

The Briefly

March 2014

The monthly newsletter for the community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Equinox Liturgy

(pg 3)

Youth Pilgrimage

(pg 5)

Lenten Social Media

(pg 6)

Trial of Jesus

(pg 7)

Sundance Scores

(pg 8)

Dinner Theater Returns

(pg 9)

Rector's Letter

The Lenten Mystery Gift

They were two very innocent comments. Last Ash Wednesday, at the 7 p.m. service, we were talking about the emotional character of the beginning of Lent. I noted that it just so happened that Ash Wednesday also fell last year on another emotional day for me, the day when these words were uttered after a long, long winter: "Today, pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training." As a child growing up in the bitter cold of the Northeast, that phrase not only meant the return of my favorite sport, but they also symbolized the end of the dark, depressing winter, as we also hear reported in the Song of Solomon: "For now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth and the time of singing has come."

Then on the First Sunday of Lent, I said something like this: "Lent is the Spring training of our faith. It is not the big event, it is the preparation for the big event. It is the time in our lives when we have an opportunity to practice and become better in living into our religious tradition and our way of life."

Lent is really all about becoming more proficient in our faith, our love of God, and our care for one another'...



The following Saturday night/Sunday morning, a message was left on the Grace St. Paul's phone line at 2 a.m.: "Hello, this is Beyoncé calling with a special Spring Training message for Father Steve." What followed was the most beautiful musical ode to baseball and the wonders of the start of the season. As I walked into the office that morning, I was greeted by a gigantic shadow box containing an Orioles jersey, a layout of a baseball diamond, a New York hat with the words, "Yes, you can coexist" (a reference to me sharing the office with our resident Yankee fan, KiKi

Continued on Page 2

GSP youth learned about sacraments in Happening, and then followed up with a few weeks on sacred instruments. J2A and Rite 13 members learned about how chalices and sacred drinking vessels have been used throughout history around the world, and then made their own designs. Youth leaders helped participants turn their designs into real chalices, using glass goblets and permanent glass enamel. After two weeks of painting and design, the pieces are baked at a low temperature to form something beautiful and memorable that the youth can keep forever. Here is Minda Dettman's wonderful Tree of Life design along with another fabulous work in progress.

Rector's Letter

Continued from Page 1

Fenik), and these words in the bottom right corner. "In Reverence for Spring Training, February 23, MMXIII."

The shadow box resides as the central eye focus in the office now. If you have not yet seen it, I urge you to come in and check it out as soon as possible. It is a stunning and amazing gift that still gets me all misty eyed when I look up at it some days.

To this day, I have no idea who made such an incredible investment of time and money to make this beautiful object. They have managed to keep it a secret this entire year. Not a day goes by that I do not look at it and am reminded of the generosity and love of all of you. It also reminds me of what Lent is really all about. Some of us carry burdens from childhoods of Lents that were used to scourge ourselves and make us feel worthless, unloved, and separated from God. But the shadow box

reminds me every day that Lent is really all about becoming more proficient in our faith, our love of God, and our care for one another. It is our time to practice and learn and grow, our time to become better at everything we do for each other, and our time to become better at feeling God's presence in the midst of it all.

We begin our Lenten journey of training this year on March 5. But we don't start until we all take part in the biggest blowout party of the year the night before on Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras. Come be part of what has become our greatest night of fun of the year, and then we will all be prepared to properly enter the season of growth and love.

Thank you so much mystery giver for the gift of the beauty of Lent. And thank all of you for the gift that you are in my life every day.

Your faithful baseball fan,

Steve +

The Gifts of God for the People of God

Would You Believe . . .

. . . that your bank can help you be a more faithfully generous person? Nearly all banks and credit unions make available a service called "Bill Pay." I started using bill pay several years ago. I traveled often, including weekends. Monitoring the due dates of bills took time, and I often missed attending my home church for several weeks in a row. I

made my church gift the first one I set up, as a way of practicing a "first fruits" gift, then set up the bills I needed to pay regularly. By using the bank's bill pay service instead of an external third party, I have control over the amount and timing of all my payments. Changing the amount or the timing takes just a few moments online, and can be done any time of any day. Why don't you let your bank help you be a more faithfully generous person?

—*Dave Coatsworth, member of the
GSP Giving & Receiving Ministry*

Submissions to *The Briefly*

Please submit articles to Joyce Henderson, BrieflyEditor@gracestpauls.org. Calendar items go to Wendy Pipentacos at wendypipe@yahoo.com. John Banks receives photos, charts, and graphics at jdbanks@gmail.com.

The deadline for the April/May 2014 issue will be Tuesday, March 11.

Spring Equinox Liturgy

By The Rev. Steve Keplinger

On each of the equinox and solstice days of the seasonal calendar, Grace St. Paul's has a special service to mark the day. Our autumnal equinox service marked the day when light and dark are equal. Our winter solstice service was a celebration of the longest night of the year. On Thursday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m., we will celebrate the vernal equinox, as light returns.

The liturgy will be an outside service and will include a walk on the labyrinth as we have done previously. The spring equinox service is saturated with rebirth imagery and emotional connections to the season of hope and joy. It is a light, beautiful liturgy to connect us body and soul with the new life that is beginning within us and around us.

The rest of the service will be creation oriented, connecting us with what is going on in the natural world. It is a beautiful mingling of creation with the quiet contemplation of Lent. The service will last about 40 minutes.

Our winter service on the longest night of the year was met with many accolades. Don't miss out on our spring connection.

We hope you can join us for this quiet celebration of spring interspersed with a new way of doing Stations of the Cross.

See you on Thursday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m., when we move from winter to spring!

Liturgy Discussion of the Month

Ash Wednesday

By The Rev. Steve Keplinger

We've been doing it a long time. It is contained in the Gregorian Sacramentary and dates to at least the eighth century. We have a description of it in the writings of an Abbot named Aelfric in the tenth century. In those days, ashes were sprinkled on the head, as opposed to applied in an anointing fashion, as we do today. There is also the practice as described several places in the Hebrew Bible of pouring ashes on one's entire body. Perhaps the earliest is in the Book of Job. Feeling totally rebuked by God, Job says, "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." Examples are also in 2 Samuel 13, Esther 4, Isaiah 61, Jeremiah 6, Ezekiel 27, Daniel 9. Jesus talks about it in Matthew 11.

The symbol is as simple as the season it begins. "You are dust and to dust you shall return." It is simple, but so important, perhaps even more so now than in the eighth century. A few weeks ago I sat with a parishioner in the hospital, a parishioner who was going to die very soon. The doctor walked in and began a discussion with him about next steps. "We can try this new procedure. We can continue the chemo. We can still be very aggressive." The doctor knew darn well it was time for him to prepare to die. But he had no vocabulary and no frame of reference for having that conversation. In this culture where it seems like everyone makes believe that death does not really exist, Ash Wednesday is our reminder of the regular and natural cycle of life and death.

In a symbol that directly connects our experiences of life and death, we create our ashes at Grace St. Paul's by burning palms that



we handed out at the beginning of Holy Week last year. In this way we connect the cycle of life, death and rebirth for all of us. We burn those palms in a big bonfire at the end of our Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras celebration that we will have this year on March 4. A great way to take part in that experience is to bring your own palms from last year to that event for us to burn together. It is a beautiful moment, as we climax our joyful night of celebration with that big bonfire. As the flames die down, and the ashes begin to form, our party dies down as we prepare to enter the calm and still of the season of Lent.

This year I urge each of you to take part in both ends of that experience. Come celebrate the joy of our lives together, burn our Palm Sunday palms together, and then have those same ashes applied to your head the following day to complete the cycle. There is something cathartic in celebrating life in the midst of affirming that we will all die and be reborn.

Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



Well, Gentle Readers, apparently I got ahead of myself in the last iteration of the *Briefly*. We are meant to be covering Ash Wednesday and Lent in this issue and we will discuss Holy Week and Easter next time. So, if I seem to be recapitulating what I already wrote in my last article, that would be because I am.

That's all right, because I've been revising the schedule. That's what happens when you plan ahead—things come along to mess up your nice little scenario. It's called life. I try to use it as an excuse not to plan ahead, but that doesn't work well, either.

Our Lenten music will rely heavily on the Anglican choral tradition. On Ash Wednesday, we will sing "The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit" by Maurice Greene and "Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake" by Richard Farrant. Then, because it's always fun to get a two-fer, we will repeat the Greene for Lent 1 and add "Adam lay ybounden" by Boris Ord, which is actually a Christmas carol, but what the heck.

For Lent 2, the St. Cecilia's Children's Choir will sing a piece with flute called "Purer in heart" by Naomi King Walker, accompanied by Jane Click, with flutist Barbara Else. The Adult Choir will sing "I to the hills lift up my eyes", a setting of text from the Bay Psalm Book by Jean Berger. On Lent 3, we will introduce a newly acquired piece, a terrific arrangement of the spiritual "I've just come from the fountain" by André J. Thomas, paired with another English Christmas carol—"The truth from above", set by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

If all goes according to plan, I will be away

on Lent 4 with the St. Zeno's Zombie Choir for the Friends and Faith Across Borders weekend. We will walk part of the Devil's Highway, which will be an intense experience. The Zombies will sing for the Sunday morning services at St. John's Bisbee and St. Stephen's Douglas, as we did last year. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the choir will be singing the Herbert Howells "My eyes for beauty pine" and a setting of Psalm 23 by the Cuban Hermano Alfredo Morales.

The Rev. Michael Dowd, author of *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World*, will be with us at Grace St. Paul's on Lent 5, and we will be celebrating Evolution Sunday. I have music selected based on the lectionary for the day, but it's possible the focus may change, so we may do the Thomas Morley "I am the resurrection and the life" from the Funeral Sentences from the funeral service for Queen Elizabeth I, or we may not. Blessed are the flexible.

So, as the pancakes of Shrove Tuesday give way to the fast of Lent, may we all take stock of our lives and find meaningful ways to seek God as we prepare for Easter. I might do a bit of plainsong every day. Why hasn't anyone thought of that before?

Peace,

Christina

Ash Wednesday Family Service

March 5, 5:30 p.m.,

beginning on the labyrinth

Young children often have a hard time understanding Lent. One way of explaining Lent is that it's a time to bring us closer to God. In our busy lives we often buy new toys and "stuff," play video games and watch television. All this can make us happy, but this kind of happiness is temporary.

During Lent, we try to make more room for God. We try to add activities to our daily lives that will help strengthen us. Many people "give up" something important to them for the 40 days of Lent as a way of learning unselfishness or they add something good and healthy to their lives as a way of finding more permanent happiness. At GSP, we help our children understand Lent by offering a sensory, interactive family Ash Wednesday service.

This year, the service will begin on the labyrinth with prayer and a single, slow drumbeat. We will slowly move inside the Church to the chancel area for a short, interactive, child-friendly service. During much of the service, participants will be at one of four "worship" or "meditation" tables set up in the sanctuary. The tables will be supplied with a short scripture reading, a card on which a reflection is offered and an "action."

The reading, the reflection and the activity are designed to help families, especially families with children, to gain a deeper understanding of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. After all participants have had time to visit each table, they will be called back to the chancel to talk about their experience at the worship tables and to receive the makings for a special "jelly bean prayer" and family activity to be used throughout Lent. Afterwards there will be the traditional Ash Wednesday dispensation of ashes.

While the service is designed for families with children, anyone who wants an interactive Ash Wednesday experience would enjoy this service and is most welcome.

Youth Pilgrimage A Reality at GSP!

By Rosalind Garcia

In January of 2012, I wrote an article for the *Briefly* which described the youth curriculum we were implementing. I said then that "[o]ne of the advantages of the J2A curriculum is that it was created with the developmental needs of the teenager in mind.

...The third and fourth years (of the curriculum)... center on the developing and maturing spirituality of our teenagers.

The youth begin this part of the program in 8th and 9th grades and spend two years learning about themselves, their relationship with God and with each other. This time is deliberately spent on internal work, because teenagers

at 14 to 16 years of age are naturally self-absorbed. The J2A curriculum embraces this time in a teen's life to help them question and develop their own faith. This two-year period ends with a religious pilgrimage."

Many people approached me after I wrote that article expressing great support for the idea of a youth pilgrimage, but some openly wondered if such a thing could happen at GSP. Well, I am thrilled to tell you that such a thing can indeed happen at GSP! After two years of explaining why the pilgrimage experience is so important, after two years of fundraising and hard work on the part of

our youth and families and after two years of incredible support from the GSP community, our youth and their leaders going on pilgrimage! Careful plans have been laid, tickets have been purchased and reservations have been made.

From June 1-16, 2014, ten pilgrims from GSP will be spending a week at the Taize monastery in France, spending two days in Lyon, France, journeying on the Canterbury, England and finally to London. They will be carrying their possessions in a backpack, meeting young people from around the world, following the way of pilgrims for hundreds of years and along the way, finding themselves, their faith and God.

These young people will return to us adults, surer of themselves and of their faith. Thank you to the entire GSP community for making this dream a reality.

Pilgrimage on Behalf of Another

There is an old tradition of "pilgrimage" on behalf of another to ancient places of the sacred, like Canterbury, as well as more modern destinations, like Taizé. Often this would include taking a cross or icon to be blessed at the sacred place.

Our pilgrims would like to offer to pilgrimage on behalf of members of the GSP community. If you are interested in being a "behalf", please contact Rosalind Garcia (Rosalind.Garcia@grace-stpauls.org or 327-6857). If you wish to be a "behalf" you will be invited to meet with your pilgrim, to attend a traditional British tea and a Bon Voyage party, and your pilgrim will write to you from France and England. Of course, you might also wish to have a cross or icon blessed! Be sure to follow our travels on Facebook.

GSP PILGRIMS: SUMMER 2014

Eric Carr
Minda Dettmen
Noah Dettman
Ethan Driver
Brian Fairbanks
Joaquin Fischer
Alice Garcia
Madison Knutson
Bianca Lara
Sarah Lipp

Our Social Media Lenten Practice Resumes

By Eric K. Carr

For the last few years the Communications Committee has been using Lent and Holy Week to launch experiments in utilizing the power of social media, and we have had stunning results. Last year we did a daily Lenten Practice on Facebook and Pinterest, which went viral in both places, and even got us featured in the Huffington Post.

Many of our images became wildly popular, and because of the success of the program, I was asked to help give a workshop on Advanced Social Media techniques

at the Diocesan Convention last year, and this spring I'll be presenting at the Diocesan "eBoot Camp" at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. People from all over the world heard about our endeavor, and it put us on the map in the world of online evangelism.

This year we are set to do it all again, and we will expand the meditations to be on multiple Pinterest pages, Tumblr, and

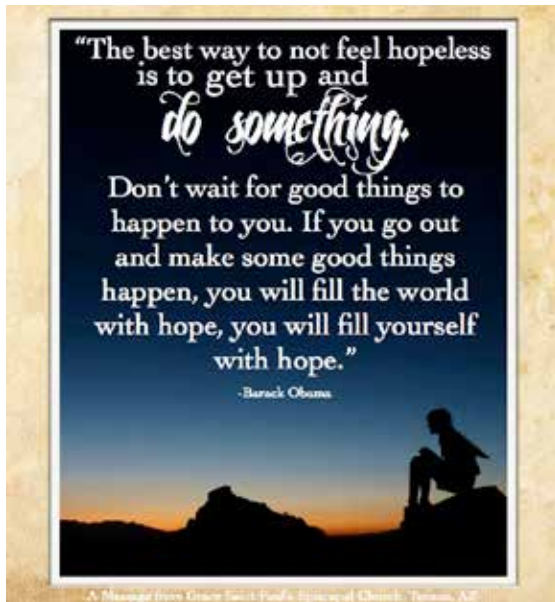
Facebook, and the entire Communications Committee will be supporting this endeavor.

The image accompanying this article is from last year's practice. The background is a phenomenal photo taken by our own Martha Whitaker. I was inspired to add text from a speech President Obama had given at the time, and then we added GSP's info to the graphic so that our name would go out every time it was

shared. This was one of our more successful meditations, which was widely shared on Facebook and Pinterest (and still gets shared regularly on Pinterest almost a year later). It was accompanied by the following text: "Lenten Facebook Practice Day 41: Do something that gives you - and those around you - hope today! Go out and make some good things happen." Then we added a link to an inspirational and funny video by Internet celebrity Kid President.

Not all of our meditations were positive and inspiring, though. Some were challenging, others heartbreaking, and some required more contemplation than action. Many of them, including this one, generated real conversations both online and in person, and the entire project got us over a hundred new "fans" on our Facebook page. Ultimately, though, the popularity isn't as important to us as the meaningfulness of the project. We hope it draws people in, causes them to think, and perhaps above all, proclaims the Gospel in a new and relevant way.

If you have ideas, photos or quotes you think would be good, please let me know. You can get my email address and phone number from the directory, or you can reach me in person or on Facebook. We've got a lot of the ideas in place, but we would love for the greater community to participate on multiple levels. And, of course, we hope you share them on your own Facebook page! The more people share, the more the world gets to see our unique message, mission, and vision. However you participate, though, I hope our work brings meaning and mindfulness to your own Lenten practice.





Trial of Jesus



On Sunday evening, Feb. 23, Grace St Paul's hosted the "Trial of Jesus," an event created by attorneys Mark Osler and Jeanne Bishop to spark discussion among people of faith about the death penalty. Kyle Devereux played the part of the silent defendant Jesus while other GSP members had speaking parts as the judge (Fr. Steve) and witnesses (Catherine Penn Williams, Roger Pierce, Brian Arthur and Peggy Scott). Members of the audience served as juries that deliberated on Jesus' fate—life in prison or execution. It was a fascinating evening for everyone who attended!

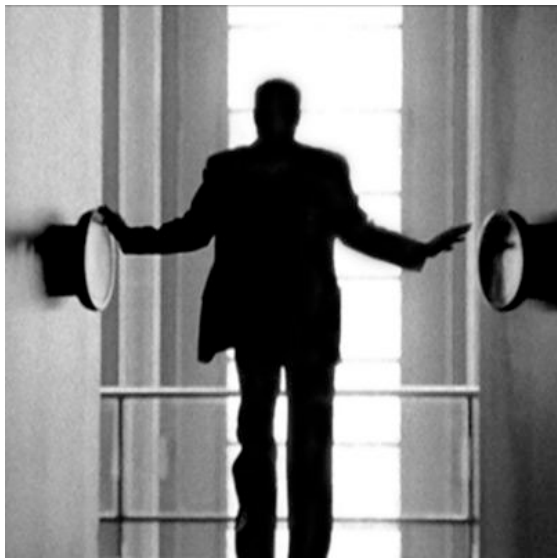


Film & Fellowship: Sundance Scores

By Eric K. Carr

Sundance 2014 was a huge success for Film & Fellowship. Kitt Cordero and I spoke with several directors and producers about hosting screenings at GSP, and we scored the rights to screen three films, while also getting permission to host others after they are released!

Going to the festival, the film we were



A still from *Watchers of the Sky*.

most interested in was *The Overnighters*, a powerful and, quite frankly, astonishing documentary about a Lutheran pastor in a small North Dakota town who converts his church and home into a shelter for hundreds of men who come to the town for elusive jobs in the new oil fracking industry. There were so many things about the film that reminded us of GSP and our mission,

from the social service ministries to the challenges faced when being a good neighbor is hard because the rest of the neighborhood doesn't want certain types of people coming near. The film simmers in intensity. One can't help but admire the pastor and his incredible family, and then the end, which unfolds shockingly and suddenly while cameras roll, leaves viewers speechless and bereft. We simply must show this film at GSP.

Kitt, Richard, and I spoke with the director after the film, and he would love for us to screen it, but so far it has not been picked up by a distributor, even though GQ named it as the second best film of Sundance. We will have to

wait and see if it becomes available to us.

Kitt and I also scored last-minute tickets to *Watchers of the Sky*, another masterful documentary with an extraordinarily powerful ending. This was Kitt's favorite film, telling the story of the concept of defining genocide as a crime against humanity while documenting genocide and the world's reaction to it. We spoke with the director and producer afterward and got rights to screen it as soon as it is available. In fact, they loved our mission so much they asked us to help get the film into other churches!

It was a thrilling moment, and our conversation drew others in as well. In fact, the director and producer of a PBS documentary pulled us aside afterward and gave us permission to screen her film, *Rescue in the Philippines: Refuge from the Holocaust*. After this experience Kitt and I both felt like our passion and commitment to our ministry had caught fire with new passion and purpose. Over and over again people got excited about what we do at GSP and asked for advice on how to set up similar things in other churches.

We will keep you updated as things unfold for us. In the meantime, we have been working since September on putting together another great **Lenten Film Series**, and on Saturday, March 22, we rejoin the Loft to screen another **Human Rights Watch** film, so please join us. We are so excited about what God is doing in film, and how GSP continues to be on the forefront in unique ministry, outreach, and social change!

Dinner Theater Returns to GSP

By Sue Pierce

A popular fundraising event is back for 2014—a theater production and dinner is scheduled for March 14, at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served in McBride Hall, followed by the play presented in the church. Immediately after the play, guests are invited to return to McBride Hall for coffee, dessert and a Q&A time with the cast and director.

The Play, directed by Bob Sandine: *The Grand Inquisitor*—A short but powerful play, by Neil Olsen, based on a chapter from *The Brothers Karamazov*, where Christ returns to earth in 16th century Seville at the time of the Spanish Inquisition. After Christ performs miracles, the Grand Inquisitor orders him arrested and placed in jail, after which the Grand Inquisitor proceeds to question and challenge Christ until...

The Meal: Since the setting of the play is in Seville, a Spanish-themed meal will be served,



including a Saffron Chicken & Spanish Chorizo Rice dish (with a vegetarian option). Instead of a wine bar, a wine-based and a non-alcoholic Sangria will be available for your enjoyment and purchase.

The Cost: Tickets for this fundraiser are \$20, cash or checks accepted. Tickets will be sold after each Sunday service or during office hours. Purchase your ticket and perhaps one for someone else. With limited seating in McBride, get your tickets soon!

Adult Spiritual Formation

Courses &
Classes,
February-
March 2014

ANIMATE: Bible

Mondays, March 3, 10 & 17, 7-9 p.m., at the home of Catherine Penn Williams (Tucson Blvd. & Grant Rd.)

‘I love coming to church, but I really don’t get the Bible.’ Sound familiar? Join us to encounter scripture in new ways with Animate Bible. In each Animate Bible session, the group will watch a video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spend time on personal reflection and journaling, and share ideas with the group. The curriculum is intended to help adults to have an engaging, positive relationship with the sacred texts of the Bible. We will spend time with some of the most exciting voices in the Emerging Church, covering these topics: the canon, history, testaments, gospels, genre, interpretation and grace. There will be a fee of \$15 per participant. Advance registration is required and class size is limited. Call the church office on or before January 31st to pre-register.

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams, longtime contributor to Adult Ed at GSP, who is always seeking new entry points to the Bible for herself.

Painting the Stars:

Science, Religion & an Evolving Faith

Saturday, March 8, 9 a.m.-noon, Bloom Education Center

Celebrating the communion of science and faith, *Painting the Stars* explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. The video presentations feature a dozen leading theologians and progressive thinkers. Part of the series was offered in the summer and fall of 2013. Due to its popularity, we are offering the entire series this spring.

Facilitated by Peggy Scott, GSP member and Co-Chairperson of the Adult Education ministry.

Spirit Players: A Play Reading Experience

Fridays, March 7 & April 4, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Education Center

If you love the theatre, this experience is for you! Join us as a reader or an observer as we give voice to comedies, dramas, social commentaries, and more. Scripts are available at these unrehearsed readings on the first Friday of every month. Readings are open to everyone.

The play for March is *The Inspector General* by Nikolai Gogol.

Coordinated by Nanalee Raphael and Halsy Taylor, career professionals in theatre design, direction, and performance who love to introduce others to a variety of scripts.

Episcopal 101— for Everyone

Sundays, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 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! We’ll use the book *Jesus Was an Episcopalian: a Newcomers Guide to the Episcopal Church* by Chris Yaw.

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

“Come Down, O Love Divine”—

Cultivating a Lenten Spiritual Practice

Sunday, March 2, 9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Is Lent just a time of doom, denial and abstinence? This class will offer a different lens for creating a meaningful Lenten spiritual practice. Using multimedia we’ll draw on the work of mystics and other great spiritual writers to offer ways to be open to God’s “own ardor glowing” during this liturgical season.

Presented by Catherine Penn Williams, a frequent facilitator of Adult Ed at GSP.

The Last Week—What Really Happened!

Sundays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Insights from Marcus Borg and Dom Crossan about the events in the last week of Jesus’ life.

Scripture study and discussion led by Roger Pierce.



ANIMATE: Faith Development for Progressive Christians

Wednesday, March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9, 7-9 p.m.,
McBride Hall

‘I love GSP but am I really comfortable calling myself a Christian?’ Every Wednesday evening in Lent we will gather as a community to explore some central topics of Christianity (God, religion, Jesus, salvation, the cross, the Bible, and church) and how they speak to 21st century people of faith. In each session, the group will watch a short video from Animate: Faith featuring a leading voice from the emerging church movement, spend time on personal reflection/journaling, and share ideas in a small group. Video presenters include: Lillian Daniel, Bruce Reyes-Chow, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Lauren Winner, Shane Hipps, Mark Scandrette and Brian McLaren.

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams and Linda Hutson, both experienced small group and retreat leaders. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. A simple soup/salad dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., prior to the beginning of each class.

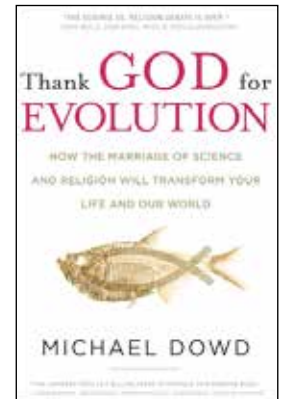
The Future Is Calling Us to Greatness: Coming Home to Reality

Sunday, April 6, 4:30 p.m., McBride Hall

Science and religion are not enemies; indeed, they must work together if humanity is to survive the 21st century. Given our impact on Earth’s climate, the seas, and other species, humanity is about to experience what could be called The Great Reckoning. The good news is that this may also come to be known as The Great Homecoming. A worldwide movement has been emerging for decades, largely unnoticed, at the nexus of science, inspiration, and sustainability. Beliefs are secondary. What unites us are a pool of common values, priorities, and commitments regarding the importance of living in right relationship to reality and working together in service of a just and thriving future for humanity and the larger body of life. This presentation will focus on six points of agreement held in common by tens of millions of religious and non-religious people across the globe.

This program, geared for adults and teens, expands on material in Michael Dowd’s bestselling, bridge-building book, *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World*, which was endorsed by six Nobel laureates and other science luminaries, including noted skeptics, and by religious leaders across the spectrum.

Rev. Dowd is one of the most inspiring science-honoring speakers in America today. He and his wife, Connie Barlow, an acclaimed science writer, have spoken to more than 1,800 groups since launching their itinerant ministry in 2002. Their work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Discover* magazine, and on CNN, Fox News, and ABC News.



Write-A-Will Workshop

By Roger Pierce

GSP is hosting a Write-A-Will Workshop, provided by Episcopal Community Services, to help people of all ages and all incomes become fully aware of the importance of wills, trusts, bequests, and other ways to leave a legacy for an organization or an individual. Even if you have a will now, you might want to review this important subject with Mr. Rusty Rollins, a local attorney, who will lead the discussion.

Individuals and charitable organizations, like your favorite church, can benefit greatly from a little forethought and planning to insure that your personal wishes are carried out.

Don’t leave your legacy to chance or to the decisions of courts. Join us for an informative conversation with no strings attached.

Register through the church office. The Workshop is scheduled for Friday, March 21, 10-11:30 a.m.

Hope you can come!



Grace St. Paul's

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

What's Happening in March 2014

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

Monday

- 11:30 a.m., Spiritual Direction
- 4 p.m., Spirit Dojo Karate
- 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., Quilting Ministry

Thursdays

- 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
- 5:30 p.m., [Spirit Now—An Inclusive Communion](#)

Saturdays

- 9 a.m., Altar Guild

2nd 9 a.m., *Come Down O Love Divine*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

3rd 7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)
7 p.m., *Animate: Bible*

4th [SHROVE TUESDAY](#)

5th [ASH WEDNESDAY](#)
12 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry

7th 6:30 p.m., *Spirit Players*

8th 9 a.m., *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion & an Evolving Faith*

9th [First Sunday in Lent](#)
9 a.m., *The Last Week: What Really Happened!*

11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

6 p.m., [SpiritSong: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé](#)

10th 7 p.m., Joseph's Pantry Meeting
7 p.m., *Animate: Bible*

11th 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 13 Group

12th 9 a.m., EfM Class
7 p.m., EfM Class
7 p.m., *Animate: Faith Development for Progressive Christians*

14th 6 p.m., Dinner Theater Fundraiser

16th [Second Sunday in Lent](#)
9 a.m., *The Last Week: What Really Happened!*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

17th 7 p.m., *Animate: Bible*

19th 9 a.m., EfM Class
12 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., *Animate: Faith Development for Progressive Christians*

21st 10 a.m., Write-a-Will Workshop
6:30 p.m., Film & Fellowship

22nd 7 p.m., [Loft Cinema Human Rights Watch Festival Movie](#)

23rd [Third Sunday in Lent](#)
9 a.m., *The Last Week: What Really Happened!*

11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

25th 6:30 p.m., [Vestry Meeting](#)

26th 9 a.m., EfM Class
7 p.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., *Animate: Faith Development for Progressive Christians*

28th 6:30 p.m., Lenten Film Series

30th [Fourth Sunday in Lent](#)
9 a.m., *The Last Week: What Really Happened!*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

...and in April

2nd 9 a.m., EfM Class

12 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry

7 p.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., *Animate: Faith Development for Progressive Christians*

4th 6:30 p.m., *Spirit Players*

6th [Fifth Sunday in Lent](#)
9 a.m., *The Last Week: What Really Happened!*

4:30 p.m., *The Future is calling us to Greatness*

7th 7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)

8th 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 13 Group

9th 9 a.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., *Animate: Faith Development for Progressive Christians*

11th 6:30 p.m., Lenten Film Series

13th [PALM SUNDAY](#)

6 p.m., [SpiritSong: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé](#)

16th 9 a.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., EfM Class

17th [MAUNDY THURSDAY](#)

7 p.m., *Maundy Thursday: The Essence of Christianity*

9 p.m., The Watch

18th [GOOD FRIDAY](#)

The Watch continues

12 p.m., Stations of the Cross

7 p.m., Community Tenebrae Service

19th [HOLY SATURDAY](#)

7 p.m., Great Easter Vigil

20th [EASTER SUNDAY](#)

21st [Parish Office Closed](#)

23rd 9 a.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., EfM Class

29th 6:30 p.m., [Vestry Meeting](#)

30th 9 a.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., Sonora Winds Concert