



The Briefly

The newsletter for the parish community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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From the Rector

OUR ALTAR GUILD started talking about it almost two years ago. “It’s coming! What are we going to do?” What is coming, of course, is Advent, the season of preparation and coming. But that is not what they meant. They were talking about something unsettling for them. They were referring to their nightmare scenario that only happens in the church once every six years. Today is the year that the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve.

As my friends in other denominations said, “What the heck is the big deal? Just skip Advent Four and do Christmas.” But when I actually suggested that possibility in our liturgy group, you would have thought I had asked us to change our regular Sunday worship each week to Morning Prayer. When the question was floated in the greater Episcopal community across the Diocese, every single person described how they would do both on the same day. Anglicans could never commit the sacrilege of skipping any part of the liturgical season.

CAnglicans can never commit the sacrilege of skipping part of the liturgical season...

To make matters worse, your Rector has gone to ridiculous lengths over the years to inform all of you that we will never bow to the cultural pressure. We will always wait until Christmas to have Christmas. To the rest of the world, Christmas finally ends at about 10 a.m. on Dec. 25. But we have emphatically and religiously, so to speak, celebrated Christmas during the 12 days of Christmas, from Dec. 25 to Epiphany on Jan. 6. That means Advent must stay Advent in every way. No sneaking in a Christmas carol, no garland, no tree, nothing but blue and purple.

So after much liturgical haranguing, positioning and choreographing, we have decided to try something new, that is actually very old this year. Come Advent Four and Christmas Eve, we will celebrate both events. For Advent Four, we will have one service at 10 a.m. (No 7:45 service that day.) That service will not be a Eucharist, but it will be Advent Four. We have planned a beautiful Lessons and Carols service using the readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We have not had a Lessons and Carols service in years at GSP. We have taken this liturgical challenge and turned it into an opportunity for all

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A member of the GSP youth group prepares to host coffee hour on a recent Sunday morning. More upcoming Children, Youth & Families activities are discussed on Page 5.

Submissions to **The Briefly**

Please submit articles to
Joyce Henderson, BrieflyEditor@grace-stpauls.org.

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

**The deadline for the
February 2018 issue will
be Tuesday, Jan. 16.**

From the Rector

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of you to experience the beauty of the ancient practice of Lessons and Carols.

When that service is concluded, a heavenly host of angels will descend upon the sanctuary and magically turn it from Advent into Christmas. When you return for the family Christmas service at 5 p.m., you will know that it had to be angels who did it, because mere humans could not create such a change in that amount of time. But it will happen and you can thank our altar guild for that. The family service will include the children's pageant as the response to the Word. Then at 9:30, we return for early midnight mass. We will sing those Christmas carols that we waited patiently

all Advent to hear and then the service proper begins at 10 p.m. This is our candlelight and sermon service. We will return on Christmas morning at 10 a.m. for a more informal celebration of the birth of Jesus.

It's kind of like an eclipse of the sun. It won't happen again until 2023. So soak it all in folks. Enjoy the day when the magic happens. Revel in Advent Lessons and Carols and then come back for the transformation into one beautiful Christmas.

A blessed and hope filled Christmas and New Year's to all of you!



Liturgy Calendar

THE ADVENT SEASON is upon us. The waiting has begun. Here are the events for which you will be patiently waiting:

Sunday, Dec. 3: First Sunday of Advent and Giving & Receiving pledge day

Sunday, Dec. 10: Second Sunday of Advent and a visit from St. Nicholas of Myra

Sunday, Dec. 17: Third Sunday of Advent and Blue Christmas service, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 21: The Winter Solstice Celebration, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Advent Lessons and Carols, 10 a.m.
- Family Service with Christmas Pageant, 5 p.m.
- Christmas Carols, 9:30 p.m.
- Candlelight Christmas Communion Service with Preaching, 10 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Communion Service with Preaching, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 31: First Sunday of Christmas, Regular times, 7:45 and 10 a.m.



Giving & Receiving Committee

THIS YEAR'S GIVING & RECEIVING campaign is a celebration of our many ministries, of our many ways of connections to God and to others, of walking the walk. Walking the walk is action by the many people who carry the intent and mission of the church into the lives of others.

We walk the walk in many ways; feeding the hungry, giving social services, blessing and teaching our children, being a safe haven for immigrants and refugees, and praying, praying, praying. We give food and showers for the

homeless, bus passes, assistance interacting with the system. We do Godly Play with the children. We reach out to immigrants and refugees.

Pray for us, we pray for you.

And as we bend our heads in prayer we feel gratitude for God's love, for the love and care of our clergy, for the mutual support of each other. We feel this through song, smiles of welcome, and acts of kindness as we give of our time, talent, and treasure.

Calling All Ministry Leaders: Annual Report Deadline!

The Annual Meeting of Grace St. Paul's is coming: Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, 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. 8, 2018.

Again, that address is annualreport@grace-stpauls.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 is scheduled for **Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018**, following the 10 a.m. service. During this yearly gathering, reports will be offered by many of our ministries, the 2018 budget will be presented, and new members of the Vestry and the Junior Warden will be elected.

The nominations Committee, consisting of no fewer than five people (Stephen Hymel, Carol Forshey, Steve Mattix, Virginia Zuelow and Susan Bedrick), 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 Stephen Hymel through the church office.

Vestry candidates will introduce themselves and answer your questions at a special **Candidate Forum**, Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018, in McBride Hall, after both morning services.

Please watch for more details.

Blue Christmas Service, Sunday, Dec. 17

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. This year's homilist will be our Chaplain, The Rev. Steve Kelsey.

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. Many of us feel alienated, depressed, or powerless with the frequent violent shootings resulting in the tragic death of so many. 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.

My Blue Christmas experience

By Kendra Gaines

AFTER MY DEAR husband died, Ann Schlumberger urged me to attend a Blue Christmas service, and I was reluctant to leave the house. I made myself go, however and entered a tranquil world that soothed my shredded soul and allowed me to realize that I was not alone in my state of grief. I have gone every year since, and this Christmas will be my seventh year.

The gentle, welcoming atmosphere is profoundly welcome, even though my heart has healed somewhat and I am stronger than I

was.

This year I will be bringing a person whose grief is fairly new as his spouse died two years ago. I do not doubt that he will find Blue Christmas to be as invaluable and soothing as I do. I would not miss it for the world.



Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



IT'S NEARLY DECEMBER, but you'd never guess that from the weather. Summer crowded into fall, and fall has taken over some of winter's territory. The church seasons this Year B are similarly crowded, like too much new growth in an old forest. Advent 4 falls on Christmas Eve. Epiphany is six out of a potential nine weeks long, putting Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14 this year. And a Happy Valentine's Day to you!

Music for Advent ranges over wide territory, from oldest to newest. We commence Advent with music from the 12th and 13th centuries—"Veste nuptial" (those wise virgins again) and "Veni, veni Emanuel." Anthems for Advent 2 are "On Jordan's stormy banks," an American melody, and "O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion," sung by our amazing alto soloist, Susan Marcus. For Advent 3, we sing *Challembe Canticles: Magnificat*, which I heard at an Evensong at St. Andrew's. It's a rollicking, Celtic-inspired work composed by Sheldon Curry. Any piece containing the words "the rich are on their own" has me sold.

Having Dec. 24 on a Sunday makes for a lot of churchifying, but it's a cool way to transition from Advent into Christmas in celebration and song. Rather than typical Sunday morning services that day, we will morph the 7:45 and 10 a.m. into one service of Advent Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m. It has been a long time since we've done one of those. Be aware that the carols are Advent hymns, not Christmas carols.

For Christmas carols, be sure to come to the evening services, at 5 p.m. (Children's and Family Service) and 9:30/10 p.m. (Carol Service and Festival Eucharist). The family service will be similar to the one last year, except that the Youth Arts Committee will present the offertory—"The friendly beasts." Children love beasts, and they love being beasts (as parents may attest). Said beasts include donkeys, cows, sheep, doves, and others. For communion, Rachel Whitaker will sing and play her flute (she's a moveable feast, but not a beast) on a French carol from the 1940 hymnal with text redacted by Kari McBride—"Here between ox and donkey mild."

The carol service will include traditional

American carols with choir anthems, kicked off by a rousing version of "All hayle to the dayes," aka "To drive the cold winter away," with assistance from our wonderful parish instrumentalists, including Wesley Hunter, violin; Bruce Anderson, cello; and Rick Hanson, percussion. Former choir member Kristina Tullgren is visiting us from Las Vegas, where she is working on a voice degree, and will share her dulcet tones.

Other music for Christmas includes "See amid the winter's snow" by John Goss, arr. David Willcocks, from our old friend, the Oxford Carols for Choirs, and "Serafín, que con dulce harmonía," a gorgeous work of the Spanish baroque by Joan Cererols, chapel master of the Benedictine monastery at Monserrat, near Barcelona.

As the shepherds straggle away, the kings follow their lonely route to the manger. For Epiphany this year, if all goes according to plan, we will raid the dusty boxes on the choir room wall and do "The Shepherd's Chorus" from Gian Carlo Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors, which used to be such a staple back in the day. My great-grandmother disappointed her family by insisting on watching "Uncle Milty" instead of the television premier of Amahl. Continuing the popular entertainment theme, the communion anthem will be "Adoration of the Magi" by Miklos Rozsa, from the movie Ben Hur. It's an unassuming little anthem, despite what one might think.

The following Sunday, we celebrate the life and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a piece from last year's Social Justice Choral Festival at St. Mark's Presbyterian, called "I dream a world" by André J. Thomas, with "The morning star" by American composer Virgil Thomson. On Epiphany 3, anthems include "From the end of the earth" by Alan Hovhaness, whose music reflects his interest in his Armenian roots, and "Almighty and everlasting God" by the 17th century English composer Orlando Gibbons.

Annual meeting Sunday is Jan. 28 this year, unless it isn't, in which case I'll have to rethink my music. Oh gosh, must think about

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The Journey of Advent

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

WE HAVE MANY wonderful things coming up to guide us along the journey of Advent. A time of



Preparation for Las Posadas last holiday season.

preparing for the mystery of Christmas where we celebrate the truth that the Holy One has come close to us all. 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.

Sunday, Dec. 3: Start of Advent Pizza party out on the basketball court for all children, youth and their families after the 10 a.m. service. We will make advent wreaths again

this year, play a few large group games and have other resources available for families to

celebrate Advent each week in the home.

Saturday, Dec. 9: The youth group will have another cookie baking day with Joe, Vicki and Elizabeth. This time, we will be making cookies to share with the residents of St. Luke's Home, an assisted living facility near the University.

Sunday, Dec. 10: We will celebrate the life of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Smyrna during the services and children are encouraged to lay out their shoes in the breezeway to receive a gift from St. Nicholas.

The youth group will be taking cookies to St. Luke's and also visiting and caroling with residents after lunch.

Saturday, Dec. 16: Annual Las Posadas, 6 p.m. Join with us in procession as we look for a place for Mary and Joseph to stay. We will end up in McBride Hall for a party, complete with Mariachis and our traditional Piñata!

Sunday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve we will have pageant practice in the morning, and participate in the Nativity Story together during the family service at 5 p.m.

Be sure and check out our website that is dedicated to children, youth and family ministry here at GSP and is now linked to our church website. You can find it directly at gspyouth.weebly.com.

Choir Notes

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my annual report, too! Heck, I haven't even thought about Thanksgiving yet. We celebrate our wonderful Grace St. Paul's community and our shared ministries, for which let us always thank God. Our offertory anthem will be an SATB version of "We are" by Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell, composer and former member of the a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock. For communion, we haul down another dusty box and sing "Surely God is in this place" by Anglican composer Norman Coke-Jephcott.

So as you carol merrily through life, as one does, please mark your calendars for both Advent Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve. May all your Advent preparations for the blessed season of Christmas be smooth and may you enjoy each and every one of the Twelve (count them) Days of Christmas! I'll probably still be thinking about what to make for Thanksgiving.

Peace on Earth!

Christina

Senior Focus

Cathy Wolfson: Queen of Bling & Sing

By Ann Schlumberger

You can't help but notice Cathy because of her marvelous sense of costume. She comes to church in colorful ensembles, complete with bold, glittering jewelry and a matching hat. Or perhaps you picked her out for her soaring descant during a recessional hymn. These traits explain the sobriquet given her by fellow singers: the "Queen of Bling and Sing."

Catherine Elinor Wolfson (nee Lincoln) was born February 25, 1946, in Louisville, Kentucky, but soon moved with her parents to Ohio. At 7, she was a victim in the last great polio epidemic in Cleveland. The hospitals were so crowded that volunteers were called in to help care for patients. Having lived through an epidemic, she is a strong supporter of childhood vaccinations. This experience probably also influenced her career as a medical librarian.

Cathy's family—now with three children—moved to Prescott, Arizona, when she was 9. A cradle Episcopalian, Cathy was accepted into the Youth Choir at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Prescott a year earlier than children were usually admitted. By 12, she was singing in the Adult Choir and at the first rehearsal was made soprano section leader. Cathy's mother, a mezzo soprano who was trained as an opera singer, insisted that Cathy take piano lessons and taught her to care for her coloratura voice. Her mother did not want her daughter to take formal voice lessons until she was 18, lest she damage her vocal chords. Cathy would take her first voice lessons at 19 while attending the University of Arizona and singing in the UA Symphonic Choir.

As an undergraduate, Cathy was a French major and Russian minor but took extra science courses because she enjoyed them. During the summers, she worked as a clerk in her father's hardware, mining, and ranching supply store in Prescott. Right out of college, she got a job as a library assistant at Arizona



State University, which prompted her to seek a master's degree from the University of Missouri Library School, where she was awarded a fellowship. Upon earning her graduate degree, she worked for a year as a medical school librarian at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Then in 1974 she accepted a librarian position at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Library, retiring after 32 years in 2006. She especially enjoyed helping patrons to figure out what medical literature resources they needed. She feels she was especially good at this because she listens well.

Cathy had been a member of St. Paul's in Tucson when she was a UA undergraduate, and she rejoined the church upon her return to the city in 1974. She also joined the Tucson Civic Chorus in 1975, through which she met tenor David Wolfson. They married in 1976. Of the Jewish faith, David nevertheless joined Cathy in singing with the St. Paul's and Grace St. Paul's choirs and served as the treasurer of Grace St. Paul's. When he retired from that position, the parish presented him with a Star of David instead of the traditional St. Paul's cross. Cathy enjoyed weekly shopping trips with her mother-in-law during which the two scoured local shops for interesting costume jewelry and accessories. The pair jokingly

Senior Focus

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referred to themselves as “the bag ladies.” Dave moved to Phoenix, and the couple subsequently amicably divorced after 25 years of marriage.

After the Episcopal Church approved Lay Eucharistic Ministers in the late eighties, Cathy was eager for the training and served as the first LEM at St. Paul’s and later served at GSP in this capacity. She also scheduled lay readers and chalice bearers at GSP for both services for many years and participated for two years in the Education for Ministry (EFM) program.

Cathy is talented at creating choral arrangements. When Rev. Gordon McBride retired from GSP, Cathy adapted the songs “My Favorite Things” and “If I Were a Rich Man” (substitute “Christian” for Rich Man) for the choir to sing at the rector’s retirement party. The two renditions delighted Fr. Gordon and the parish.

May Cathy long continue to delight audiences as a member of the Arizona Repertory Singers and of the GSP choir!

Original play slated for December’s First Friday reading

EACH YEAR SINCE 2012, the GSP First Friday Play Reading, has been proud to present an original play with Tucson ties.

“Unmasked” is a historical fiction based on the life of Anna Coleman Ladd, written by playwright and former Tucson resident, Patti Cassidy.

We will welcome her via Skype on Friday, Dec. 1, with a Q&A directly following the reading.

“Unmasked” is set in late 1917, in Paris. The central character of this play founded the American Red Cross “Studio for Portrait-Masks” to provide cosmetic masks to be worn by men who had been badly disfigured in World War I. Ladd’s services earned her the “Légion d’Honneur Croix de Chevalier” and the “Serbian Order of Saint Sava.” Upon her return to her home in Manchester, Massachusetts, Ladd resumed her career as a fine arts painter and sculptor. The trauma of witnessing so many mutilated soldiers in France took its toll, and she never again created another mask.

Patti Cassidy is a respected playwright, filmmaker, fiction writer, and producer of both live and taped readings of plays in the greater Boston area. Before returning to her New England roots, many of her plays had been part of Old Pueblo Playwright’s annual New Play Festival. Currently, she is co-producing a series of public play readings in Boston at The

Playwrights Reading Room. Her most recently produced scripts are: “What Will Happen to Daisy?” in Los Angeles, “Enter, Daisy Buchanan” in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and “The



Dickens Effect” in Chicago. A reading of “Unmasked” was presented in Paris this summer. The French translation is currently underway.

The unrehearsed reading begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, in the Bloom Room. No theatre or public speaking experience is necessary. Scripts will be provided and parts randomly assigned to anyone who attends and wishes to read. Non-readers are welcome as well, and can participate as an “audience”.

There is no charge for the evening, however a donation of a couple of canned goods (soups with meat, ravioli, chili, fruit) for GSP’s Joseph’s food pantry would be much appreciated.

Facilitated by Halsy Taylor, Nanalee Raphael, and Sharon McKenzie, all theatre aficionados.



GSP Stained Glass

Advent Windows

By Joyce Henderson, Briefly Editor

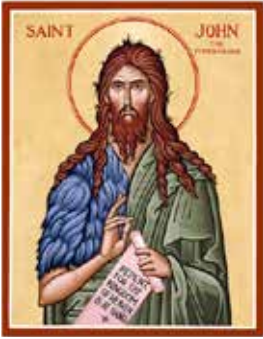
DURING ADVENT, several iconic images appear on cards and in pageants. At Grace St. Paul's we have two windows that are part of that visual tradition.

The Annunciation is the first window on the left or west side of the sanctuary after the Julian Chapel (above, left). The passage from Luke 1:26-38 has been visually depicted. Mary, in an architectural setting, is at her prayer bench when the angel, Gabriel, appears to her. She is in the midst of prayer with her eyes closed and her hands clasped. A blue robe with a gold tunic and sandals are the traditional attire. Her halo is not a typical design. Looking closely you will see "shells" in the basic halo image. The angel, Gabriel, is also in blue with sandals. Against visual tradition, his wings are gold and red. Gabriel carries a lily, symbol of purity and virginity, and raises his hand over Mary's head. Above Gabriel and Mary is the haloed dove of the Holy Spirit.

The second window is the first on the right or east side of the sanctuary (above right). In 1962, Stella Cooke Booth dedicated the window to her parents, Mary and Benjamin Cooke. In our archives this window is called the Christmas window. For reference, the passage depicted is Luke 2:1-7. Mary again is in a blue robe with under tunic. She holds a white cloth behind the baby Jesus. Joseph stands on the other side of the manger dressed in a green tunic with a maroon cloak. As part of tradition, he is bearded and holds a staff. But his halo is also green! The haloed baby Jesus is swaddled in a white cloth as he lies on bed of hay on the wooden manger. Two other images are part of the tradition of a stable setting: the long legged lamb and the bale of hay.

Let us enjoy our own iconic windows of the Advent season!

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: SUNDAYS @ 9 & 11:45 a.m.

**Advent & John the Baptist****Sunday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

Join us for a PowerPoint presentation on the development of the Advent Season and the significance of John the Baptist as a prominent character in the drama of the season.

- How does the New Testament depict the Baptist?
- What did his father predict his baby son would do?
- Was there a connection with the Essenes?
- What was his “Forerunner” role?
- How was he related to Jesus?
- When did he begin his ministry?
- Why was he baptizing?
- What did he teach?
- What was his link with Elijah?
- How did he die?
- How was he the first hippie?

Chuck Dickson is a retired history teacher and a frequent and popular presenter for Adult Spiritual Formation at GSP.

**Portraits of the Baptist****Sunday, Dec. 3, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Room**

Join us for a PowerPoint presentation showing how John the Baptist has been depicted through the ages in icons, classic paintings, statues, and stained-glass windows. We will examine how artists have had varied ideas about his appearance and also how they have imagined the desert wilderness near the Jordan.

- What colors are often prominent?
- How is he dressed?
- What does he hold in his hand?
- What animal might be nearby?
- What is the “John gesture”?
- Why does he sometimes have wings?

Chuck Dickson is a retired history teacher and a frequent and popular presenter for Adult Spiritual Formation at GSP.

**Advent & End Times****Sunday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

Have you ever wondered why in Advent we have lectionary readings of “the end times” to come, mixed with hymns and prayers of joyful expectation of the Christ child? Somewhat confusing or schizophrenic to say the least! Join us for this class to explore the various themes of this new Advent season, and how we can continuously renew ourselves.

Facilitated by Brian Arthur, a member of the Adult Spiritual Formation team, and a frequent group facilitator at GSP.

Two Faces of Biblical Female Prophets**2 Sundays, Dec. 10 & 17, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Room**

In this two-part continuation of our four-part series on female prophets in the Bible and early Christianity, we will investigate the Corinthian women prophets (in 1 Corinthians), the Pythian slave girl (in the Book of Acts), and the ecstatic female seers of the 2nd century Montanist movement (as described in selected church texts), and the prophetic legacy of Perpetua, an early Christian female martyr (in the Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas—a work quite probably based on the original diaries of Perpetua herself). Not only will we excavate historical facts about these prophetic women, we will also reflect upon literary and theological methods for assessing their impact upon our spiritual lives as Christians and allied friends.

Margot Stevenson is a scholar of New Testament and early Christianity (PhD, Harvard University). She is currently working on projects at the intersection of biblical studies, personal development, and spirituality, and writing a book about biblical and spiritual matters.

Exploring Today's Lectionary**Sunday, Dec. 17, 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.

Jim Franks, a member of the Adult Spiritual Formation team, will facilitate this discussion.

What is a Vestry?**Sunday, Jan. 14, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

Every January at the annual meeting the people of Grace St. Paul's elect new members to serve on the vestry. But what exactly does a vestry do? Did you know that many aspects of the vestry's role are defined by entities beyond the congregation—local, state, and federal laws, and diocesan and Episcopal Church canons—as well as by a parish's own bylaws? We will take a look at the role of the vestry in the life of a faith community and explore how election as a vestry member can be a call to sacred ministry within the church.

Brian Arthur and Catherine Penn Williams are former vestry members and current members of the Adult Spiritual Formation team.

SPECIAL EVENT (CO-SPONSORED WITH THE PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY)



Honoring a Life:

Advance Care Planning Conversations

Saturday, Jan. 6, 9:30-11:30 a.m., McBride Hall

How do you hope to spend the final stage of your life? Have you planned adequately for any medical situations that might arise for you? Who else needs to know what your wishes are so that you can receive what you want? Attend this free two-hour workshop offered through Interfaith Community Services and learn:

- Why deciding what kind of healthcare you want late in life is so important
- How to talk to your loved ones and healthcare professionals about what you want
- How to document your decisions so your wants

- will be made known when appropriate
- How to revise and update any advance care plans you might have already
- Enhance your present by planning your future, then get on with living!

This event, sponsored by Adult Spiritual Formation and the Pastoral Care Team at GSP, is free of charge and open to members of GSP and the wider Tucson community—so bring a friend! Contact Interfaith Community Services at 520-297-6049 if you have any questions.

Presented by Suzanne Morrison and other members of the team at ICS. Suzanne is a member of GSP and works as the program manager for the Wholistic End of Life Program at Interfaith Community Services.



THIRD FRIDAY FILMS @ GSP

PLEASE NOTE: The 3rd Friday Films will take a break for the holidays in December and January.

But we will be back with a Lenten film offering in February. Stay tuned for coming attractions!

MAKING CONNECTIONS: SMALL GROUPS @ GSP



Bible Workbench

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Bloom Room

Join Fr. Richard Mallory for a lectionary Bible study on Thursday mornings. The class will utilize study guides prepared by the editors of the Bible Workbench (BW), a program that Fr. Richard describes as “the best lectionary curriculum I have discovered.” Besides providing a solid approach from biblical studies in general, BW offers a depth psychological take on the passage at hand. We encourage you to attend a meeting to get a taste of the class and to help you decide if this group is for you. No registration is necessary.

Fr. Richard Mallory is the Associate Rector at Grace St Paul's.

Dream Group:

Discovering God's Forgotten Language

Saturdays, Dec. 2 & Jan. 13, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Bloom Room

In this ongoing monthly group, we'll support each other in understanding our dreams through the lens of the work of psychologist Carl Jung and his understanding of the human psyche. We'll look for the ways in which our dreams form a bridge between our conscious waking self and the Self that is present in the deepest part of ourselves, a collaboration that can guide us on the path of individuation. While we are part of and sometimes use the language of a Christian community, we do not impose any doctrine or dogma on members of our group. Recommended reading: *Natural Spirituality* by Joyce Rockwood Hudson (revised edition) and/or *Inner Work* by Robert Johnson. All are welcome. No registration is necessary. This group usually meets the first Saturday of every month—except for Jan. 13.

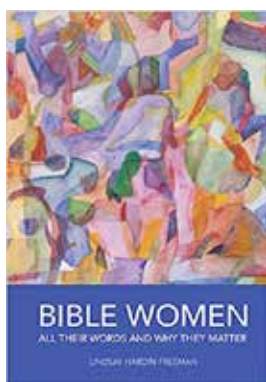
Catherine Penn Williams has been a student of her own dreams for nearly 30 years. A longtime member of GSP, she is a Jungian psychotherapist in private practice and an experienced group leader.

Bible Women

Fridays, Dec. 1 & 15 & Jan. 5 & 19, 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 vstefani@email.arizona.edu.





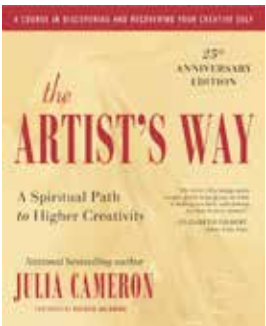
GSP Readers Group:

'Chronicle of a Last Summer' by Yasmine El Rashidi

Friday, Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Room

A young Egyptian woman recounts her personal and political coming of age over three decades in this brilliant debut novel. At once a mapping of a city in transformation and a story about the shifting realities and fates of a single Egyptian family, Yasmine El Rashidi's *Chronicle of a Last Summer* traces the fine line between survival and complicity, exploring the conscience of a generation raised in silence. "Yasmine El Rashidi's debut is politically minded, but with a beating heart at its core—a beautiful alchemy between an achingly human coming-of-age story and a political examination of a country with a deep, nuanced history." —*Elle*

For more information, please contact Vicki Stefani at 520-743-3978.



The Artist's Way:

A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity

Begins Saturday, Jan. 6, & continues for 12 weeks, through March 24, 12 noon-2 p.m., St. Francis Room

Do you have creative hopes and desires? Is there an art form you are drawn to, or one you love but have fallen away from, become blocked or frustrated or discouraged in your practice of? Have you convinced yourself or let others convince you that you don't have time or the proper training, that you're too unprepared, too inexperienced, too old, too . . . whatever?

In *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*, first published in 1992, Julia Cameron tells us: "If you are happier writing than not writing, painting than not painting, singing than not singing, acting than not acting, directing than not directing, for God's sake (and I mean that literally) let yourself do it . . . Our creativity is our gift from God. Our use of it is our gift to God. Accepting this bargain is the beginning of true self-acceptance" (182).

For the last 26 years, the 12-week program outlined in this book has helped to extract creativity from those who feel hesitant or blocked for whatever reason. And what better way to begin a New Year than by discovering and reclaiming our creative selves? This group will meet for 12 weeks to explore and practice the principles and activities that make up *The Artist's Way* program. You define your chosen art form, or maybe this group will help you define it; there are no restrictions. Purchase of the book is optional. Group size is limited.

Please contact Vicki Stefani at vstefani@email.arizona.edu or 520-743-3978 with questions or to sign up.

GSP Readers Group: 'Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis' by J.D. Vance

Friday, Jan. 12, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Room

From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town. *Hillbilly Elegy* is a probing, passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. This deeply moving memoir, with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country. "You will not read a more important book about America this year." —*The Economist*

For more information, please contact Vicki Stefani at 520-743-3978.

Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys

Mondays, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Bloom Room (no meetings Dec 25 or Jan 1; resume Jan 8)

Every week, we focus on a different intersection between spirituality, religion, and culture. The topics vary and there's always a lively discussion. Each session stands alone and all are welcome. No registration is necessary.

Co-facilitated by Brian Arthur, Jim Franks and Catherine Penn Williams. Brian, Jim and Catherine are all longtime contributors to the Adult Spiritual Formation ministry at GSP.

Saturday Java Jive: Coffee & Conversation

Saturdays, 8:30-11 a.m., Epic Cafe, 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.

There is actually no one in charge of this group and it's been thriving for 10 years in spite of—or maybe because of—that fact. Come join us!





Grace St. Paul's

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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
9 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters
4:30 p.m., Spirit Dojo

THURSDAYS

10 a.m., Bridge Group
10:30 a.m., Bible Workbench
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 2017...

1st 10:30 a.m., Bible Women
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading
2nd 10 a.m., Dream Group
3rd **FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
Giving & Receiving Pledge Day
9 a.m., *Advent & John the Baptist*
11:45 a.m., *Portraits of the Baptist*
4th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
5th 5:30 p.m., *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World*
6th 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
5 p.m., Deacons Dinner
7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**
7th 10:30 a.m., Bible Workbench
6 p.m., **Spirit Song**
8th 9:30 a.m., GSP Readers Group
10th **SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
Visit from St. Nicholas of Myra
9 a.m., *Advent & End Times*
11:45 a.m., *Two Faces of Female Biblical Prophets*
11th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
12th 5:30 p.m., *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World*
15th 10:30 a.m., Bible Women
6:30 p.m., **Film & Fellowship**
16th 11 a.m., SAAF Holiday Family Day
17th **THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
9 a.m., *Exploring Today's Lectionary*
11:45 a.m., *Two Faces of Female*

Biblical Prophets

6 p.m., **Blue Christmas Service**
18th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
19th 5:30 p.m., *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World*
20th 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
21st 10:30 a.m., Bible Workbench
6 p.m., **Winter Solstice Celebration**
23rd 3 p.m., Unity Initiative
24th **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
CHRISTMAS EVE
10 a.m., Advent Lessons & Carols
5 p.m., Family Service &

Christmas Pageant
10:15 a.m., Greening of the Church with snacks
9:30 p.m., Christmas Carols
10 p.m., Candlelight Communion Service
25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Office, Social Services Ministry & Joseph's Pantry Closed
10 a.m., Christmas Day Service with Carols
26th *Office & Social Services Ministry Closed*
31st **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**
NEW YEAR'S EVE

Coming Up in January 2018...

1st **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
Office & Social Services Ministry closed
3rd 7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**
4th 6 p.m., **Spirit Song**
5th 10:30 a.m., Bible Women
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading
6th 9:30 a.m., *Honoring a Life: Advance Care Planning Conversations*
12 noon, *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*
7th 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation
8th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
12th 9:30 a.m., GSP Readers Group
13th 9 a.m., Regional Discernment Committee
10 a.m., Dream Group
12 noon, *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*
14th 9 a.m., *What is a Vestry?*
15th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

17th 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
19th 10:30 a.m., Bible Women
6:30 p.m., Film & Fellowship
20th 12 noon, *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*
21st 9 & 11:45 a.m., Vestry Candidate Forum
22nd 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
23rd 8:30 a.m., TiHAN Volunteer Orientation
9 a.m., Primavera Cooks!
6:30 p.m., **Vestry Meeting**
27th 12 noon, *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*
3 p.m., Unity Initiative
28th **ANNUAL MEETING DAY**
11:45 a.m., Annual Meeting
1 p.m., Mother's Kitchen
29th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
30th 1 p.m., TiHAN C&S Training