

The Briefly

November 2011

The monthly newsletter for the community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Rector's Letter

Back in my days living in the East, this was my least favorite time of year. Sunshine, which was always at a premium, was precipitously decreasing each day. The weather was schizophrenic, one day 70 degrees and the next 30. Storms continually enveloped us and the wind chilled us to our bones. Worst of all, you knew that all of this was just a precursor of what was coming, the ridiculously long, frigid, dark world of winter.

Now that Jean and I are in our second year in Tucson, I feel qualified to say that November has gone from worst to first for me. While I find myself often seasonally disoriented by the steady stream of warm and sunny days, it is a blessed confusion.

Of course, I have also come to love November because of our season of Creation and the connection it makes for us to these beautiful days we are experiencing. But the truth is, there is an even more compelling factor in choosing this time as my favorite.

The real reason I love November is because it is the time of year that you get to hear us talk about our favorite subject at Grace St. Paul's... money. Rather than actually working to bring about God's realm through all of the unbelievably wonderful social ministry programs here, we instead get to talk about how we are going to fund those ministries. Rather than celebrating our love for the world and for each other, we get to do budgets and come up with new and innovative ways to squeeze dollars out of pennies. Yeaah!

This year's task is even more exciting. There are two major reasons for this. First, for many years at Grace St. Paul's, we have separated our outreach ministries from the rest of our budget. These programs have been funded mostly by having separate fund raising drives at sporadic times during the year.

This year, we have rolled all of our ministries into one budget.

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Beloved, we will not be trapped into living into scarcity at Grace St. Paul's...



Among the GSP parishioners holding down our booth at this year's Pride in the Desert were (left to right) Mark Drew, David Wachter, Eric Rau, and Richard Van Rhoads.

Rector's Letter

Continued from Page 1

No longer will it be up to each individual ministry to fund raise on their own. This is, in my mind, a great change, because it much better represents us as the Body of Christ, all together working to create God's world through all our social service programs. The challenge comes in making this transition. What each of us needs to remember this year is that our pledge drive is the whole enchilada. We are asking you to consider every way you would like to support our ministries and then put it all in the same amount on your pledge sheet. Our goal is to no more come asking you for money for different projects all year. We want to do it all at once.

The second wonderful problem is that our church is growing quickly! We added part time staff positions last year to help make this happen and it has been extremely successful, as you may have noticed on Sept. 11 when we received 70 new members into the congregation. Now we need to fund all those positions.

Success is wonderful, but it also creates more costs. Our staff is putting in herculean hours but we still can't keep up with the demand. With more people, our costs go up in nearly every line item in our budget.

All of this seems quite impossible. We are hashing and rehashing the budget, but there is nothing left to cut. In discussing all of this, our Vestry astutely realized that they needed to resort to creative measures if we are to have any hope of approaching our potential deficit.

And then it hit me. Several years ago, another Vestry I knew had a similar problem. In the midst of their frustration, they were getting a little slap happy when they came up with a ridiculous idea, the Tithe or be Damned campaign. Maybe that's what we need. Though your Rector and the entire Vestry reject such theology as disgusting, crass, abhorrent and the opposite of the way we understand our relationship with God, I have decided that the only way we are going to make budget this year is to convince you that you will be spending eternity burning in the unquenchable fires of hell if you don't triple your pledge.

It seems to work for Pat Robertson, so why not us? So as you prayerfully consider how

you can best bring about the realm of God by offering Grace St. Paul's your time, talent and treasure, we would like to add one more motivating factor in your decision. FEAR! Pay up now or prepare to pay God later... for all eternity!

Or... or perhaps as you fill out your pledge sheet, you would be better served to consider how thankful you are to belong to a church where all of what you have just read could only be said with my tongue planted firmly into my cheek.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.'

Beloved, we will not be trapped into living into scarcity at Grace St. Paul's. And the reason we will always live in abundance is because we have never and will never respond to God in fear as we have jokingly suggested. Instead, what continues to motivate all of you is love. And it is that love that Jean and I will be thankful for when we fill out our pledge sheet this year. There is no question in my mind that all of you will do the same.

When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink..."

Luke's Gospel has come to fruition in today's world, right here in the midst of all of you. Thank you for continuing to sink our boats.

Shalom,

Steve +

Editor's Note

This is getting so easy: send all articles, blurbs, and photo captions or text directly to me, Lynda Canfield, the "editor/gatekeeper" at real_canfield@yahoo.com. Associate editor Angel Wang and I will split them up and do our thing. Wendy Pipentacos gets the calendar at wendypipe@yahoo.com, and John Banks receives all the photos, charts, and graphics emailed directly to him at jdbanks@gmail.com.

The next deadline is **Monday, Nov. 21**, for the December issue. The third Monday comes a little later in November, so be sure your article is in by the deadline or sooner. Sooner? What a concept! You have questions not covered in this note? Email Lynda at the above address—hopefully, for answers.

Growing our Church, Transforming Lives

By Martha P.L. Whitaker, Senior Warden

You can help GSP continue to grow and thrive!

Giving & Receiving Sunday is Nov. 13, with a party after each service to thank everybody for their commitment to 2012.

Please consider pledging to support GSP ministries and prayerfully consider what range of giving is right for you. If you can, consider increasing your pledge from last year!

Here are some highlights from the Parish Wellness presentation given on Sunday, Oct. 16:

- We are forming a long-term strategic planning (LTSP) committee. Marilyn Abraham has agreed to chair, and Martha Whitaker is consulting with Timothy Dombeck, Canon to the Ordinary, who runs effective workshops on LTSP.

- Several GSP ministries' recent activities were presented to identify how GSP is transforming lives. Two examples include:

1. Joseph's Pantry volunteers give food, showers, socks, bus passes, clothing vouchers and pet food to 250-300 people every week. The poverty level for a family of four is \$22,350. In Tucson, 24% of families and 30% of children live below this level; and
2. the GSP Community Garden ministry grows fresh produce for Joseph's Pantry, offering fresh, locally-grown, organic vegetables to the needy who may not otherwise have access to fresh greens.

- Children and Youth programs are a tremendous success: Enrollment in Sunday School is *double* what it was last year! Kids love the Children's Interactive Eucharist, designed for elementary-age children, occurring in the Weeks Room at 10 a.m. on the last Sunday of each month. There is a new Children's choir, Children's Bell Choir, and a Youth Ensemble. GSP Youth may soon be fundraising for a proposed pilgrimage to Canterbury, St. Paul's in London, and Taizé, France

- Growing a church necessarily requires strong children and youth programs. The Preschool and Primary age-programs, the same children who will graduate into the GSP youth program, have shown the greatest growth since the beginning of the year. When our youth director, Rosalind Garcia, developed a similar program at St. Phillip's, about 50 kids participated in the pilgrimage. It was such a powerful spiritual, bonding, and maturing experience for them, they kept coming to church throughout their high school and into their college years. That included most of the

students who stayed in Tucson, and all but one volunteered regularly at church.

- We believe a similar, powerful program is being developed right now, right here at GSP! But these ministries can continue to develop and transform lives only with financial support from parishioner pledges and volunteering.

- Innovative worship services continue to feed our spirits and attract newcomers, including Candlelight Compline, Spirit Now, Creation Sunday and the Season of Creation, the Blessing of the Animals, Solstice and Equinox services.

- We continue to have a strong communication network within GSP outreaching to the community. Bishop Smith is particularly pleased with our use of technology and social networking on FaceBook.

- GSP attracts potential new members by participating in social justice activities, including the Tucson Pride Parade and Festival, AIDS WALK and CROP Hunger Walk.

- The financial report for GSP includes good news, a problem, and a challenge: the good news is that we've paid off our HVAC loan, raised an additional \$22K to fund the window restoration, and were recently awarded a \$1K Millenium Development Grant to support some of our ministries!

- The problem we currently face is a deficit in cash for 2011 because we provide for more staff than last year, and as the church grows, the demand on our staff and resources increases across the board. Actual revenue versus salary and other expenses is **-\$50,868!** This is how much more we spent than what we gave to GSP.

- The challenge is for us to raise enough giving and receiving pledges to fund children & youth programs, a full-time parish administrator, and the various ministries that transform lives.

There are many additional reasons for giving freely, including the support of a welcoming, inclusive congregation (us!). We are thankful for our spiritual refreshment and multiple worship options, and our community of long-time and new friends.



Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis, Director of Music

For a couple of days there it felt like fall, but now it's back to summer. Not only is it still hot, but we still have mosquitoes. Just stand out in the GSP parking lot and you'll get a lot closer to some parts of creation than you'd like, the little bloodsucking blights. Hello. This was supposed to be October. But November will bring us a proper autumn, with cool temperatures and dead mosquitoes. Advent mosquitoes would clearly be wrong. Not unless they can organize themselves into a four-part choir and whine on the hymns.

We are having a wonderful Season of Creation. Props to the instrumentalists who played with the choir on the excerpt from *Missa Gaia* for the first Sunday—Bruce Anderson, Jane Click, Rick Hanson, and Rhonda Whately. It's a real blessing to have talented people ready to step up. And I'm always grateful to the choir. Plus, really, how many times in life does one get to say, "Cue the whales."

The **St. Zeno's Zombie Choir** had its inaugural performance for communion, singing a Turkish *ilahi* (hymn) from the Sufi tradition, with the brilliant Paul Amiel on ney and Bruce Stanley on percussion. The ensemble's name started as a humorous suggestion and stuck. As someone remarked, there isn't another St. Zeno's Zombie Choir in the whole worldwide Anglican Communion. Plus Fr. Steve likes it, so we're cool. Current Zombies include Kayla and Kelsea Cordero; Ari, Minda and Noah Dettman; Andrew Gooden; and Michael Sugimoto, my assistant. Thanks, Michael and all Zombies!

The adult choir is working on *O Taste and See*, by Pamela Decker, for organ and choir, which will be presented for All Saints', along with the Zombies' cover of the *Dies irae*. For **Giving and Receiving Sunday** we'll sing an arrangement of *Let All Things Now Living* by Katherine K. Davis. She did that setting of *The*

Little Drummer Boy that parumpapums every Christmas. Now you either love her or you hate her.

We'll end the Season of Creation with more *Missa Gaia*—the *Sanctus* and *Benedictus*, and a Baroque setting of Psalm 100 in Hebrew by Salamone Rossi, an early 17th century Italian Jewish violinist and composer who worked for the Duke of Mantua. Duke Vincenzo Gonzaga liked him so much he gave Rossi dispensation from putting on the yellow badge that all the other Jews had to wear. And I'll bet you thought Hitler came up with that idea. Rossi disappeared in 1630 when imperial troops overthrew the Gonzagas and sacked Mantua. Either the soldiers got him or the plague that followed did. Psalm 100 is from Rossi's *Hasherim asher lish'lomo* or *Songs of Solomon* (probably a pun on his name), a collection of polyphonic settings of psalms, hymns, and synagogal songs.

The last Sunday in November is the first Sunday in Advent. I've stopped saying Advent is my favorite church season. Maybe it's my Buddhist husband's influence, but being here now means you can't play favorites. It has occurred to me from time to time that I'd rather be someone else now, but that won't happen, either. We will sing *Out of your sleep arise and wake*, a setting of a carol text from the fifteenth century. Then we undertake the season of preparation for Christmas, during which I will be arising and waking at odd moments of the night either worrying about Christmas music or whether Spike is about to pee on the bed again. Spike would be a cat. My husband's name is Martin. In case you were wondering.

Peace,

Christina

The Power of Liturgy in a Disconnected World

In our world of instantaneous news, over the top special effects, the ability to travel around the world at the drop of a hat, and constant exposure to everything and anything, there is not much left that has the capacity to truly move people at a deep emotional level.

Some have suggested the role of religion has become trivial. But I would argue the opposite should be the case. Now, more than any time in history, religion has the capacity to make meaning of our lives, to take the thousands of random events that happen to us daily and make sense of them.

Unfortunately, many religious establishments do not have a clue about this. Instead of becoming a beacon for humanity, they have tried to copy the culture. This has led to the “church of what’s happenin’ now,” with worship that consists of a multi-media extravaganza that attempts to compete with Hollywood to entertain.

On the other side is the “church of we’ve always done it this way.” Episcopalians are well versed in this understanding of worship. Both approaches totally miss the opportunity liturgy possesses to make meaning out of people’s lives. It is very easy to put together an entertainment based liturgy that has no connection to the ancient tradition of the church, and simple to do a liturgy straight out of a book.

Neither, however, is going to change anything. Neither has any capacity to emotionally move humans at a psychic level. As a priest, I believe this is my job. I believe more than anything else, I am called to make meaning out of people’s lives and I believe there is no better vehicle for doing that than preaching and liturgy. GOOD LITURGY.

In my mind, good liturgy always embraces and holds dearly onto the ancient practices of the church. At the same time however, it must speak to the people of the present time and location. If it does not do both, it really

is meaningless. But when both are captured, liturgy becomes the best opportunity to reach people at the deepest emotional place possible. Good liturgy connects us directly to God and gives our lives meaning.

That is always the goal of worship here at Grace St. Paul’s. Doing this balancing act is hard work and we are not always successful. But I have to say, I think we are pretty darn good at it. I say that because vast numbers of people have told me, your Vestry and the staff that our liturgy has changed them, that it has moved them at the core of their beings and linked them with God in a way they have never before experienced.

Hold the tradition. Speak to people in this time and place. I always want to hear from each of you regarding how you think we are doing in keeping this balance to hold the Via Media that is at the heart of Anglicanism.

Steve +

By Rosalind Garcia,
Director of Youth
& Family Ministry

What's New in Children, Youth and Family

The undercroft is buzzing with activity as the new program year gets underway at GSP. This year, we have reorganized Sunday School as we focus less on grade levels and more on the developmental stages of our children. We now have three Sunday School classrooms with larger teams in each room.

For our youngest children, we have the "Atrium," a Montessori-based classroom, which focuses on the developmental needs of children ages 3-6. Nadine Cole and Emily Nickerson, with the kind help of Martha Moutray, Janet Roths and Julie Christy, use Catechesis of the Good Shepherd curriculum to work with the children as they work, learn and explore their faith.

We also have a primary classroom. Here we welcome children ages 6-9 in an early childhood friendly setting using the Whole People of God curriculum. This class, headed by Holly Shinn, Clif Click and Holden Sanders, actually uses two rooms. One is a quieter space for prayer and worshipful activities. The other room allows for more robust and messy work.

Our Intermediate class, for children 9-12, concentrates on the needs of pre-adolescents

or "tweeners." These are young people who are approaching their teen years and have different developmental needs from younger children. This group is led by Nansi Naranjo, Jim Kane and Jean Keplinger. Their space is organized more like a youth room, but includes room for messier fun activities.

We are also lucky to have Rogelio and Alicia Lara on our Sunday School team. The Laras step in and help wherever they are needed.

Our Youth groups—led by Kevin Wadlow, Wendy Pipentacos and Michael Sugimoto in Rite 13 (7th and 8th grades); Cameron Sutton, Brian Fairbanks and Alice Garcia in J2A (9th and 10th grades); and Brian Atkinson and Mariel Watt in GPS (11th and 12th grades)—continue to expand and deepen their activities.

J2A just participated in AIDSWALK, raising more than \$1,000 for research. On Oct. 23, the youth and our Sunday School families all had fun at Apple Annie's picking pumpkins and other vegetables and getting lost in the various corn mazes. A good time was had by all!

On Oct. 28, the "frightful" fun continued at the Youth Halloween Party in the Undercroft.

The really good news for GSP is that as of Oct. 16, we have officially doubled the number of registrations we had all of last year. This is wonderful news for the health of GSP and the Episcopal Church in general. We look forward to many more families joining us as the year goes on.

Important Notices for Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Got too much stuff? We want it! This is the time to clean out your closets and sheds! J2A youth will be accepting donations for a GSP's Rummage Sale to benefit the J2A pilgrimage 2012.

We began collecting smaller items at church on Oct. 23. You may drop your items in the Wardall Room, located in the Undercroft, and we will pick them up.

If you would like to donate large items, such as furniture or working appliances, please contact Brian Fairbanks at 520-471-4222 (his business phone; he will answer with the business name. Do not be deterred!) to make arrangements to meet at our storage shed near Grant and Stone. We might be able to pick up some larger items. To

discuss possible pick-up, please call Brian. Thank you for your support of GSP youth!

- Sunday, Nov. 6, 12:30 p.m., on the labyrinth—Faith for the Family: Joyfully Living into the Church Year. Lunch and family activities to mark All Saints/All Souls.

- Sunday, Nov. 13: Rite 13 and GPS participate in CROPWALK, to raise money for world hunger organizations, and 25% of the money raised here stays in Pima County.

- Friday, Nov. 18: Cosmic Bowling & Pizza Night for Youth

- Sunday, Nov. 20, 12:30 p.m., on the labyrinth—Faith for the Family: Joyfully Living into the Church Year. Lunch and family activities to mark Advent.

The Kinship Corner

Giving & Receiving—A Personal Story

By Tricia Galvin,

Co-Chair, Giving & Receiving Ministry

I hope you'll indulge me this month while I share part of my personal story. Autumn has always been my favorite time of year. Growing up in New England, I looked forward to the burst of color all around me. I loved the warm days and cool nights, and new sweaters to cuddle in. Living in Tucson now, I love getting back outside to play in the desert. Of course, being an Episcopalian also means that Autumn brings the annual pledging campaign. I realize this is not everyone's favorite. I confess

I used to dread the annual lectures myself.

One in particular stands out in my mind.

At a former parish, the speaker got up and criticized the congregation for not giving more. At the time, I was pledging \$500 a year, only \$10 a week, but it was a lot of money to me then.

It wasn't close to a tithe amount, but it felt like a sacrifice. After all, there were a lot of other things I could do with \$500 a year. To be told that simply wasn't good enough was crushing.

Well, I'm no longer a member of that parish.

Looking back, part of the problem I had with the annual campaign, was that I didn't feel any connection between contributing to the church and my own spirituality.

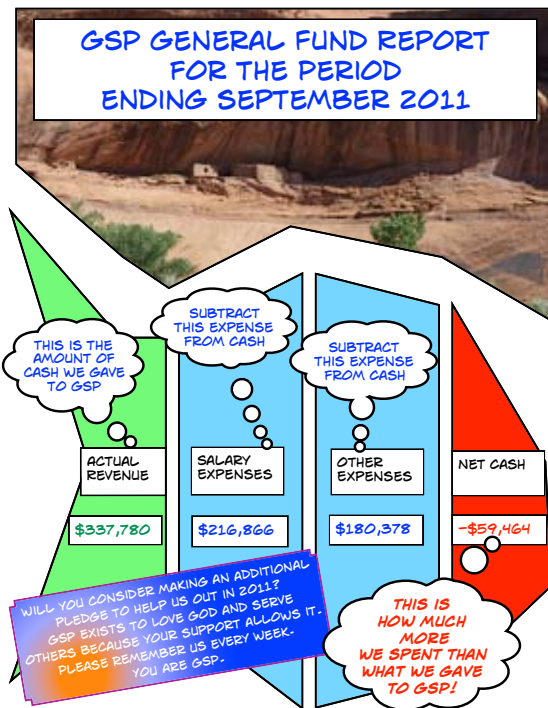
I have a very different outlook

on pledging today. When I joined Grace St. Paul's in January 2004, I immediately felt connected. That connection changed the way I look at my choices in every aspect of my life. I didn't immediately immerse myself in every ministry and I didn't immediately pledge a lot of money. I started slowly, as is my nature. I first volunteered in the kitchen on Sunday and helped out with Habitat for Humanity and Project Hospitality. Over time, I became more and more involved in various ministries. I also increased my pledge a little each year.

Somewhere along the way, I started to feel like I was part of something special. The more I invested my time and money, the more open I felt to receive gifts in return. My personal spirituality blossomed. Today, I feel like Grace St. Paul's is my second home, and all of you are members of my family. Grace St. Paul's is an integral part of my life, and I am so much richer for it. Investing myself in this parish has transformed me.

So, almost eight years later here I am. I've now become the co-chair of the Giving and Receiving Ministry, a much more apt name than Stewardship. Ten years ago I could never have envisioned this. Also, by increasing my pledge a little each year, this is the year I've finally reached a financial tithe. For the first time, I'm giving away 10 percent of my gross income. Interestingly, this doesn't feel like a sacrifice anymore. It makes me feel great that I'm able to share the blessings of my life with others.

I'm not one to tell you that it's your obligation to tithe. Even today, I look at tithing as a benchmark, not an obligation. However, I will share that from my perspective, the more you are invested in the church, the more gifts you are open to receive. I will ask you to prayerfully consider what you feel called to share with others. If you are able to increase your pledge over last year, I encourage you to do so, not because it's your obligation, but because I trust you will find joy in it.



Weekly Percentage Giving of Annual Income

Annual Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
\$10,000	\$4	\$8	\$12	\$15	\$19	\$29
\$15,000	\$6	\$12	\$17	\$23	\$29	\$43
\$20,000	\$8	\$15	\$23	\$31	\$38	\$58
\$25,000	\$10	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48	\$72
\$30,000	\$12	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58	\$87
\$35,000	\$13	\$27	\$40	\$54	\$67	\$101
\$40,000	\$15	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77	\$115
\$50,000	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$144
\$75,000	\$29	\$58	\$87	\$115	\$144	\$216



Virginia "Gini" Pilon

March 17, 1936 -
October 7, 2011

It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden death of Gini Pilon on Friday, October 7, 2011. Gini died at home while recovering from a prolonged hospital stay. We hold Gini's family, friends, and the entire Grace St. Paul's community in our prayers. May Gini's soul be with the God of all creation.

Gerry Swann

June 18, 1924 - October 1, 2011

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Gerry Swann, Linda Hutson's mother. We hold Gerry, Linda, and their family in our prayers. May Gerry's soul be with the God of all creation.

Mary Betty Eager

October, 2011

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mary Betty Eager. We hold Mary Betty and her family in our prayers. May Mary Betty's soul be with the God of all creation.

Nets for Life

Episcopal Relief and Development is partnering with the NetsforLife Inspiration fund.

Every minute in sub-Saharan Africa a child dies from malaria, when just one life-saving, long lasting insecticide-treated net can save three lives from suffering and death.

The Arizona Diocese is supporting this effort through a steering committee organized through Episcopal Relief and Development and the Millennium Development Goals group. This committee is currently being formed. During 2012 there will be an educational plan throughout the year before the campaign launch at the convention of 2012. The "Blitz" campaign will take place November 1-December 31, 2012. Time commitments are not great: only 2-4 hours for parish outreach and conference calls. For more information about this compelling opportunity for ministry, please contact Deacon Nancy Meister at 299-5966.

Fall Play Readings Continue

The Spirit Players' Fall play readings on the theme of "Touching the Untouchable" continues on the first Friday of November - Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bloom Room - with "Wit", recipient of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. At the center of this drama is a professor dying of cancer who

factually reports on her progress through treatment much the same as she has established her reputation as a scholar of John Donne's poetry - with critical analysis, not empathetic insight. This play is one of contrasts - of art with science, detachment with emotional connection, strength of body with strength of human will, and "parallels in the worlds of words and wards" - but ultimately is an exploration of what occurs when words fail, as they always must, as life changes into spirit. Everyone is invited to attend and to read or be part of the listening audience; no experience is needed! Facilitated by Eric Rau, Nanalee Raphael & Halsey Taylor.

Refugee Thanksgiving Dinner

A Thanksgiving dinner for refugees is planned at GSP on Saturday, 11/19. They expect to have 30 turkeys! Set-up will begin at 3:00 pm and the space will be clean and empty by 9:00 pm. The dinner itself will be served between 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, sponsored by the following organizations: Tucson International Alliance of Refugees, Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Social Services, International Rescue Committee, and others that can be found on the website: www.aztiarc.org. Organizer Billie Holbrook can be reached at the website, or at 289-0368 for further information.

The Community Garden

By Spenser Hunter

Mission: The GSP Community Garden ministry grows fresh produce for Joseph's Pantry, offering fresh, locally-grown, organic vegetables to the needy who may not otherwise have access to fresh greens.

What Volunteers Do: During the planting season, volunteers are needed to plant, water, and weed. During the growing season, volunteers tend the plot and harvest mature

vegetables.

Volunteer Time Commitment: Volunteers work about one and a half hours each month.

Is training required? Volunteers should have a minimal level of experience in gardening and know how to use garden tools, as well as enjoy getting hands dirty!

To become a part of this bright ministry, contact Spenser Hunter via the parish office at 327-6857, Angel Wang at 269-6638, or Jane Conlin at 429-6632.

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic: Pre-Reading Books for Blind Children

By Lynne Albright

Our ministry is making pre-reading books for blind children using simple items many you may have around the house. The books get children accustomed to handling books, turning pages and using their fingers to explore and learn. Some books will have a story; others may teach concepts such as same/different, short/long, etc.

We will be doing a workshop for the Mexican parents to teach them how to make these books for their own children, and want to give each parent a kit of supplies. If you have or can find any of these items: scrap cloth (especially textured), small Elmer's Glue, Popsicle sticks, or Bric a Brac.

We can also use fabric paint, fat crayons, scraps of Velcro, light sandpaper, cardboard (back of pads of paper or from cereal boxes), plastic pieces from middle of bacon packages, glue guns, and miscellaneous scrap items with texture. There will be a donation box in the office during the week and at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings.

Recording for Blind Parishioners

We are requesting help from parishioners who might be interested in reading *The Briefly* and other GSP items onto a recording for blind members and visitors. This would only take a few hours a month.



Prayers were offered for animals and their human companions, and then Father Steve and Deacon Nadine went around blessing each animal by name. Father Steve blesses Milky Way (top right). Jean Keplinger and a friend (top left) share the occasion with a cat. Maribel Ortiz (lower right) sat on the labyrinth with her pal during the blessing.

Feathers, Fur, Shells, and Scales: Animal Blessings the GSP Way

By Eric Carr

It's not every day one gets to hear dogs singing along with the piano at church, or see a deacon caressing a snake (unless maybe you're a southern Pentecostal), but that's exactly what happened when GSP held its annual Blessing of the Animals.

Along with a beautiful liturgy for the event, participants got to fellowship on the labyrinth with a virtual Noah's Ark of companion animals from turtles and cats to macaws and iguanas. GSP friends and congregants gathered on the evening of Creation Sunday to celebrate their furry and slithering companions, while honoring service animals, the wild animals of nature, and those hurt, abandoned, or exploited by humans.



A spirit of peace and joy seemed to permeate atmosphere. The animals participated right along with the humans, being reverent during the service and howling jubilantly during the music. All in all, it was a sort of microcosm representing everything that GSP celebrates: creation, compassion, community, and the radical celebration of diversity. Some companions had fur, some had shells, some had scales, some had feathers. All were blessed and loved.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Join us in November and December as we explore the Gospel of Mark, view inspirational films, participate in play reading, learn about the *The Migrant Walk*, discover ways to care for Creation, and prepare for Advent.

Spirit Players - A Play Reading Experience

1st Fridays, Nov. 4

6:30-8 p.m., Bloom Education Center

This month we will read the play “Shadow Box,” by Michael Cristofer. The play is “a hearty read for a contemporary audience.” Everyone is invited to attend and participate in this “cold” reading. No theatre or public speaking experience is necessary; parts will be randomly assigned to anyone who shows up. Non-readers are welcome as well and can participate as an “audience.” All the plays are appropriate for all ages.

Facilitated by Eric Rau and Nanalee Raphael, members of Grace St. Paul’s Spirit Players

The Migrant Trail: We Walk for Life

Sunday, Nov. 6

9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

The Migrant Trail is a memorial walk for those 253 who have died in the last year and many others who have died and are never found. It is not intended to duplicate the difficult, unsafe, and life-threatening experiences that migrants must endure to come to the U.S. Through an audio-graphic presentation, it is anticipated that interest will be stimulated in walking next year.

Facilitated by Rev. Nancy Meister Book and her husband, Jay Book, who walked the 75 miles from Sasabe, Sonora, to Tucson, over seven days the first week of June.

Adult Spiritual Formation Planning Meeting

(open to all)

Thursday, Nov. 17

7-8:30 p.m., Weeks Room

Have you ever wondered about a special topic in your spiritual life? Alternatively, have you read a book that you think would help others grow in their spirituality? Ever wanted to facilitate a class or small group? If so, come to the Adult Education planning meeting. Topics and class facilitators for the spring 2012 Schedule are wanted and needed. The more the merrier! If you need a class proposal form, or have any immediate questions, contact Chris LaBour or Chris Ledyard, TSSF, Co-Chairpersons of Adult Spiritual Formation and Education Covenant Group, through the church office at 520-327-6857.

Film Festival & Fellowship

3rd Fridays, Nov. 18

6:30-9 p.m., Bloom Education Center

You’re invited to come enjoy a film viewing and discussion at Grace St. Paul’s. The evening begins with a potluck dinner at 6:30. This month we will view “Tree of Life,” starring Brad Pitt. Following the film, expect a lively discussion on the various elements of the film as it relates to one’s life journey—from the humorous to the serious.

Coordinated by Eric Carr and Kitt Cordero.

Gospel of Mark: Conversations with Scripture

Sundays, Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4 & 11

9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Based on the book of the same title by Marcus Borg, this is a very basic study of Mark with an emphasis on new ways of reading and understanding this Gospel. As noted in Amazon.com, “Borg reminds us that the gift of Mark’s Gospel comes from the revelation of its meaning rather than from the literal translation of its text. *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark* is a must-read for those who long to understand more fully the Kingdom of God and the person of Jesus as Son of God.” —John Bryson Chane, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C. Although not required, this book will be available at the Rector’s Bookshelf.

Conducted by Roger Pierce, an ordained minister and member of Grace St. Paul’s.

Care of Creation—Green Church

Sunday, Nov. 20

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Bloom Education Center

Creation spirituality is celebrated at Grace St. Paul’s and can also include home activities. Join a discussion about some simple actions you can take at home that will honor and establish relationship with God’s Creation. Think Carbon reduction!

Facilitated by Spencer Hunter, chairperson of Grace St. Paul’s Green Church committee.

A Child's Christmas in Wales

Saturday, Dec. 10

6 p.m., Mc Bride Hall

A Spirit Players fundraising and fun theater dinner party for Grace St. Paul's ministries! Preceded by a Welsh dinner, the play, according to WikiLit, is "a memory of Christmas celebrations long ago in Wales. The narrator relates them to a small boy who peppers him with questions and directs the telling to the subjects, such as The Useless Presents, which interest him most, as well as memories of presents, relatives, neighbors, minor adventures, walks with friends, meals, postmen, and more." Watch for the Sunday bulletin and *The Briefly* for more details on this wonderful pre-Christmas fun time. Families are invited!

Coordinated by Nanalee Raphael and Eric Rau, of the Grace St. Paul's Spirit Players.

Film Festival & Fellowship

3rd Fridays, Dec. 16

6:30-9 p.m., Bloom Education Center

You're invited to enjoy a film viewing and discussion at Grace St. Paul's. The evening begins with a potluck dinner at 6:30, followed by a viewing

of the film, "Tokyo Grandfathers." This is Satoshi Kon's masterpiece about a group of homeless heroes in Tokyo as they learn about identity, family, kindness, community, spirituality and belonging over Christmas. Following the film, expect a lively discussion on the various elements of the film as it relates to one's life journey—from the humorous to the serious.

Coordinated by Eric Carr, and Kitt Cordero.

An Advent Practice: Poems of the Incarnation

Sunday, Dec. 18

9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Bring your favorite poems, prose, or short stories reflecting the Incarnation. Based on the book, *A Widening Light: Poems of the Incarnation*, edited by Luci Shaw, we will reflect on how a focus on poetry and/or prose will enhance and enlighten your Advent spiritual practice. Although not required, this book will be available at the Rector's Bookshelf.

Facilitated by Chris LaBour and Chris Ledyard.

The 51st Diocesan Convention: Telling Our Story *By Deacon Nancy Meister*

The central message of the Diocesan convention on Oct. 14-15 was how to be evangelists by telling the story of our experience of personal transformation through faith in God and Christ.

Bishop Kirk Smith said instead of clamming up and not talking about our faith, we need to "clamor and make noise." Proclaim that Jesus has made a difference in our lives!

Chuck Robertson, a former Canon of the Ordinary now working with the Presiding Bishop, continued that theme by challenging us to "share snapshots" of our faith communities. He said that we are all natural evangelists when it comes to the events in our lives that are important. "Evangel" means good news. We are to see every newcomer as a "gift from god."

We are to be like Barnabas and raise up others by teaching, apprenticing and empowering new leaders. We are to be a church that is responsive to the community. The message was affirming to the thirteen members and five clergy of GSP who attended the convention. We returned inspired by the

evangelism message and ready to hear our Senior Warden give a wellness update on our church the next morning that described many compelling new ministries.

At the breakout sessions there was a lot of interest, by evidence of a packed room, in "How Do Animal Companions Guide Our Spiritual Growth," presented by Rector Steve Keplinger, Deacon Nadine Martin and Chris Ledyard. At a breakout session on Hispanic Ministries presented by Rev Canon Carmen Guerrero she shared Trinity Cathedral's experience of transition from an island of faith to missionary outposts in the community.

Two resolutions passed by voice vote. The first Sunday in Lent will be Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday with prayers and a special collection. This is an indicator of the Episcopal Church's ongoing commitment to fight poverty around the world. The second resolution instructed the Public Policy Office of the Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., to work with our Congress to develop a Comprehensive Immigration Reform Law.



Grace St. Paul's

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

What's Happening at GSP in November

1st	10 a.m., Ongoing NLP Class 6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group	13th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., Giving & Receiving Sunday Brunch 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Giving & Receiving Sunday Brunch 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups	24th	10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration	5th	10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups 11:30 a.m., <i>An Alternative Christmas</i> 7 p.m., Candlelight Compline
2nd	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 10 a.m., Quilting Ministry 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry	14th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	25th	Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed 9 a.m., Qigong Class	6th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 10 a.m., Ongoing NLP Group 6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group
3rd	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration	15th	6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group	27th	Food Ministries Sunday 8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Gospel of Mark—Conversation with Scripture</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 10 a.m., Children's Eucharistic Worship Service 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups	7th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 10 a.m., Quilting Ministry 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry
4th	9 a.m., Qigong Class 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players—A Play Reading Experience	16th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 10 a.m., Quilting Ministry 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry	28th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	8th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration
5th	10 a.m., <i>Good Grief—A Journey of Healing</i> 5:30 p.m., GSP 20's and 30's	17th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration 7 p.m., <i>Adult Spiritual Formation and Education Planning Meeting</i>	29th	6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group	9th	9 a.m., Qigong Class
6th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>The Migrant Trail—We Walk for Life</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups 7 p.m., Candlelight Compline	18th	9 a.m., Qigong Class 6:30 p.m., Film Festival & Fellowship 7:30 p.m., Youth Pizza & Bowling Party	30th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 10 a.m., Quilting Ministry 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry	10th	6 p.m., <i>A Child's Christmas in Wales—Dinner Theatre</i>
7th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	19th	6 p.m., Refugee Thanksgiving Dinner			11th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>An Advent Practice—Poems of the Incarnation</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups
8th	6 p.m., Evening Prayer and Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group	20th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Gospel of Mark—Conversations with Scripture</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups 11:45 a.m., <i>Care of Creation—Green Church Committee</i> 12:30 p.m., Faith for the Family 7 p.m., Candlelight Compline			12th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
9th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 10 a.m., Quilting Ministry 6:30 pm, <i>Soul Feast—An Invitation to Spiritual Life</i> 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry	21st	7:30pm Healing Touch Clinic			13th	10 a.m., Ongoing NLP Group 6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group
10th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration	22nd	6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group			14th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 10 a.m., Quilting Ministry 6:30 p.m., <i>Soul Feast—An Invitation To Spirit</i> 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry
11th	9 a.m., Qigong Class	23rd	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry			15th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration
12th	10 a.m., <i>Good Grief—A Journey of Healing</i>					16th	9 a.m., Qigong Class 6:30 p.m., Film Festival & Fellowship

Looking Ahead to December

1st	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration	2nd	9 a.m., Qigong Class 5:30 p.m., J2A Prep for Rummage Sale 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players—A Play Reading Experience	3rd	7:30 a.m., J2A Rummage Sale 5:30 p.m., GSP 20's and 30's	4th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>An Alternative Christmas</i> 9 a.m., <i>Gospel of Mark—Conversations with Scripture</i>
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