled to finally bring it to GSP!

We hope you join us each third Friday, and for the winter season, join us for the multi-cultural potluck as we celebrate building bridges! (Potluck is at 6:30 p.m., films start at 7 p.m., followed by a lively discussion.)



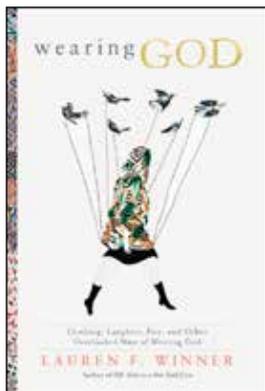
December Play Reading

THE GSP SPIRIT PLAYERS will wrap up the 2016 First Friday play readings with a new script by Tucson playwright Ron Pullins. Join us on Friday, Dec. 2, as we go back to the “days of yore” in “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.”

The reading begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Bloom Room. Come participate as a reader (and discover the hidden thespian in you!) or be an “audience” member. The evening is free and scripts are provided. This play is suitable for all ages.

Facilitated by Halsy Taylor and Holly Shinn, theatre aficionados and performers.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: SUNDAYS @ 9:00 & 11:45



Wearing God: Exploring New Metaphors for the Holy One (An Advent Series)

Sundays, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 & 18, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

There are hundreds of metaphors for God, but the church only uses a few familiar images: creator, judge, savior, father. In *Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God* (2016), Lauren F. Winner explores the notion of God as clothing, and reflects on how we are “clothed with Christ” or how “God fits us like a garment.” Winner—a leading writer at the crossroads of culture and spirituality—joins the ranks of writing luminaries such as Anne Lamott and Barbara Brown Taylor with this exploration of little known biblical metaphors for God, metaphors which can open new doorways for our lives and spirituality.

It is not necessary to have read the book in order to participate fully in the class discussion. Each session is designed to stand alone. All are welcome.

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams and Nanalee Raphael, members of the Adult Spiritual Formation ministry team.

[NOTE: There is no 9 a.m. class on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Enjoy your holidays!]

Exploring Today's Lectionary

Sunday, Jan. 8, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

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.

Rectors and Wardens and Vestries—Oh, My!

(Or How Do Episcopalians Organize as The Body of Christ?)

Sunday, Jan. 15, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

As we prepare to elect new vestry members at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 29, in this class we

will take a look at how GSP is organized.

- How do we all get equal authority?
- How does this authority pass to elected representative?
- Why do we have rectors?
- What is the background of the term “rector”?
- How are rectors different from vicars and curates?
- Why do we have wardens?
- What is the origin of the term “warden”?
- What does a senior warden do?
- What does a junior warden do?
- What is a vestry?
- Why is it called a “vestry”?
- What is the purpose of an annual parish meeting?

Presented by Dr Charles Dickson, historian and longtime member of Grace St Paul's. Chuck is a frequent and popular teacher in GSP's adult program.

Sermons on Tap

Sunday, Jan. 15, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Bloom Room

Ever leave worship on Sunday and wish you could talk about the sermon with others? Why not join like-minded folks for an open discussion of the day's sermon over beer and sandwiches? This small group is for anyone with a desire to connect more deeply with others and a willingness to explore their own questions about how we live into the “good news” as preached at GSP. The setting will be informal and relaxed. No need to register, come anytime. All are welcome!

Beer, iced tea, and a light lunch will be available. Donations will be accepted to cover the costs of lunch.

[NOTE: There is no 9 a.m. class on the last two Sundays of January so members can attend the Vestry Candidates Panel on Jan. 22 and the GSP Annual Meeting on Jan. 29.]

UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE: BIBLE STUDY @ GSP

Bible Women

Fridays, Dec. 2 & 16 & Jan. 6 & 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Weeks Room

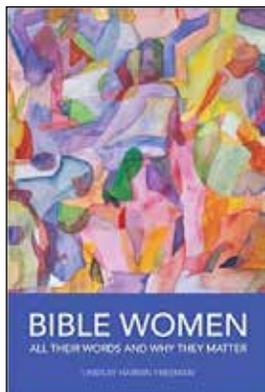
Where are the voices of women in the Bible? What do they have to say to us about our own lives? This class studies the Bible through the words of women in the Old and New Testaments. The focus is on actual scripture and its contexts; an optional text, *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter* by Lindsay Hardin Freeman, is available from Amazon in softcover (\$22) or Kindle (\$9.99).

The group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Friday. No registration is necessary and participants are welcome to join the group at any time.

For more information contact Vicki Stefani, 520-743-3978 or stefani@email.arizona.edu.

For Everyone: Coffee, Bagels and Bible Stuff
Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 a.m., McBride Hall

Join a diverse group in a discussion of I Timothy. In your second year many 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. Formerly a

group for men, this class now welcomes everyone!
Bill Moore, GSP Junior Warden, is the group facilitator.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: SMALL GROUPS @ GSP

EfM Revisited (EfM Alumni Group)

This small group meets monthly for a variety of activities during the fall, winter and spring. All persons who have participated in Education for Ministry, for any length of time and in any location, are welcome to attend! For more information, contact Karen Kelly at 520-429-3637.

Thursday, Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Bloom Room

We will discuss the first half of *Eager To Love* by Richard Rohr. Please bring a sack lunch or snack. *Contemplation & Creativity Recognizing, Affirming and Healing the Creative Heart* (a retreat with Fr. Greg Wiest)

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017, Redemptorist Renewal Center, 7101 W. Picture Rock Road, Tucson 85743
Cost is \$45.00, includes lunch. Call 520-744-3400 to register or go to www.desertrenewal.org.

GSP Readers Group:

'H is for Hawk' by Helen Macdonald

Friday, Dec. 9, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Room

Helen Macdonald's story of adopting and raising one of nature's most vicious predators has soared into the hearts of millions of readers worldwide. Fierce and feral, her goshawk Mabel's temperament mirrors Helen's own state of grief after her father's death, and together raptor and human learn what it means to be fully alive. *H is for Hawk* is a genre-defying debut from one of our most unique and transcendent voices.

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

GSP Readers Group:

'Moral Politics' by George Lakoff

Friday, Jan. 13, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Room

In *Moral Politics*, the first full-scale application of cognitive science to politics, George Lakoff analyzes the unconscious worldviews of liberals and conservatives, explaining why they are at odds over so many seemingly unrelated issues-like taxes, abortion, regulation, and social programs. The differences, Lakoff argues, are not mere matters of partisanship, but arise from radically different conceptions of morality and ideal family life-meaning that family and morality are at the heart of American politics, in ways that are far from obvious. For this edition, Lakoff adds a preface and an afterword explaining how "moral politics" makes sense

of events like the impeachment of Bill Clinton and the 2000 presidential election.

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

Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys

Mondays, 10 a.m.-12 Noon, Bloom Room [NOTE: No meeting on Monday, Dec. 26]

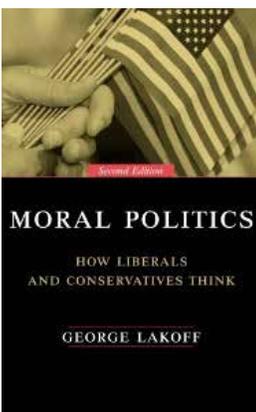
Each week, in this small discussion group, we focus on a different intersection between spirituality, religion, and culture. We view short videos (10-15 min.) by scholars and authors such as Richard Rohr, Marcus Borg, Diana Butler Bass, Christina Cleveland and other innovative church thinkers. The conversation is always a surprise and takes us where the Spirit guides. Each session stands alone and all are welcome. No registration is necessary.

Co-facilitated by Brian Arthur, Jim Franks and Catherine Penn Williams. Brian is a longtime EFM mentor at GSP, Catherine is the convener of Adult Spiritual Formation, and Jim serves on the GSP Vestry.

Saturday Java Jive: Coffee & Conversation

Saturdays, 8:30-11 a.m., Epic Café, 745 N 4th. Ave., at 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.





Grace St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

WEEKLY SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Sundays

- 7:45 a.m., **Holy Communion**
- 9 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
- 6 p.m., Youth Group

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

- 6 p.m., **Evening Prayer & Communion**
- 6 p.m., Arts & Crafts for Adults
- 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m., **Holy Communion**
- 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters
- 4:30 p.m., Spirit Dojo

Thursdays

- 7:30 a.m., *Coffee, Bagels & B.S. for All*
- 10 a.m., Bridge Group
- 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
- 5:30 p.m., **Spirit Now—An Emerging Worship Experience**
- 7 p.m., AZ Welcomes Refugees

Saturdays

- 8:30 a.m., **Saturday Java Jive**
- 9 a.m., Altar Guild

What's Happening in December 2016...

1st 6 p.m., **Spirit Song: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé**

2nd 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading

3rd 8:30 a.m., Cruzando Fronteras

4th **2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
9 a.m., *Wearing God: Exploring New Metaphors for the Holy One*
11:45 a.m., *Kicking at the Goads*

5th 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

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

7th 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., **Sonora Winds Concert**

9th 9:30 a.m., **Readers Group**

10th 9:30 a.m., **Citizens Climate Lobby**

11th **3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
Dog & Cat Food Collection
9 a.m., *Wearing God: Exploring New Metaphors for the Holy One*
6 p.m., **Blue Christmas Service**

12th 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

14th 8 a.m., **Joseph's Pantry Party**

16th 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**
6:30 p.m., **Film & Fellowship**

18th **4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
9 a.m., *Wearing God: Exploring New Metaphors for the Holy One*

19th 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

21st 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**
6 p.m., Intergenerational Service
7:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Reception
10:30 p.m., Candlelight Service

with Carols

25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10 a.m., Christmas Day Service with Carols

26th **Office & Social Services Ministry Closed**

27th 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks!

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

31st **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

7 p.m., New Year's Eve Chant Sing

Coming Up in January 2017...

1st **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

2nd 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

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

4th 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

5th 6 p.m., **Spirit Song: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé**

6th 10 a.m., **Bible Women**
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading

8th **EPIPHANY SUNDAY**
Celebration of Gifts

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

9th 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

13th 9:30 a.m., **Readers Group**

14th 9:30 a.m., **Citizens Climate Lobby**

15th 9 a.m., *Rectors and Wardens*

and Vestries—Oh My!

11:45 a.m., *Sermons on Tap*

16th 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

18th 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

20th 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**
6:30 p.m., **Film & Fellowship**

22nd **VESTRY CANDIDATE FORUM**

1 p.m., Mother's Kitchen

23rd 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

24th 8 a.m., TIHAN Volunteer Orientation

9 a.m., Primavera Cooks!

6:30 p.m., Vestry

29th **ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY**

10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

31st 8 a.m., TIHAN Training