

The Briefly

November 2014

The monthly newsletter for the community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2331 E. Adams • Tucson, AZ 85719
520-327-6857 • www.gsptucson.org

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Rector's Letter

The 80/20 rule and Us

We talked about it in some of our Giving and Receiving sessions. It's the standard rule of thumb across Protestant churches. It's called the 80/20 factor: 80% of the work in any congregation is accomplished by 20% of the people. Those numbers are fairly accurate from the data I have seen and also from what I have personally experienced. They do not however, represent Grace St. Paul's at all. Our volunteer base is significantly higher and that is part of the reason we have been so successful in living into our mission statement: Grace St. Paul's will be a spiritual home, open to all, providing food for the journey, and calling people to change the world. It is also an important sign of the health of this parish.

This same rule that is applied to parish participation is also used when looking at giving patterns in churches: 20% of the people in most parishes give 80% of the pledging dollars. Once again, Grace St. Paul's is the exception to the rule. I have not calculated the exact numbers, but I would bet that our number is more like 80% of the people giving 80% of the pledging dollars. We have a vast range of participation in pledging in this church, which is a wonderful thing. It is another sign of a vibrant, healthy church. Almost

C We have a vast range of participation in pledging in this church, which is... a sign of a vibrant, healthy church.

everyone gives because all of you want to support this church and your vision.

These numbers though, make something else very clear to all of us. We are a parish of great commitment across the board. But we are also a parish with no very large givers. Unlike most parishes, we do not have a short list of folks who give a large percentage of the budget. What that means of

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Supporters of marriage equality jammed GSP's parish hall on Friday, Oct. 17, to celebrate a ruling that overturned Arizona's ban on same-sex marriages. See Fr. Steve's remarks, Page 2.

Submissions to The Briefly

Please submit articles to Joyce Henderson, BrieflyEditor@grace-stpauls.org. John Banks receives photos, charts, and graphics at jdbanks@gmail.com.

The deadline for the December 2014/January 2015 issue will be Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Rector's Letter

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course, is that this is all up to you and me.

What we have accomplished as a congregation in the last four years is nothing short of fantastic. Our broad base of support has allowed us to do far more than other churches our size, chiefly because we have done such a great job being efficient with your money. But as you all know, we are operating on a shoestring. At the beginning of the year, we were forced to let our paid assistant priest go because we could not fund her salary. We cannot do everything we want because we just aren't staffed to do so. We've made up for that because so many of you volunteer. But if we are going to reach our goals, we also need more dollars with which to work.

It is obvious to everyone who comes to GSP that there is an amazing spirit of generosity and joy in this place. I hear that from so many people over and over. The commitment of all to our community is never a question. All we

need to do is increase our average pledge so that we can support your wonderful vision.

Many of you have already done just that. A substantial portion of our first pledges were increases from last year. As you prayerfully consider your pledge this year, I ask you to think about whether you could move up one bracket on the giving chart. If we could all do that, we would not only meet our budget needs, but we would be able to fund beyond. If we all did that, we could live into our vision without the need of a multi-million dollar donor.

I am so proud of what we have accomplished together in our beloved community. The challenges ahead of us are exciting and I look forward to taking all those steps with each of you. Thanks for all you have done, all you do and all you will continue to do to bring about our great vision for this church, the wider church, and beyond!

Shalom,

Steve+

Oct. 17 statement by Fr. Steve on overturning of ban on same-sex marriages in Arizona

On Friday, Oct. 17, U.S. District Judge John Sedwick ruled that Arizona restrictions on gay marriage were "unconstitutional by virtue of the fact that they deny same-sex couples the equal protection of the law."

The people who are Grace St. Paul's church were honored to celebrate the ruling by hosting a celebration on that day in our parish hall. We rejoice with all of you in the news that we have been waiting for these many years.

As serendipity would have it,

Friday was the beginning of our Diocesan Convention, making it impossible for me to be with you to take part in this celebration. Know that I

was with you in every way even if I couldn't be physically present.

Judge Sedwick's ruling is the culmination of years of hard work and prayer for us. Certainly the appeals will follow and more work needs to be done, but beloved, this battle is over. Civil liberties have won the day and full dignity for all is within our grasp. God's and our dream of a world that no one ever faces oppression again is another gigantic step closer to reality.

Here at Grace St. Paul's, we will continue to perform weddings for all of our gay and straight community, for everyone who wants to express their desire to be in a loving, monogamous relationship with another human being.

We are overjoyed to celebrate the fact that the state will finally join the church in recognizing same sex marriages. I'm happy to finally be able to sign a legal marriage license now, as well as God's license.

Thanks to all of you for working so hard to make this happen. Thanks for never giving up. And thank God that justice and love have finally prevailed.

Steve+



David and George Ruder's marriage is officially recognized by the state of Arizona! First David and George signed the Marriage Certificate, followed by Fr. Steve Keplinger, and witnesses Oma "Sam" Guard and Martha Whitaker. David and George held their wedding at GSP on September 7, 2013. This is the first same-sex marriage certificate signed at GSP that was issued by the State of Arizona.

Liturgy
Discussion of
the Month
By The Rev.
Steve Keplinger

The Prelude

As you have no doubt heard from me before, the goal in all of our services at Grace St. Paul's is to create a beautiful worship experience that also motivates us to bring about the kingdom of God beyond our church walls. In doing so, we always create liturgies that stay grounded in the ancient tradition of the church while simultaneously saying it in a way that speaks to us in 21st century Tucson. In my mind, this is what good liturgy is all about.

Creating such beautiful products each week is very hard work, but I personally love every moment of it. Seeing one of you being transported to a place of grace or being inspired to bring dignity to someone who has been oppressed is all the reward necessary to continue this great work.

Every moment of your worship experience is considered in our liturgy meetings, from the moment you arrive at church, until you leave. That is why I like to greet as many of you as possible before you enter the building and as you exit.

We have had much discussion over the last months about the opening of the Sunday service at 10 a.m. Because GSP is such a social church, a place where people come together to not just worship, but experience one another, it has been a challenge finding a good way to transition from social time to worship time. After much experimentation, we settled on the methodology to begin the

service you have been experiencing in recent months. Announcements occur before the service begins (as opposed to in the body of the worship which we believe does damage to the core of the liturgy), followed by a darkening of the church to signal the movement into the worship time. During that darkening, the acolytes reverently light the candles and a prelude begins.

This beginning has been very successful in creating a beautiful segue way into contemplative space. In moving the prelude into the body of the service however, we also have lengthened the service by a couple minutes. In an effort to keep the best of both worlds, to continue to create that quiet, meditative space at the beginning of the service and recapture the couple minutes we have lost, we are trying a slightly different beginning. We are going to return to having a prelude before the service begins. After the announcements have ended, we will continue to darken the church and light the candles, a visible symbol of the transition in worship space. A shorter musical interlude will accompany the transition, just long enough for the acolytes to finish lighting and get to the back of the church for the procession.

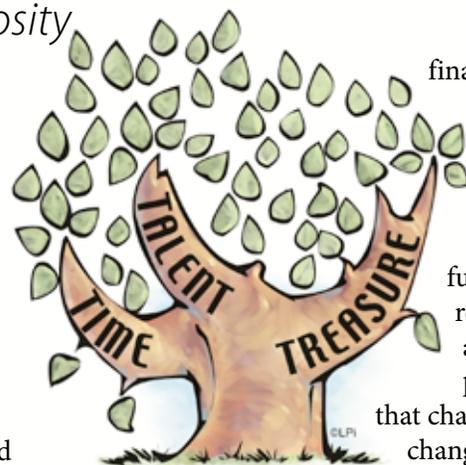
As always, I encourage all of you to share your feelings about this slight change and anything else, positive or negative you experience in worship. The act of creating beautiful worship is always an ongoing process and your feedback is essential.

Giving & Receiving:

A Spiritual Response To God's Great Generosity

Giving and receiving is not a "campaign" or "emphasis" or "drive for money". It is a way of Christian living, a deep Christian spirituality. It doesn't happen for a few months each year. It is every day, all year. It is a life style, not a program.

Even though Celebration Sunday is passed, your generous response to God's gifts is still welcome and needed. Your commitment to the many forms of ministry at GSP, in volunteer time and



financial support, will keep the church strong and vibrant into 2015.

Invest in the future of this remarkable church and, in doing so, provide ministries that change lives and change the world.

Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



November this year begins with All Saints' and ends with Advent. The Church of England has a booklet entitled "All Saints to Advent" with appropriate liturgies for the season, none of which would we do at Grace St. Paul's. There are moments of great beauty—the resonance of centuries—and deeply moving passages, particularly in the Service of Remembrance for Armistice Day (Nov. 11), but the sting of criticism also comes through, the emphasis on our sinful nature. Not that humans aren't capable of appalling behavior; the front page of any newspaper is a constant reminder of the cruelties we inflict on each other and on the rest of creation. Some scientists now want to rename the geologic age in which we are living from the Holocene to the Anthropocene because of humankind's impact on the structure of the planet.

The irony is that, just as the worst drivers don't go to traffic school, the folks in church aren't the worst of the problem. Usually—there are, alas, exceptions. We all need to be encouraged to be mindful of how we affect the greater whole and to make our choices well, of course. Our culture is predicated on the principle that we don't have enough. Some really don't have enough, and for those of us who do, the urge to share, an altruism built into the cellular level, vies with the desire to have what we want when we want it.

There are those saints, the leaderly kind and the everyday kind, who manage the compassion balance on the credit side. We honor them on All Saint's and All Souls' Days. Then during Advent, we prepare ourselves for the coming of light in Jesus, honoring the one who showed us by example what a life of loving and giving looks like.

In between, as the church season closes and prepares to begin again, we celebrate Thanksgiving, a most appropriate activity. According to Anne Lamott, "help," "thanks," and "wow" are the three essential prayers. I hope to be giving thanks for the proper use of my left foot again. I'm having surgery to repair torn ligaments on Nov. 11, unless the surgeon figures out that it's Veteran's Day and decides

to take it off (the day, not my foot). David Wachter, who was choir director/organist at St. Andrew's, will direct the choir on Sunday, Nov. 16, unless I'm both profoundly stupid and lucky enough to be recovered sufficiently by then.

We continue to celebrate the Season of Creation during November. We do use the RCL lectionary readings, with augmentation from the Grace St. Paul's tradition of continual revelation readings, but I have worked to ensure that the hymns and anthems are creation-infused. Even using the straight-up Hymnal 1982, it is still possible to glean hymns that celebrate creation. Fr. Steve and I have discussions about various hymn texts. Sometimes I think we swap "I am personally responsible for the agony of Christ" (thanks, John Callaghan) for "I am personally responsible for the agony of the planet", but then, a) we are responsible for the state of the planet (see the first paragraph above), and b) the contemporary texts focus our attention in ways where familiar hymns don't, because we've sung them so long we've stopped hearing the words. As always, balance is everything.

The music for November continues to be a mix of styles and eras. I just read an extremely interesting and well written article left in my mailbox from *The Living Church* by Jerry F. Davidson entitled "Feeding the Five Thousand" in which he talks about changes in church music and the importance of serving a well-balanced diet of musical food to the parish family, which validates my own feelings on the subject. He also advocates planning a year in advance, because it is in the changes that creativity happens. He's clearly insufficiently neurotic. What's wrong with perpetual planning? It's a fact of life around here. Not that I don't plan ahead. I was just looking at my entry for the second Sunday in Advent offertory anthem from the summer and wondering if we actually own that piece. I might need to get creative.

October saw Chinese, Icelandic, and Latin, but the music for November is notable for the fact that most of it is in English. An exception

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Notes from the Choir Stall

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is the offertory for Christ the King/ Last Sunday in Creation, when we sing “Kol Han’shamah T’halel Yah” by Bonia Shur: “Let everything that has breath praise God”, which sums it up nicely.

Works for the month also include the Mark Hayes gospel version of “All My Trials”, the spiritual “My Lord, What a Morning”, “A Clear Midnight” (soloist Ann Stephens) by Ralph Vaughan Williams on a text by Walt Whitman, Jane Marshall’s “Eternal Light”, “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” by German baroque composer Adam Gumpeltzhaimer, “The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee” by Jean Berger, and “Ashokan Farewell”, performed by the Lieto Ensemble, directed by Jane Click, which was supposed to have happened on Sept. 14 but had to be postponed because of a player’s travel difficulties.

Amidst this All Saints’ to Advent Season, may you find time to reflect, to experience creation, and to give thanks for both of your feet, because until you can’t use them, you have no idea how far they take you. May good health and delicious music be yours!

Peace,

Christina

CYF Update

*By Rosalind Garcia,
Director of CYF Ministries*

The program year for children and youth has opened with a bang and our volunteers have hit the ground running! The one negative from all this positive energy seems to be a tendency by the director towards cliché and mixed metaphor. However, despite this rhetorical handicap, we do soldier forward.

Summer Sunday school and Arts for summer camp were well attended again this year. Those numbers are reflected in our fall registrations, which show a vibrant youth group and Sunday school. While our Sunday school remains steady despite one less grade this year. Our youth group has increased by an astonishing 100% as new families find their way to GSP.

In October, the youth begin collecting rummage in room 11 for our fourth annual rummage sale. This year’s sale will be Saturday, Nov. 22. Please think about a fall cleaning and donate all your gently used items to the rummage sale. Also, keep your eyes open for the date of our annual large item pick up.

The youth are also offering wreaths for sale after each of the services through Nov. 9. This was a very successful fund raiser for us last year. Not only can you buy gorgeous Christmas greenery, but the company we work with, Mickman’s, harvests the greenery in a way that does not hurt the evergreen trees and they plant a seedling in a national forest for every gift ordered. So far, they have planted over 400,000 seedlings across the United States. Please consider

buying a wreath for yourself and get started on your Christmas shopping list. Deliveries will be made the first and

second weeks of December.

By the time you read this, the children and youth will have celebrated the coming of fall with a trip to the pumpkin festival at Buckelew farms. Fields and fields of pumpkins, hay rides, sun flower patches, fields of corn and corn mazes, apples and apple cider, await us on our yearly trip to the pumpkin festival. Although, we probably won’t see frost on the pumpkins, nothing puts us in the autumn spirt like a pumpkin festival.

Speaking of spirits... the youth will return to Buckelew farms for “Terror in the Corn” on the Saturday before Halloween. Ghost, goblins and serial

killers will be haunting our dreams by the time this goes to press. Eek!
Wa ha ha ha
HA!



Upcoming Dates

- Nov. 16—Rite 13 ceremony at 10 a.m. service
- Nov. 22—Rummage sale begins at 7:30 a.m.
- Dec. 7—St Nicolas celebration
- Dec. 13—Southwest storyteller and potluck at 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20—Las Posadas celebration at 6 p.m.

Animal Memorial Garden Coming!

By Joaquin Fischer
& Rev. Chris Ledyard

Grace St. Paul's is continuing to live its vision by creating an Animal Memorial Garden which will be located on the west side of the church. This has been an ongoing effort by the Animals and Spirituality Ministry.

This effort has included the selection of plants and foliage which will enhance the view as a Memorial Garden. Contribution to the development of the Garden has been a group project with Angel Wang leading the selection of the plants and Gale Odion and Rev. Chris Ledyard providing general coordination of the project.

Joaquin Fischer has decided to use the landscaping project as his Eagle Scout project, which is a welcome relief. Joaquin and his volunteers will be emptying out the three planters, eventually refilling them with the memorial garden plants, and then spreading gravel for the finished look. They will also plant a natural fencing along the walkway in order to enhance the area and to protect the burials. Joaquin and his volunteers will also be searching and obtaining plant and gravel donations to help Grace St. Paul's save money for this project. A metal fence and signage are long-term goals, due to the material and installation expenses.

Joaquin hopes to complete his Eagle Scout project this spring. The Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. The Eagle Scout project requires him to "plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful in any religious institution, school, or community." Joaquin is looking forward to helping Grace St. Paul's in this capacity and in working with volunteers from the church and the youth group. He will also bring Boy Scouts from Troop 115 to help with the work.



The emptying out of the planters will occur in December (during Christmas vacation) with the plantings during Spring break. So, the congregation is asked for its patience as we go through this landscaping change.

Policies and procedures on the usage of the memorial are still in the discussion stage. We have yet to determine the cost of the cremains burial so it can eventually become self-supporting. Because this is a memorial garden and not a cemetery, memorial plaques will be installed on the church wall at the pet guardian's expense with no burial markings. Father Steve and/or Rev. Chris will be available for liturgical ceremonies at the time of internment. Currently we are offering memorial services for those who would like to commemorate their fur-buddies.

For more information on the memorial garden, please contact either Joaquin Fischer, Gale Odion, or Rev. Chris Ledyard.

Senior Focus

Betty White: Salt of the Earth

By Ann Schlumberger

Every Sunday at the 8 o'clock service, Betty White is faithfully seated in the sixth row from the front on the eagle side of the aisle. Betty relates that when she first came to Grace Church and sat there, an older parishioner informed her she was in her seat. Betty moved to the pew behind, but when that lady died, she moved back up a row. When her friend Tim Weeks, the wife of the Grace rector Rev. Bill Weeks, came into church, she used to always touch the seated Betty's shoulder from behind. At Tim's funeral, someone did the same thing and gave Betty quite a start!

Betty White, the eldest of nine children, grew up in the small farming community of Hastings, Minnesota. Having helped raise her siblings, Betty married Herman White—13 years her senior— when she was seventeen. They would celebrate 54 wedding anniversaries and would have 5 children, four boys and one girl as well as having a hand in raising Herman's 3 children from a previous marriage. In addition to running a busy home, Betty also supplemented the family income by working in a dress shop in Hastings. Although she was a cradle Episcopalian, from the early days of

her marriage, she attended the Catholic Church with Herman and helped in that church's bazar for years. Finally, after several petitions for an annulment of Herman's first marriage were denied, Betty convinced him to switch

to the Episcopal Church, in which Herman was eventually ordained as a Deacon. Betty juggled Herman's calendar during the years when he was working three shifts: as a maintenance engineer for Radisson Hotels, as a member of the Army Reserve, and as a student for the deaconate.

Here at GSP, Betty has served in the Altar Guild, at the church office's welcome desk and in the food pantry. She and Herman cooked the Thursday Senior lunches and prepared and annually hosted Thanksgiving dinners for the poor with a Buddhist, a Mormon and two Baptists! She

accompanied Herman when he served as the deacon at the Resurrection Chapel and for many years when he was the chaplain at St. Luke's Home. She took care of the altar linens at both places.

GSP's dear Deacon Herman died in 2010, after which Betty suffered a heart attack. She jokes that the latter made her finally quit smoking. Her son James White, our GSP sexton, carries on his parents' service to the Church.



The Overnights:

A Film & Fellowship Event

By Eric Carr

Kitt Leonard and I have worked to get a screening of *The Overnights* ever since we saw it at Sundance and spoke with the director. About two months ago we scored the rights to host an exclusive screening at GSP, much like we did with Sundance-winner, *Blood Brother*, last year. We were set to be the only venue in all of Southern Arizona to screen this incredible film.

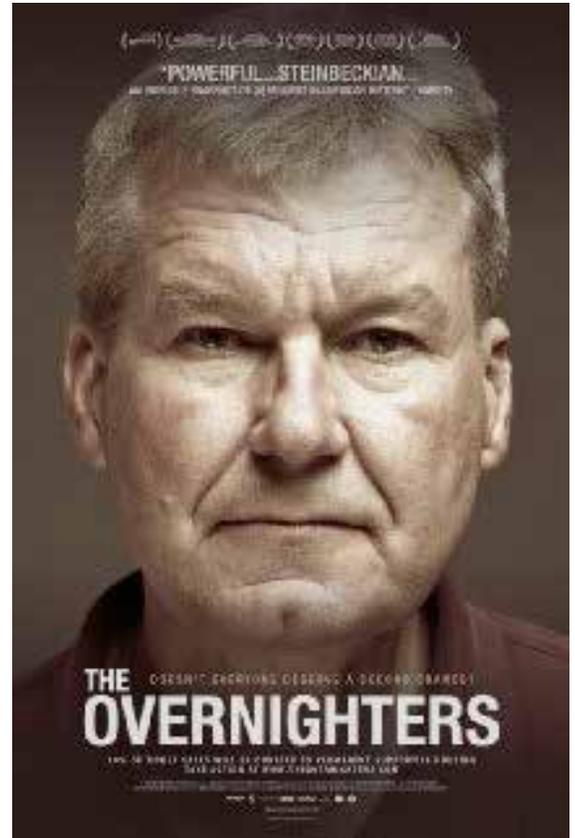
Then *The Overnights* started winning awards, eventually listed by *Hollywood Reporter* as a strong contender for an Oscar nomination. Suddenly other theaters wanted to screen it, and we were contacted by the UA film department and the Bisbee Film Festival, asking if it would be a conflict if they showed it as well. Kitt and I gave them permission and we will be working with them to cross-promote the events.

Then the film was picked up for distribution, and The Loft wanted to host it for a week-long run, so Kitt and I reached out to our friends there and made it official: our screening of *The Overnights* will now be at The Loft as a joint effort with GSP!

Film & Fellowship has hosted numerous films in partnership with The Loft. This is the first time, however, that we will be co-hosting an event at The Loft, which will expose us to a much larger audience. We are so excited about this development!

We are still working out the details, and Kitt and I will continue talking with the director to see if either he or Pastor Jay Reinke, the subject of the documentary, can come as a guest speaker. What we know for now, though, is that we will co-host the opening night at The Loft on either Nov. 20 or 21.

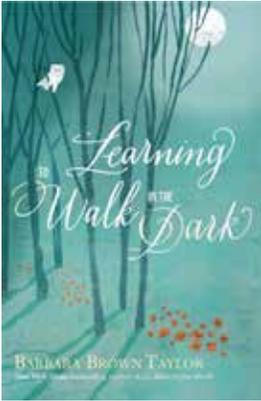
This powerful film follows Pastor Reinke as he turns his church into a shelter for the legions of jobless (and now homeless) men who descend upon a rural North Dakota town looking for work in the new fracking industry. He faces intense opposition from the town, from his congregation, and even from some of



the men themselves, and it threatens to tear his church and family apart. I don't want to tell you what happens near the end of the film, but a turn of events unbelievably caught on camera unfolds in a way that leaves viewers stunned and breathless.

We hope to have a panel discussion after the film, or even better, to have the director or Pastor Reinke take questions from the audience like they did at Sundance. However plans for the screening unfold, it is sure to be an engaging and transformative event. It will most likely be standard theater admission to get in, so if you need financial assistance, we hope to get some free tickets, and we have donors ready to provide tickets as well.

We would love to have as many GSP folks as possible attend so we can show The Loft how much we value our partnership. Stay tuned for more details, and let's show Tucson that we support social change through film, introducing GSP to the wider community through this wonderful opportunity.



Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor

Friday, Nov. 14, 11:30 a.m., Bloom Education Center

From the New York Times bestselling author of *An Altar in the World*, Barbara Brown Taylor's *Learning to Walk in the Dark* provides a way to find spirituality in those times when we don't have all the answers. Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." She argues that we need to move away from our "solar spirituality" and ease our way into appreciating "lunar spirituality" (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes). Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most.

GSP Reader's Group meets on the second Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Contact Deacon Linda Hutson through the church office at 520-327-6857 for more information about the group.

Film Series: How Do We Live Abundantly?

Friday, Nov. 14, 7-9 p.m., Bloom Education Center

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
—John 10:10

How do we live the promise of abundant life that the Gospel of John promises?

How do we know when we have enough?

How do we define abundance for ourselves?

What really makes us happy?

Join us for the final of three documentary films that attempt to illuminate how others have grappled with finding answers to these questions. A discussion will follow the film.

"Happy" (2011)—HAPPY takes us on a journey from the swamps of Louisiana to the slums of Kolkata in search of what really makes people happy. Combining real life stories of people from around the world and powerful interviews with the leading scientists in happiness research, HAPPY explores the secrets behind our most valued emotion. (75 min)

Co-sponsored by Adult Spiritual Formation and the Giving & Receiving Ministry.

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams, an Episcopal layperson and experienced small group leader. She has a longstanding interest in finding spiritual themes in contemporary films.

Exploring a Spirituality of the Dark

Sundays, Nov. 2, 9 & 16, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

'Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares me—that I want no part of—either because I am sure that I do not have the resources to survive it or because I do not want to find out.'—Barbara Brown Taylor, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*

As we enter that time of year when days grow shorter and a literal darkness lengthens, join us for a series of conversations based on Barbara Brown Taylor's new book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. We will draw from Brown's writing as well as video clips to explore the gifts and challenges of dark times in our own lives. Participants do not need to have read the book!

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams and Margaret Moore, co-chairs of Adult Spiritual Formation at Grace St. Paul's.

Fossil Fuel Divestment: A Christian Call for Action

Sunday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Divestment—What is it? Why do it? What are our choices? How can it prevent climate disasters and their disproportionate effects on those living in poverty? There is a global divestment movement afoot right now. The World Council of Churches (over 300 churches, representing some 590 million people in 150 countries) called for divestment in July 2014. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who saw the direct impact divestment movements had on apartheid in South Africa, has called for divestment from fossil fuels. Christians of conscience all over the world are challenging us to take our financial investments out of fossil fuels and reinvest in companies and funds that support a sustainable future. Let's talk about what we can do together to help God's creation and those who are most vulnerable to climate catastrophes. Information, resources, and websites will be provided.

Karen Hanson is a member of Grace St. Paul's. She considers herself a citizen of the world community and a lover of God's creation. Karen is not a financial expert, but sees the potential for creating real change through divestment from fossil fuels if enough large organizations participate.

Exploring Today's Lectionary

Sunday, Nov. 30, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

One Sunday a month we provide an opportunity to discuss the Bible readings for that day in more depth in a small group setting. Come join us for a thoughtful but always lively conversation about scripture.



Thank you, Peggy!

We extend our great gratitude to **Margaret "Peggy" Scott** for her thoughtful and faithful shepherding of Adult Spiritual Formation classes for the last few years.

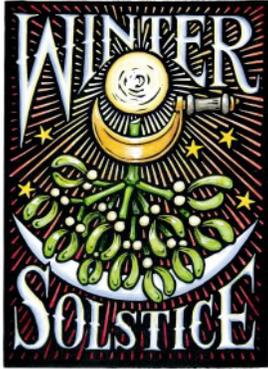
Peggy is "retiring" as co-chair of the ASF ministry to spend more time with her family.

Peggy, we wish you peace and many blessings!

The Winter Solstice: Why bother with it?
Sunday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

The Winter Solstice has held a powerful place in the rhythm of the year's calendar for centuries. Join us for a multimedia presentation that will invite us to consider:

- How do we view darkness? How does God view darkness?
- Why is the axial tilt important?
- When is winter? How does winter affect us?
- How do we determine a solstice?
- What does a goat have to do with the December solstice? What does fire have to do with the December solstice?
- How do the sun's movements affect how we site our structures?
- What does the god Saturn have to do with the winter solstice? What does Christ's Nativity have to do with the winter solstice?
- Other than that Galileo unpleasantness, what is the Church's interest in astronomy? Are Christians sun worshippers?



Presented by Dr. Chuck Dickson, a longtime GSP member and frequent contributor to *Adult Spiritual Formation at GSP*.

Prayers, Poetry and Images of Incarnation

Sundays, Dec. 14 & 21, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Join us for this special Advent series as we contemplate the Incarnation through poetry, prayers and art. We will draw especially from *A Widening Light: Poems of the Incarnation*, edited by Lucy Shaw.

Presenter Deacon Linda Hutson is a *Spiritual Director and Retreat Leader*.

25th All Souls Procession Nov. 9

By Catherine Penn Williams

On Sunday, Nov. 9, the All Souls Procession celebrates its 25th anniversary in Tucson. My husband Steve and I will be there with thousands of others in downtown Tucson to ritually and collectively commemorate the losses in our lives—including people and animal companions, relationships, work, dreams, and any other significant loss.

This year ASP participants will gather at 4 p.m. at the intersection of Sixth St. and Sixth Ave., north of the underpass. The procession itself will begin at 6:30 p.m. The grand finale will take place at Mercado San Agustin on West Congress. For information about the route see: allsoulsprocession.org/archives/1902. A video of the 2012 All Souls Procession can be viewed at: youtube.com/watch?v=VCbwChQ-EyQ.

Participation in the procession is open to all. Anyone may march or simply watch from the curb along the procession's route—participants include all ages, individuals, families and groups. Those who march often dress as male or female versions of the Mexican skeleton figure known as *La Calavera Catrina*, complete with painted faces. People also carry photos, signs or mementos of their loved ones.

Solemn, yet joyful, the procession offers mourners a chance to express their individual losses and find meaning and integration in the presence of a larger grieving community. Participants are invited to write the names of loved ones or individual prayers, offerings or



A Day of the Dead altar created at Spirit Now in 2013.

Create a Dia de los Muertos Altar at Home

If walking at night or large crowds are not an option, another way to participate in Dia de los Muertos is to create a home altar to commemorate ancestors, loved ones, and pets. Altars frequently include photos of the deceased, favorite foods and drink, mementos, flowers (especially orange/yellow marigolds), and small *la catrina* figures.

expressions of hope on pieces of paper that are gathered together and burned in a large eight-foot tall by eight-foot wide urn at the end of the procession. The grand finale also includes performances by local musicians and Flam Chen, a Tucson pyrotechnic and circus theatre group.

Tucson's All Souls Procession began in 1990 with a ritualistic performance piece by local artist Susan Johnson, who was grieving the loss of her father, and it has grown into an event to which the whole community is invited.

The event is organized by Many Mouths One Stomach, a non-profit arts collective (manymouths.org) that promotes festal culture.



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 November 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
- 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
- 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., "Way of the Monk, Path of the Artist"
- 2nd** 9 a.m., *Exploring a Spirituality of the Dark*
- 3rd** 7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)
- 5th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 7th** 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading
- 9th** 9 a.m., *Exploring a Spirituality of the Dark*
6 p.m., [SpiritSong: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé](#)
- 10th** 6:30 p.m., EfM Eternal Group
- 14th** 11:30 a.m., GSP Reading Group
6:30 p.m., **Adult Spiritual Formation Film Series:** "How Do We Live Abundantly?"
- 16th** 9 a.m., *Exploring a Spirituality of the Dark*
- 18th** 9 a.m., Community Spa Day with Aveda Institute
- 19th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 21st** 6:30 p.m., **Film & Fellowship**
- 23rd** 9 a.m., *Fossil Fuel Divestment*
- 24th** 10 a.m., EfM Post Grad Forum
- 25th** 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks! Fourth Tuesday Group
6:30 p.m., **Vestry Meeting**
- 27th** **THANKSGIVING DAY—Office, Social Service Ministry & Joseph's Pantry Closed**
- 28th** **Office & Social Service Ministry Closed**

- 30th** 9 a.m., *Exploring Today's Lectionary*

What's Coming in December

- 1st** 7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)
- 3rd** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., EfM Class
- 5th** 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading
- 6th** **All-Church Work Day**
- 7th** 9 a.m., *Winter Solstice: Why Bother With It?*
8th 6:30 p.m., EfM Eternal Group
7 p.m., **Joseph's Pantry meeting**
- 10th** 7 p.m., EfM Class
- 12th** 11:30 a.m., GSP Reading Group
6:30 p.m., **Adult Spiritual Formation Film Series**
- 14th** 9 a.m., *Prayers, Poetry & Images of Incarnation*
12 noon, Lay Minister Training
6 p.m., [SpiritSong: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé](#)
- 16th** 9 a.m., Community Spa Day with Aveda Institute
- 17th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., EfM Class
- 18th** 5:30 p.m., [Spirit Now: Winter Solstice Service](#)
- 19th** 9:30 a.m., Community of Hope meeting
6:30 p.m., **Film & Fellowship**
- 20th** 6 p.m., Las Posadas

- 21st** 9 a.m., *Prayers, Poetry & Images of Incarnation*
6 p.m., [Blue Christmas](#)
- 23rd** 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks! Fourth Tuesday Group
- 24th** **CHRISTMAS EVE—Office closes at 12 noon**
6 p.m., Intergenerational Service
7:30 p.m., Reception
10:30 p.m., Candlelight Service with Carols
- 25th** **CHRISTMAS DAY—Office, Social Service Ministry & Joseph's Pantry Closed**
10 a.m., Service with Carols
- 26th** **Office & Social Service Ministry Closed**
- 28th** 1 p.m., Mother's Kitchen
- 29th** 10 a.m., EfM Post-Grad Forum
- 31st** 7 p.m., [Sing for Peace New Year's Eve Concert](#)

What's Coming in January 2015

- 1st** **NEW YEAR'S DAY—Office & Social Service Ministry Closed**
- 5th** 7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)
- 7th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., EfM Class
- 9th** 11:30 a.m., GSP Reading Group
6:30 p.m., **Adult Spiritual Formation Film Series**
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading
- 11th** 12 noon, Lay Minister Training