

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



February 2016

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Services for Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday



On **Tuesday, Feb. 9**, join us for a fabulous **Shrove Tuesday** celebration.

Besides all the indulgent and delicious food, there will be a live jazz band for Mardi Gras fun.

Please join us in McBride Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. At the end of this celebration, palms from Palm Sunday will be burned in a bonfire on the labyrinth.

On **Wednesday, Feb. 10**, there will be four services for the dispensation of ashes: 7 a.m., Noon, 5:30 p.m. (specifically geared for children), and 7 p.m., a full service with choir and preaching.



Rector's Letter

It's always a dangerous thing when you let the Rector out of the office. Last summer when I attended General Convention, I had the privilege of attending all of the unique worship services planned each day. They were all very well done but the one that blew me away was the Jazz Eucharist. So right away, there I was on Christina's doorstep, asking her how we could pull one off ourselves.

Well, Christina placated me. She managed to get the pieces in place quick enough that we had our first JAZZ worship experience at our 10 a.m. service on Creation Sunday back in October. The response was overwhelming, way more than what I had expected. The liturgy that day was beautiful, but the big response came to the music. Despite the fact that it was our first trial with a wholly different style, which created a few bumps, I have received more excited positive responses to the music in that service than any other we have done since I came to GSP. As a result, we have decided that jazz will make a regular appearance on our liturgical calendar. Each year, we are going to have four JAZZ worship services. This year, they will be on Creation Sunday, Oct. 2, our Independence Day service on July 3, Pentecost Sunday on May 15, and this coming Sunday, the **Last Sunday of Epiphany, Feb. 7**. What better way to end the season of Epiphany other than to blow the roof off the joint before we enter the season of Lent. It will be an amazing Sunday so don't miss it and bring all your friends.

We have decided that jazz will make a regular appearance on our liturgical calendar...

Following that big jazzy Alleluia Sunday, we have one more opportunity to celebrate before Lent officially begins on Wednesday, Feb. 10. Shrove Tuesday at GSP is not your mother's pancake supper. It has grown into our biggest and most exciting party of the year. Jazz returns, New Orleans style, as the band from Sunday returns to create Mardi Gras and Carnival all rolled into one. The men of the parish cook away and feed you until you are ready to burst. The Rector's *Jesus Loves Pancakes* apron reminds all of us of the direct biblical

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It's Girl Scout Cookie season!
Watch for GSP Scouts selling cookies on Sundays and stock up on your favorites.



Submissions to The Briefly

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

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

The deadline for the March 2016 issue will be Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Rector's Letter

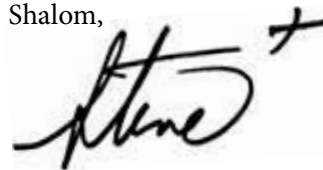
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connection between our meal and our religion. The drinks are flowing, the indulgences are there to save your soul, and the night never ends without a train dance around McBride Hall. We have so much to celebrate as a parish and that second week in February will be the time to do it.

I also want to thank all of you for the incredible Christmas services we had this year and also the opportunity you gave me to get away after Christmas day. I had the

great opportunity to spend the first Sunday after Christmas at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. It was an inspirational experience that included a gorgeous rendition of Handel's *Messiah*, interspersed with a seamless liturgy and amazing African American hymns. It gave me all kinds of new ideas! Think twice before you let me leave again!

Shalom,



Episcopal 101

Inquiring Minds Want to Know

By The Rev. Steve Keplinger

February marks the return of our annual Inquirer's class. Beginning **Feb. 7**, we will begin a six-week class called Episcopal 101. The class is specifically designed for those who are considering becoming official members of Grace St. Paul's or are pondering being received into this faith tradition.

We hold it in February to coincide with the annual visitation of Bishop Smith, which this year occurs on **April 17**. However, it is our hope that many more of you will decide to participate, because the class will cover material that many cradle Episcopalians do not even know.

In reality, the class is for anyone who would like to learn more about the church, specifically the Episcopal Church and the Anglican tradition, in which we are a part. All of this will come at you from the slightly different slant of your Rector.

Our first class will be on the history of the church from Jesus to the eighteenth century. (All of that in an hour and a half.) The second class will be history, part II, a look at the church as it developed in America. Class three will be everything you always wanted to know about the *Book of Common Prayer* and our liturgy, but were afraid to ask. Class four will be a discussion of Sacramental theology, and what we mean by Sacrament. Class five will be on Episcopal church polity, how we get things done and how we govern ourselves. This class is particularly important to us now

as we consider American politics and also the fragile state of the Anglican Communion. The last class will be a comparison of the Episcopal tradition with other Christian denominations, a discussion of the issues facing the church today and a discussion of being Episcopalian in what may be a post-religious age.

We are going to cover a bunch in a short time, but we believe the classes will be informative for all and fun, whether you have a doctorate in Anglican studies, (as I know some of you do) or you think that Episcopalian is something that only appears on spelling tests.

Come join us every Sunday for six successive weeks in the Bloom Room. Classes will be 90 minutes long, and food will be provided. Classes will finish the week before Holy Week.

EPISCOPAL 101 CLASS SCHEDULE

(All classes will be on Sunday at 11:45 a.m. in the Bloom Room.)

Feb. 7: Church History to the 18th century

Feb. 14: Church History in America

Feb. 21: The Book of Common Prayer and the Liturgy

Feb. 28: The Sacramental Tradition

March 6: American Church Polity

March 13: A quick comparison of Christian denominations, present day conflict in T.E.C. and the Anglican Communion and a discussion of being Episcopalian in a post-religious age.

Senior Warden's Annual Report

By Roger Pierce

It is interesting and encouraging to look back over 2015 in the life of Grace St. Paul's. Interesting because of the variety of creative ministries and activities...encouraging because of the evidence of the church's faithful commitment to being Open, Providing faith developing "food for the journey", and Changing the world, at least our little part of it.



Roger Pierce, Senior Warden

As I conclude my experience as Senior Warden, I want to highlight just a few of the many ministry activities that made 2015 special. A church has a limited future if it does not reach out to the local community, and GSP took giant strides last year in extending hands and hearts to our neighborhood and surrounding community. *The Front Porch Festival* in the Spring drew lots of neighbors to the campus and demonstrated our hospitality and openness. Probably didn't

hurt to have a line of food trucks, too. Then *Worship In The Park* invited everyone to see the richness of the liturgy done in the informality of a local park. Drive by, drop in worship! Just a couple of months ago our *Connections Sunday* extravaganza highlighted the wide variety of creative ministries that make this congregation so dynamic. In short, we reached out and the local community responded.

I hope each of you will tap a Vestry member on the shoulder and say "thank you" for accepting the responsibilities of leadership. Our Vestry is composed of bright, creative, and dedicated women and men, and as part of their leadership development this year we went on *Retreat* together to deepen our relationships and to sharpen our skills. It was time well spent and appreciated by all the attendees.

One illustration of the importance and impact of adult spiritual formation was the highly successful and deeply meaningful *Weekend with Mark Scandrette*, a noted author and insightful spiritual guide. All the

educational activities at GSP, for adults, youth, and children, feed us as we move along the path of faith development. And many people have said that their lives were changed by the experience of that special weekend.

Changing the world, the third element of our Vision Statement and core values, is neither simple nor quick. But in so many ways last year GSP reached out to the homeless, those who experience deep poverty, to refugees, and to anyone who asked for help. We made a difference in lives, and that's the important point. One particular event, the *Joseph's Pantry Christmas Party*, illustrates that fact. Almost 100 women, men, and children accepted our invitation and found a warm welcome and warm hearts. The tables were set for the feast, gifts were made available for everyone, and joy filled the room and the spirits.

I want to mention one other ministry that got its start last year, and will continue to develop this year and hopefully into the future. It is the *Small Group—Connections* effort that is so needed in our congregation. As the church continues to develop in size and intensity of ministry it is very important that each of us finds avenues to connect with each other, to support and encourage each other, to share our lives and our faith, and to renew our strength in each other's love. I hope that all of us will support, encourage, and work diligently to develop this new ministry movement. It is so very important to our future stability.

Through it all, maybe even in spite of us, the Spirit has moved to nudge us here, guide us there, and prompt us to be the people of Christ in our little part of the world. I am so glad you are here to be part of this unique congregation, and I hope you are glad, too.

Accept my thank you for your prayers, your support, and your untiring efforts during my two years as Senior Warden. God is not finished yet. And for that we can rejoice!

Notes *from the* Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



You don't see Jesus on the cross sporting shoes." That's a quote from the film "Angela's Ashes" in which a teacher tells the class that there's no shame in being poor. I've been checking in with The Text This Week, an on-line compendium of resources, including music, for the Sundays of the church year. That particular quote is for Ash Wednesday and falls under the category of Integrity.

Lent calls us to take a hard look at those categories: prayer, fasting, integrity, repentance, reconciliation, redemption, salvation/saving, determination, grace, and endurance, to which we could add compassion. Especially compassion, defined (by Google) as sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others. Synonyms: pity, sympathy, empathy, fellow feeling, care, concern, solicitude, sensitivity, warmth, love, tenderness, mercy, leniency, tolerance, kindness, humanity, charity..."have you no compassion for a fellow human being?" There seems to be parlous little of it in our political discourse these days or seemingly in the world around us, and yet it exists as it always has, waiting for us to take hold of another's hand.

Some of these qualities seem old-fashioned for a twenty-first century progressive church. Or perhaps I should say "old-fashion" (when did the "-ed" go out of fashion?) Most people aren't into fasting, and salvation in the blood-atonement sense is a fraught word in these parts. But we turn our backs on traditional values at a cost. Not that we should fear the Lord, but that we should consider that sin is real when an attitude or a course of action leads to a grinding down of the qualities listed above. It's so easy to say words and so hard to follow them up with actions.

Why am I, a music person, sermonizing? I'm talking to myself. It's a Lenten thing. Really, try talking to yourself in Lent, especially out loud. You get all kinds of attention. Either that or people assume you have a Bluetooth. I keep hammering on the subject of integrity in our music, but it's a problem, one that I can do more to address. It's not enough to check out a few resources, basically dislike them,

and go back to the same old. Grace St. Paul's choir members and I will have the opportunity to gain more knowledge about progressive music at large through a workshop entitled "Social Justice Through Music" coming up on Saturday, Feb. 6, at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church.

The clinician is Elizabeth Alexander, based in Minnesota, who has a catalogue of over 100 songs and choral works. I've had a listen and her work is lovely and appropriate for our congregation. I personally will really enjoy spending time with other progressive musicians and feeling more connected to the larger world of music not in the time-honored canon. There's nothing wrong with the time-honored canon; I love it, which is why it's so painfully difficult to walk away from music that has sustained previous generations.

However, you won't see much of that musical determination in Lent. Fr. Steve has said that Lent is its own category. The rest of the year may be Easter, but in Lent we have the luxury, in our self-promoting culture, to contemplate sin. For sin contemplation you can't get better than 16th century England, which fostered a cult of melancholy well suited to breast beating. You'd be pretty melancholy, too, if you went from being Catholic (Henry VIII) to Protestant (Henry VIII and Edward VI), to Catholic (Mary I), to Protestant (Elizabeth I) within 30 years. As Montaigne said in his essay "Of the Cannibals," at least the Brazilian tribal members killed their enemies before they threw them on the fire—the dark side allowing the contemplation of sin to veer into self-abuse is that it's too easy to turn around and beat up others. Nevertheless, a few anthems by John Dowland and John Blow will be part of our Lenten musical offering. We will also feature other English composers, like Herbert Howells.

For sheer evil, it's difficult to surpass the Nazi era, when true integrity and endurance in the face of overwhelming force was profoundly difficult. We include in our Lenten music a work by Hugo Distler, "Weary of all trumpeting," a plea for peace and mercy in

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Choir Notes

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a darkened world. It's one of those hymns that I would dearly love to schedule, but his work is astringent and would need careful introduction to the congregation. Not that we couldn't do that, of course. The choir begins this process. Distler was a German composer of works for choir and organ who flourished during the Weimar Republic but whose music was denounced by the Nazi government as degenerate. He was called up to serve in the Wehrmacht but could not out of conscience contribute to the German war machine and committed suicide at age 34. May we all be spared that kind of decision!

On a more cheerful note, we will feature the work of our own Jane Click's work for Ash Wednesday, "Have mercy on me, O God," based on Psalm 51. Well, okay, it's not exactly cheerful, but it's Lent. Jane has been a steadfast support for the music life of this parish, a beacon of integrity, determination and grace. We last did this piece five years ago and it's time for a reprise.

May you all find ways to contemplate the heavy stuff, remembering always that the leaven of grace, compassion, and beautiful music is there to lift us up and make us whole (and fluffy). Peace to you all. Next month, more Lent! And Holy Week! But at the end, the joys of Easter.

Paz y amor,

Christina

Giving & Receiving Report

By Peggy Scott,

Giving & Receiving Ministry

We thank all you for your generous estimate of giving for 2016. We are so grateful that you have expressed your intent to support God's work at GSP in the coming year. And now we come back to you with a heartfelt request that you consider increasing your estimate of giving so that we can meet our goal, given the vestry's decision to prioritize the hiring of at least a part-time clergy person. The experience of churches throughout the country shows us that a church of our size cannot function as we are without an assistant clergy position and a youth director.

This is a pivotal year for our church. God is indeed present at GSP. We say those words every Sunday and we feel God's presence day in and day out in the many, many ministries that happen at this place. God is present through all of us, but most evident in the work of the clergy. Clergy are present at the key moments of our lives, from birth and baptism, to weddings, to celebrations of life. They bring insight and inspiration at our weekly worship through thoughtful and provoking sermons, as well as warm greetings before and after services. They are present in moments of crisis and doubt. Clergy also lead us into the future.

In the past few years our church has invested resources in the future of the church by intentionally developing and growing the youth program. We have seen the incredible results of this effort

in a thriving youth program which has provided deep spiritual connections for our young people through border activities, fund raising for meaningful projects, and even a pilgrimage.

As of this writing we have received approximately \$423,000 in estimates of giving for 2016. We will need to reach \$550,000 in estimates of giving in order to hire an additional clergy part-time without making other staff adjustments.

The church budget can only be built based on the estimates of giving

that each of us makes. The mission of Grace St. Paul's is worked out through us, and the way those plans will be worked out is through us giving our time, our abilities and our money for the purposes of God's kingdom.

GSP is on the cusp of accomplishing some unprecedented goals that are bringing our church and the wider church into a new place for a new world. Thank you for being a part of it all and thank you for giving us the financial leverage necessary to take us there.

Reach into your heart and feel God's presence. God is present here. You are too.

Blessings!

Note: You may access the estimate of giving form at gsptucson.org/giving/Giving2016.php. You may also submit or modify an estimate of giving by calling the church office at 520-327-6857 and speaking with Aaron Bradley, Parish Administrator, or emailing him at parishadmin@gsptucson.org.

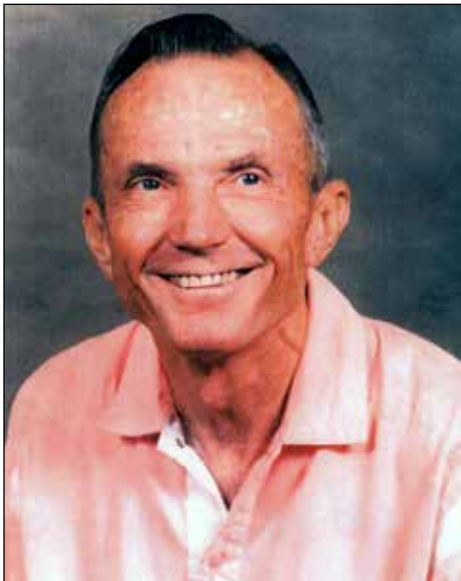


Senior Focus

Jim DeCook: Geohydrologist, Author & Outdoorsman

By Rosemary DeCook & Ann Schlumberger

Kenneth James (Jim) DeCook was born on June 7, 1925, in a Dutch immigrant farming community in Indiana. Jim moved to Tucson with his parents for the health of his mother, Alys, who died in the TB epidemic of 1934 when Jim was only 9 years old. Because of the Depression of 1929, his dad, William Prince de Cook, had sought work in Tucson in 1930, finding employment with the Southern Arizona Bank & Trust Co. He rose to the position of Vice President and Head of the Trust Department by 1971.



Jim DeCook

Jim attended elementary school in Patagonia and at Sam Hughes Elementary School and Mansfeld Junior High in Tucson. He was a senior at Tucson High when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941, and upon graduation he

enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Asked why he chose that branch of the service, Jim said that he preferred basic training in San Diego to prepare him for duty instead of an inland bootcamp. Perhaps his naval experience is what inspired him to pursue a career in geohydrology!

Jim went on active duty in the Navy in February 1943 on the aircraft carrier USS Altamaha (CVE-18), which took part in the Battles of the Philippine Sea and the South China Sea. He was discharged from the Navy in 1946 and enrolled as a freshman at the University of Arizona, earning a BS in geology in 1951. During that time, he worked for the US Geological Survey. He went on to earn a Master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin and eventually a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in Water Resources Administration. While working on his

doctorate, he taught classes at the UA and flew monthly to Ciudad Obregon, Mexico, to teach graduate classes in hydrology and water resources in Spanish at El Instituto Tecnológico de Mexico. Jim has always enjoyed mingling with people of other cultures, has traveled in 13 European countries, and speaks just a little Dutch and French in addition to Spanish.

While establishing his career as a geohydrologist, Jim married Ann Kessinger, and they had a lovely daughter, Susan (Dodson), who lives in Phoenix. Later, Jim married Carol Hosley and they had three wonderful sons—Ken, Bill and Steve DeCook, who all live in Tucson. Sadly, his wife Carol died in 1973 from a brain tumor. At the present time, Jim's extended family includes 10 grandchildren and 4 great grands.

In 1974, his present wife, Rosemary Elkins DeCook, arrived in Tucson from Boston where she was active in the Save the Whales Campaign. As a means of saving whales from being killed for their oil, she was involved in promoting the planting of jojoba bushes, a project being undertaken in Southern Arizona. Jim and Rosemary met at a Tucson wedding and fell in love. They were eventually married at Grace St. Paul's in 1995 by Fr. Gordon McBride.

As a child, Jim was raised in a Pentecostal Church in De Motte, Indiana. In 1934 he began attending the First Congregational Church in Tucson, where he learned ushering skills that he was later to employ at GSP. His introduction to the Episcopal Church in 1949 was through the UA Episcopal Student Center on East 4th Street. After a time, he joined St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Speedway and was part of the procession in 1991 from that church to Grace Church that marked the merger of the two parishes. At GSP, Jim was a long-time member of the French Club and a founding member of the Gaspign Geezers, a senior men's group that met once a month. Jim led the men on hiking and field trips throughout Southern Arizona.

Jim has always enjoyed outdoor activities. He and Rosemary had their first date on the Pima College tennis courts, and they perfected

Senior Focus

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their game through lessons at Reid Park.

Along with Rosemary, Jim was active in the Southern Arizona Hiking Club. The couple have hiked most of the mountains in Southern Arizona, the Grand Canyon, and have taken hiking trips in Hawaii and the Swiss Alps. They have enjoyed bicycling and participated in the early days of El Tour de Tucson. Sailing too was an interest, and Jim even built his own kayak. He has sailed on many lakes in Arizona and sailed his Hobie Cat on the Sea of Cortez in Puerto Penasco.

Finally, he learned to fly soaring planes at the El Tiro Soaring Club in Marana, flying for 17 years, during which time he invited family, friends, and our former rector Fr. McBride to experience soaring flights with him.

From 2003 to 2008, Jim wrote several books: one about his Dutch heritage, one on his early days in Arizona, and one on Arizona aviation.* In addition, he was interviewed by KUAT for the World War II special Tucson Remembers: War of the Pacific.

On June 7, 2015 Jim celebrated his 90th birthday with family and friends. While he is not as physically active these days as in the past, after 83 years in Tucson, Jim still loves this desert pueblo.

*Books written by Jim

- *Yes, I'm Dutch: Dutch Family Life*
- *Connections: Indiana Dutch Farmland to Arizona Desert South (Early Childhood to Age 21, 1925-1946)*
- *Early Tucson Flying from 1910 to Present*



Yoga Class

Yoga is a 5000-year-old tradition of mind/body/spirit transcendence coming out of South Asia.

As with all ancient knowledge traditions that have survived into the present, the practice of yoga is “spectacularly multifaceted.” It can be found practiced in remote ashrams, vacation resorts and spas, a wide range of local studios, and also K-12 schools, prisons, and gyms. No matter the locale, the hope of yoga practice is to foster deeper awareness of ourselves as intimately connected to a divine whole of creation.

Yoga is most familiar to us in the West as *asana*, a practice of poses designed to stretch and strengthen our muscular system, increase the pliability of fascia/joints, lubricate our internal organs, and release energy. The benefits of *asana* are studied in science and findings suggest yoga increases energy and focus, calms the nervous system, and adds mobility to movement in the body. There are even studies on the relation of increased bone density to regular yoga practice.

Pranayama (breath control) is a second aspect of yoga that is commonly practiced in the West. Controlled breathing is used to receive and channel energy through the body. In some practices the flow of breath

supports the flow of movement, each inhale or exhale initiating the next posture. Other controlled breathing practices are done in stillness, before meditation.

Meditation (*Dharana* and *Dhyana*) is a third commonly practiced aspect of yoga in the West. It is often accessible to us because of our traditions with prayer. Here, the practice centers on releasing superficial thoughts and sinking into deeper inner consciousness. In prayer, this deeper space, is where we are more able to hear the whispers of God. In yoga, meditation is practiced for the very same reason, to help us reach that space of divine presence. From here, there are more components/ aspects/”limbs” of yoga depending on specific traditions, but these three (Pranayama, Asana, Meditation) are likely to filter into a yoga class you might take here in Tucson.

In a nutshell, yoga is about creating balance and equanimity in your life so you can live peacefully, feel vital and healthy, and connect with a greater whole.

Sound good? Come check out our Saturday afternoon practice in the Weeks Room, from 4 to 5 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per class.

For more information contact Cindy Sorrensen, 520-323-4648, or practicinglifeyoga@gmail.com.



Ashes Outreach on Ash Wednesday

Ashes outreach to the community on the street corners began in 2010 with three Episcopal Churches in Chicago. Nationally and in some cases locally it is known as “Ashes to Go.” For the last four years Grace St. Paul’s clergy and lay people have been in the community on Ash Wednesday. On Wednesday, Feb. 10, we will be out in the community again.

Our primary site has been downtown at the Ronstadt Center where there is a lot of street and bus traffic. Last year we were also

at Himmel Park. We will be in the parking lot during Joseph’s Pantry hours, 9 a.m.-Noon. There you can join pantry goers for gatherings of two or three people and share a very short liturgy and receive ashes.

With receiving ashes we remember that we come from dust of the stars, and that just as the light of the stars is eternal, so is God’s love for us. With the beginning of Lent we begin a time of examination and healing. Receiving ashes may be to you a sign of the power of God to heal the brokenness in our lives.

Thanks to the incredible support of the parish community and our friends across Tucson and across the country, Joseph’s Pantry had another record year in 2015. According to the Community Food Bank’s statistics, we were the twenty-first busiest pantry in Southern Arizona out of the seventy six that participate in the CFB system. Through our pantry moved 3,449 CFB boxes, 2,382 bags of food provided by the parish, 5,660 daily food items, and 1,140 bags of dog and cat food (see photos, Page 9). 2,402 showers were taken. More than 2,329 hours were worked by pantry volunteers, without whom none of this would be possible and whose kindness builds such a wonderful community.

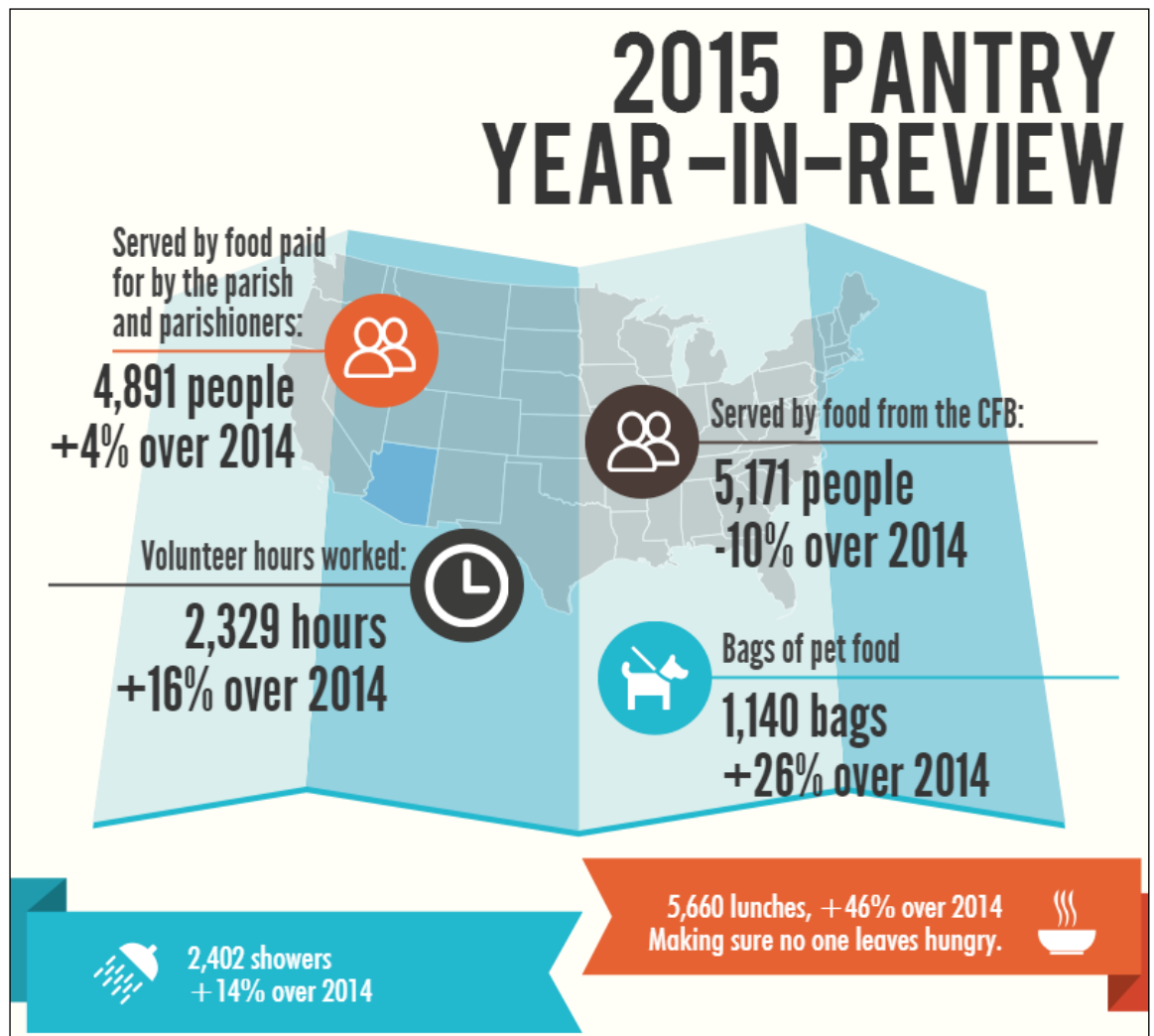


Chart and text by Andrew Gardner

Lenten Film Series

By Eric Carr

We have several big news items for **Film & Fellowship**, and the first is that Kitt and I were both asked to work full-time in senior level positions at the Sundance Film Festival this year! We will be there for the last two weeks of January, and Lent starts early this year, so while we have plans for the **Lenten Film Series**, we don't want to set anything in stone until we get back. Every year at Sundance we have scored amazing exclusive rights to screenings or made significant connections, and this year we will be working directly with the artists at Sundance New Frontier. This means we will have unprecedented opportunities to meet filmmakers, which could change our plans for the Lenten Film Series.

In fact, three year ago we screened "Notes On Blindness" during our Lenten Shorts Program after meeting the filmmakers, and this year we will be working with them at Sundance for their new Virtual Reality project and a full-length feature film inspired by their short. And that is just the tip of the iceberg! This is the tenth anniversary of New Frontiers, so it is the focus of the whole festival, and we will be working with hundreds of artists. We will also be staffing VIP events, and I'll even be personally helping the top Sundance donors and alumni with a private virtual reality experience. Because of this, we want to leave room in our Lenten programming just in case we end up getting last-minute opportunities again.

Whichever avenue we choose to pursue, we will be having film events *every Friday in Lent* except for the First Friday Play Reading and Good Friday. We will send a full list of programming as soon as we finalize it, so look for updates on Facebook and the GSP e-blast. Whatever happens, we will do our best to make sure this year continues our tradition of making a meaningful and transformative Lenten experience for Grace St Paul's!

There's Always Drama at GSP!

'Dinner & Theater' on March 4

For a fourth consecutive year **The Spirit Players** will offer a special theater event, raising funds for GSP ministries. Dinner & Theater will be served in McBride Hall beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 4.

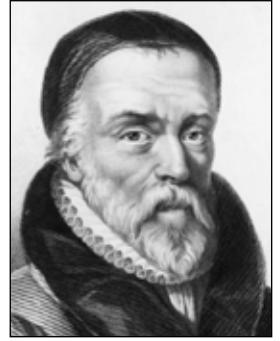
The Play: *God's Spy (William Tyndale and the Book That Conquered England)* will be directed by The Rev. Bob Sandine, our snowbird "Minister of Drama." *God's Spy* is Connecticut playwright Neil Olsen's powerful and entertaining story of William Tyndale, writer, theologian, martyr, and the first person to translate and print the

Bible in English. *God's Spy* will be presented concert style.

The Cost:

Tickets for this fundraiser are \$20, or \$50 if you would like to be a sponsor of this event. Tickets will be sold after each Sunday service and during office hours; cash or checks accepted. Because of The Spirits Players' generosity in donating all their time, 100 percent of your ticket price goes to GSP.

With limited seating in McBride, get your tickets soon for another fun night at GSP!



William Tyndale



Pet Food Party

The Animals and Spirituality Ministry thanks the congregation for its generous contribution of dog and cat food used by our guest's pets at the Pantry. The dog and cat food collection is a semi-annual event. Other ministry activity includes the Animal Memorial Garden and Grief Support. As well as a growing awareness of animal situations locally and throughout the world. To sign up for our email list, contact Rev. Chris Ledyard: mach8350@cox.net.



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



What is Lent?

Sunday, Feb. 7, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

A visual presentation on the season of Lent as practiced among Episcopalians today and as observed by past Christians. This one-hour class will consider such questions as:

- What is the purpose of Lent?
- When does Lent begin? When does Lent end?
- What is the significance of the number 40?
- What is the origin of the English word “Lent”?
- What was Lent like in the early Church? What was Lent like in the medieval Church?
- What does fasting have to do with Lent? Why was eating fish encouraged?
- What was the Tudors’ “political Lent”?
- What do some Protestants and some Progressive Christians think of Lent?
- What do pancakes and hot-cross buns have to do with Lent?
- What are the special Lenten liturgical practices in Episcopal congregations?
- Are you supposed to give up something for Lent?

Presented by Chuck Dickson, a frequent—and lively—presenter in GSP’s Adult Spiritual Formation ministry.

Episcopal 101 – for Everyone

6 Sundays: Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28, March 6 & 13, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

All inquirers and current members wanting a “refresher” are invited to learn more of the joy and highlights of the Episcopal path and sharing your journey in the 21st Century.

In this six-session introduction to the Episcopal Church, we’ll discuss basic Episcopal liturgical practice, the idea of liturgy, and the Book of Common Prayer; offer a history of the Episcopal Church, its roots and sense of tradition—including where things stand in the church’s most recent controversy; and explain the structure and organization of the Episcopal Church; and what does it mean to be a member of Grace St. Paul’s Church? What do bishops do? What is Apostolic Succession? Why do we need priests? What direction does authority flow? Bring your questions to all the sessions!

Participants may wish to buy the book *Jesus Was an Episcopalian: a Newcomers Guide to the Episcopal Church* by Chris Yaw to supplement the class experience but it’s not required.

Facilitated by Fr. Steve Keplinger, Rector of Grace St. Paul’s.

Grounded: Finding God in the World—

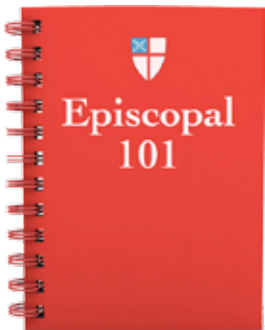
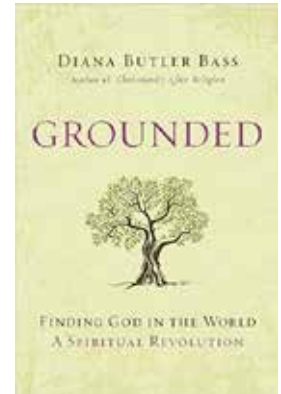
A Spiritual Revolution (Lenten Book Study)

5 Sundays: Feb. 14, 21 & 28, March 6 & 13, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

The headlines are clear: religion is on the decline in America as many people leave behind traditional religious practices.

In her new book *Grounded: Finding God in the World*, Diana Butler Bass, a leading commentator on religion, politics, and culture, argues that what appears to be a decline actually signals a major transformation in how people understand and experience God. The distant God of conventional religion has given way to a more intimate sense of the sacred that is with us in the world. This shift, from a vertical understanding of God to a God found on the horizons of nature and human community, is at the heart of a spiritual revolution that surrounds us—and that is challenging not only religious institutions but political and social ones as well.

Join us for this Lenten book study!

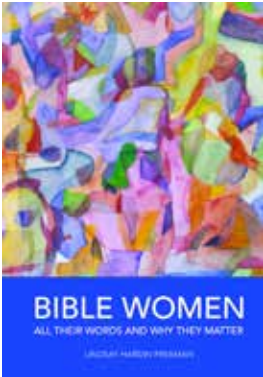


New GSP Hiking Group Takes First Hike in Saguaro East

The new GSP Hiking Group hiked the 4-mile Loma Verde Loop in Saguaro National Park (East) on Thursday, Jan. 14. The day was beautiful, and there were some good photo opportunities! Participants pictured in the photo, from left to right, were Jenni, Laura, Buddy, Joan, Diana, and David. Ken (photographer) also participated.

The next hike is scheduled for the morning of **Thursday, Feb. 25**, and will most likely be on the west side of Tucson. *Reserve the date—we look forward to seeing you!*

UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE: BIBLE STUDY @ GSP



Bible Women

Fridays, Feb. 5 & 19, 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 class studies the Bible through the voices of women in the Old and New Testaments. We 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! (The group meets twice a month, on the first and third Friday.)

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.

Facilitated by Bill Moore, GSP Junior Warden.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: SMALL GROUPS @ GSP



Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys,

Living the Way of Jesus

Mondays, 10 a.m.-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.

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

Every Saturday, 8:30-11 a.m., at:

- Epic Cafe (745 N. 4th Ave., at University Blvd.)
- Café Passé (415 N. 4th Ave., next to Antigone Books)

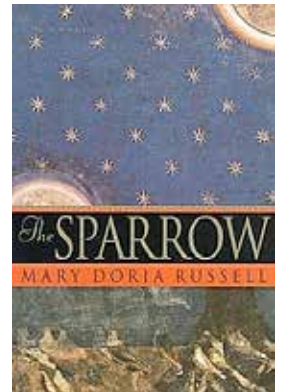
Our little coffee group is growing! In 2016 we will experiment with hosting two Saturday morning groups in two different locations.

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.

GSP Readers Group

Friday, Feb. 26, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Education Center

The Sparrow, by Mary Doria Russell, is a novel about a remarkable man, a living saint, a life-long celibate and Jesuit priest, who undergoes an experience so harrowing and profound that it makes him question the existence of God. This experience—the first contact between human beings and intelligent extraterrestrial life—begins with a small mistake and ends in a horrible catastrophe.



“An unusual kind of speculative fiction, challenging the heart even more than the mind... harrowing and strangely beautiful.” (*Christian Science Monitor*)

All are welcome! No registration necessary.

For more information, please contact the church office at 327-6857.



Grace St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2331 E. Adams • Tucson, AZ 85719
520-327-6857 • www.gsptucson.org

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

What's Happening in February 2016

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

1st 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
10 a.m., E/M Post-Grad Forum
7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

3rd Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., **AZ Welcomes Refugees**

4th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*
5:30 p.m., Depression Spiritual Support Group

5th 10 a.m., *Bible Women*
6:30 p.m., **Spirit Players Play-Reading**

6th 8:30 a.m., **Saturday Java Jive**
4 p.m., Yoga Class

7th 9 a.m., *What Is Lent?*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

8th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
7 p.m., **Joseph's Pantry meeting**
6 p.m., **SHROVE TUESDAY**

10th **ASH WEDNESDAY**
(See Page 1 for schedule of services)

11th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*
5:30 p.m., Depression Spiritual Support Group

12th 6:30 p.m., **Lenten Film Series**

13th 8:30 a.m., **Saturday Java Jive**
9 a.m., Good Grief Group
4 p.m., Yoga Class

14th **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
9 a.m., *Grounded: Finding God in the World*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

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

15th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

17th Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., **AZ Welcomes Refugees**

18th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*
19th 10 a.m., *Bible Women*
6:30 p.m., **Lenten Film Series**

20th 8:30 a.m., **Saturday Java Jive**
9 a.m., Good Grief Group
4 p.m., Yoga Class

21st **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**
9 a.m., *Grounded: Finding God in the World*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

22nd 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

23rd 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks! Group
6:30 p.m., **Vestry Meeting**

24th 7 p.m., **AZ Welcomes Refugees**

25th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*
26th 9:30 a.m., GSP Readers Group
6:30 p.m., **Lenten Film Series**

27th 8:30 a.m., **Saturday Java Jive**
9 a.m., Good Grief Group
4 p.m., Yoga Class

28th **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**
9 a.m., *Grounded: Finding God in the World*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*
1 p.m., Mother's Kitchen

29th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

Looking Ahead to March
2nd Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., **AZ Welcomes Refugees**
3rd 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*
4th 6:30 p.m., **Spirit Players Dinner**

Theater: God's Spy
5th 8:30 a.m., **Saturday Java Jive**
9 a.m., Good Grief Group
4 p.m., Yoga Class

6th **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
9 a.m., *Grounded: Finding God in the World*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

7th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
10 a.m., E/M Post-Grad Forum
7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

9th 7 p.m., **AZ Welcomes Refugees**

10th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*
11th 6:30 p.m., **Lenten Film Series**

12th 8:30 a.m., **Saturday Java Jive**
9 a.m., Good Grief Group
4 p.m., Yoga Class

13th **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
9 a.m., *Grounded: Finding God in the World*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*
6 p.m., **SpiritSong: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé**

14th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
7 p.m., **Joseph's Pantry meeting**

16th Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., **AZ Welcomes Refugees**

17th 7:30 a.m., *Men's Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*
18th 6:30 p.m., **Lenten Film Series**
19th 8:30 a.m., **Saturday Java Jive**
9 a.m., Good Grief Group
4 p.m., Yoga Class

20th **PALM SUNDAY**