

The Briefly

October/November 2013

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

Those of you who are familiar with the church liturgical calendar know that the season after Pentecost is the longest of the year. If we were to follow that schedule, as the large majority of the mainline church does, we would have 27 Sundays in the season this year. Math is not my strongest subject, but I have been led to believe that this means over half of the calendar year is made up of the season after Pentecost.

I don't know about all of you, but this seems downright ridiculous to me. I try to imagine how this happened and I picture a bunch of old white male tenured professors sitting around a big table going, okay, "Advent is good; Christmas, check; Epiphany, lovely; Lent, oh that's a good one; Easter, the centerpiece; Pentecost, our big party, and then, and then... Come on guys, we've still got half the year left!... But we've been at this all day and night. Can't we just... I know... let's call the rest of the year Ordinary time, the Season after Pentecost, and we're finished! All in favor? Let's go get a beer!"

Perhaps if we were an Assembly of God congregation, this half the year emphasis on the Holy Spirit might make some sense. But as Anglicans, you would think the church year would take a more balanced approach with the Trinity. In addition, the experience of worship should always be filled with awe and wonder. The seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter do just that for me. They also symbolize the cycles of our lives and help us understand life's patterns and deal with them. We have the opportunity to experience something brand

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Here at GSP, we recognize the central place of Creation to our faith by utilizing this as our theme from Oct. 6 through Nov. 24.

Telling Our Stories: Giving & Receiving in Community

The Season of Creation (which begins Oct. 6) reminds us that we are caretakers of God's world, not masters of it, and that the same holds true for the church. It is not our church but, rather, it is God's church. We are to honor and protect the church for future generations.

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David & George Ruder, with Fr. Steve following their Sept. 7 wedding ceremony at Grace St. Paul's. See Page 7 for more on the history of gay marriage at GSP.

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 December 2013/January 2014 issue is Monday, Nov. 11.



All-Church Cleaning Day Saturday, Nov. 30, 8 a.m.-Noon

Everyone invited to join the **Buildings & Grounds Team** for some deep cleaning of our facilities as we prepare for the Advent Season.

Last spring, 25 people joined in for a morning of fun and fellowship as we prepared for the Lenten Season. We'd love to see even more this time.

All volunteers will be treated to free **Coffee, Juice, Pastries!**

For more information, contact Junior Warden Mark Drew, mdrew12@cox.net.

Save the date!

Rector's Letter

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new each week during those seasons, as we learn how to wait for God's presence in our lives (Advent), encounter the amazing notion of incarnation (Christmas), celebrate the wonder of Christ's manifestation to us (Epiphany), prepare for death and loss in our lives (Lent), and experience the wonder of resurrection (Easter). In Pentecost, we have the opportunity to come to the realization that God remains in our lives through the presence of the Holy Spirit. And this too is a major mystery not to be overlooked. But enough already!

If we agree that the Pentecost season is too long, what should we do with it? What is missing from our present liturgical seasons? In some way, all of our seasons address humanity's relationship with God, or God's relationship with us. But how we are to be in relationship with the rest of God's world is just as important as how we are to relate to each other and to God. While this is an important part of our faith, discussed from Genesis through Revelation and mentioned every week in our Eucharistic prayers, it is something we have neglected to honor in our church year. There has been a growing realization of this.

That is why here at Grace St. Paul's, we will recognize the central place of Creation to our faith by utilizing this as our theme from Oct. 6 through Nov. 24. You will experience liturgies brimming with our connection to the natural world. We will utilize prayers from Native traditions, as well as from many other sources that stress God's immanence in the world and the sacredness of all creation. We will give thanks for the abundance and variety of life and we will focus on how we must be caretakers of God's amazing creation. The goal is to remind all of us that it is not just humanity that is part of God, but all of the world.

I jest about the length of the Pentecost season, but that is not the only reason we have chosen this time of year for this new church season. We begin on the first Sunday of October to honor the feast of Francis of Assisi, perhaps the most well known example in our tradition of how we are to relate to the natural world. Secondly, this is the time of year when the church has historically spoken of stewardship, how we are to care for our church and each other. I believe it is through our understanding

of the world as sacred, that all of us can truly understand what stewardship is all about. In fact, what the Creation season has taught me is that stewardship is perhaps not the best way to understand our relationship with the church or creation. Stewardship suggests that we are masters of the church and creation and that we are benevolently watching over it, like a good king over his royal subjects. But it is that very notion of humanity being more important than the rest of creation, that has caused the very destruction of God's world that we intend to reverse. Yes, humanity has a special place in the world because we are the only ones who can protect it. But that doesn't make us rulers over it, it makes us caretakers of a world that is not ours, but God's. The same holds true for the church. This is not my church or your church, but God's church. We are here to honor and protect it for future generations and that is our sacred calling.

That is why fundraising in church is a spiritual practice that coincides exactly with caring for creation. The intersection of those themes is no accident. So in addition to the creation theme that will permeate our liturgies over the next eight weeks, we will also be sharing with each other why Grace St. Paul's is so important to us. We will ask how can we walk the walk: "How can we be caretakers of the two things that are most at risk in our world today, the created world and our beloved church?"

On Sunday mornings, we will concentrate on the former. On Sunday evenings, we will have laid-back sessions (with dessert) entitled *Telling Our Stories: Giving & Receiving in Community*. I encourage each of you to immerse yourself in the beauty of those liturgies, as well as take part in our communal gatherings on Sunday evenings, where we will have an opportunity to get to know one another better and share how we feel about this beloved community.

We are caretakers of the world for all future generations, just as we are caretakers of our church for future generations. None of it belongs to us, it all belongs to God, and we are here to nourish it and protect it. I look forward to discovering together with each of you how we can best do both of those things.

Shalom and thanks to all of you,

Steve +



John Muir

The Season of Creation Liturgical Discussion of the Month

By The Rev. Steve Keplinger

Telling Our Stories

Continued from Page 1

During the Season of Creation, Sunday morning liturgies will address how we can be caretakers of the world. On Sunday evenings we will talk about how we can be caretakers of the church.

Fr. Steve asks that everyone attend at least one of the Sunday evening gatherings. Join us for dessert and fun while we *tell our stories* about giving and receiving in community:

Sundays, Oct. 13, 27, Nov. 3 & 10, 6:30-8 p.m., McBride Hall.

Feel free to contact the Parish Office at 327-6857 if you have any questions.

This past week, one of our parishioners forwarded to me a compelling YouTube video (that is a combination of words I never thought I would ever use), entitled “The Cat Diaries.” He described the three-minute and 30-second epic as having “the flavor of a Ken Burns documentary.” It was all meant in jest of course, and it was quite hysterical, but the tone really was Ken Burns-like. It reminded me that the day before I noticed that our local PBS station was re-running one of Burns’ extravaganzas, “The National Parks: America’s Greatest Idea.”

As we know from his previous documentaries (including “Jazz,” “The Civil War” and “Baseball”), Mr. Burns is a meticulous film maker who concentrates on every minute historical detail when dealing with his subject. As some of you may have heard, your Rector has a fairly obsessive interest in baseball, but still, Burns and his team of historians found obscure historical references in that documentary that I had never known before.

That is why I was so surprised when the detail-oriented historian began his National Park effort by making so many references not to history, but rather God and religion. In his opening scenes of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and the spread of the Kilauea lava, narrator Peter Coyote makes reference to Genesis and the “still dawning of Creation.” Historian Dayton Duncan immediately speaks of the Biblical Garden of Eden when describing the parks.

The person largely responsible for saving Yosemite National Park as a preserve, and then coming up with the whole idea of setting aside wilderness forever, was John Muir. His success was chiefly the result of winning over the public, and that was done through the articles he wrote about the beauty of the landscape in Yosemite and elsewhere. In doing so, Muir constantly utilized biblical language and “God talk” to evoke that beauty and connect nature with God.

Congressional discussions chiefly dealt with practical and financial reasons to create public land and preserve it. But there is no doubt that what won the day were the thousands of Americans who were able to see the connection between God and Creation. To his credit, Ken

Burns realized that it is impossible to tell the story of our National Parks without making the connection between God and nature, and observing how so many have found God through these majestic places.

That is the reason we started a season of Creation at Grace St. Paul’s. For centuries, the church has neglected the obvious interconnection among people, nature and God. We have stressed the transcendent nature of God and kept God separate from the Creation. We abandoned our central theology as Christians, the understanding of Emmanuel, of God with us and with all of the earth. This separation of God from nature has led to disastrous consequences, and may yet destroy all of us and all of God’s earth.

Just as the National Parks would never have been established if we had only considered financial, scientific and historical considerations, the natural world is not going to be saved if we continue to view it only through economic and scientific lenses.

The only way we are going to prevent catastrophe and preserve the natural world is if we make the connection between God and creation. People need to realize at a visceral level what it really means when we say Christ is with us. We mean that the earth is part of God and as such, the earth is a sacred, living being. Only by recognizing the sacredness of creation, will we begin to see that when we damage the earth, we are damaging the very essence of God. As Ken Burns discovered, this cannot happen on just a rational thinking level. What changes people is when they experience this on a spiritual level.

Perhaps more than any other vehicle, it is through evocative liturgy that people experience such a drastic change in worldview at the depth of their souls. If we are truly going to preserve the natural world as a species, I believe it is up to us as the church to make it happen. That is why I encourage all of you to experience the season of Creation that we begin on October 6. Not only do I believe it will change each of us, but through us, it will change the entire world.

Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



The wheel of the year is turning toward the solstice and the days are shorter. The sun has lost its power to beat us back indoors. Now is a fine time to celebrate the **Season of Creation** and give thanks for the abundance of life around us.

We are gratified to report some lovely new members and ornaments to the choir stalls: Steve Black, James Callegary, Allison Dumka, Michael Gilbert and Rachel Connell. James and Michael are (I can barely contain myself) tenors. We were sorry to lose baritone Greg Swanson, though glad for him, as he is now choir director at Lutheran Church of the Foothills. We wish him God's blessings and the Holy Spirit's inspiration!

We will mark the new season with different service music and new hymns. You may not notice a big difference, because most of the tunes will be familiar, but for the Season of Creation we will look to hymnals other than *Big Blue (The Hymnal 1982)*, including *Singing the Living Tradition*, published by the Unitarian Universalist Association; *My Heart Sings Out, Voices Found*, and *Wonder, Love and Praise*. The hope is that the selections will fit seamlessly into the fabric of the liturgy and that from time to time we may enjoy new words to the beautiful tunes of the past.

This fall, the mix of anthems is, as usual, eclectic. We are singing a goodly number of works by contemporary composers, that is, they're actually alive. Lutheran composers (or at least composers published by Augsburg Fortress) such as Carl Schalk ("I saw a new heaven and a new earth", for All Saints') are well represented. Nicholas White's setting of "Steal Away" demonstrates the lush harmonies and jazzy inflection that no doubt contributed to his Grammy nomination in 2006. The gentlemen of the choir will sing a four-part arrangement of "There is a balm in Gilead" by Larry Fleming.

We will also sing a non-Lutheran arrangement of a spiritual—Jester Hairston's "Poor Man Lazarus". Ron Nelson, composer of "O Lord, how can we know thee?" from *Three Ancient Prayers*, has an Arizona connection. After retiring from Brown University, Dr. Nelson moved to Scottsdale. Poor chap.

We are honored to feature a lovely work ("God be in my head") by the Australian composer

Colin Brumby in honor of his 80th birthday. Dr. Brumby retired from the University of Queensland after an illustrious career composing operas, orchestral works, film scores, ballets, and everything else imaginable.

The first Sunday in the Season of Creation, this year on Oct. 6 (the feast of St. Francis) is a big deal at Grace St. Paul's. The Zombie and St. Cecelia's choirs will sing "Yonder Come Day," a Georgia Sea Islands spiritual, while the Adult Choir will sing "This Day," from the Dvořák *Songs of Nature*.

One of our Zombies, Maddie Knutson, is also an amazing pianist, and she will share her talent with you for a communion anthem on Oct. 13. That Sunday we will also do an anthem by the Anglo-Canadian composer Healey Willan, "Hail to the Lord of Harvest."

The English are well represented this Creation season. "Fear not, O land" by William Harris is a great anthem for harvest time. We will do a setting of Psalm 148 by Gustav Holst, who sounds German but was really English. Alec Wyton, another Englishman, served as organist and choir director at St. John the Divine for 20 years and was coordinator of the committee that produced *The Hymnal 1982*. His "Hymn of Peace" is based on C.H.H. Parry's *Jerusalem*.

My favorite musical eras are pre-1750, so we always have examples of early music on the schedule. We will do "Hide not thou thy face" by Tudor composer Richard Farrant; "I heard a voice from heaven", from the *Funeral Sentences* by Thomas Tomkins; and "Jubilate Deo" by Guillaume Bouzignac, a composer on the fringes of the French Baroque, with stylistic hints of Italian and Spanish influence. The 18th century Moravian work by Johann Peter—"It is a precious thing", with solos by Barbara Pritchard and Spencer Hunter—is our kinda sorta Classical entry. What I like best about Moravian music is the affirming nature of the texts, which express a loving spirit in service to God and the world.

May you have a rich and full-bodied fall and a blessed Thanksgiving. Be sure to come to church and hear us there!

Peace,

Christina

The Gifts of God & The People of God

By The Rev. Debbie Royals



“All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”—I Chronicles 29:14

As I raise up the offering plates and the bread and wine each time I celebrate the Eucharist, I say these words. I say them for myself and on the behalf of every person present physically or spiritually, as a reminder that these gifts are not our gifts to God but God’s gifts to us given back to God.

In ancient Israel, worshipers brought gifts, placed them on the altar and left them there. We read that many offerings were also burned—a sacrifice and offering to God. This is the root of the practice to take up an offering and bring it forward as we begin the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

I wonder what would happen if we set the offering on fire when it was brought up? Well, I know it is illegal to burn U.S. currency and those of you who write checks probably would not have the same reaction but imagine that feeling you just had when I asked what would happen.

I also imagine that somewhere in the history of ancient Israel someone must have pointed out that the offerings of grain or animals might be better used to care for the poor. And maybe something similar has happened in Christian churches—parishioners may think that their gifts are needed to help “pay the bills” and of course, bills need to be paid. And we do care for the poor in our various ministries. But that is not what the offering represents.

The offering is an act of worship. We are invited to give up something we value—our money—as a sacrifice to God. In many ways, it is the highest point of the liturgy. We come to church to worship God and at this point we give our gifts to God.

“We offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God’s gracious love.”

—Offering prayer from *With One Voice*

We associate gift-giving in our lives with love. Most certainly, our worship is intended to celebrate God’s abundance as evidence of God’s unconditional love. It is natural for us to want to

give back to God all that we can—our selves, our lives and our treasures. The harder concept for us might be to imagine that what we are giving to God is not ours anyway. We are simply asked to look after and use wisely all that God has provided.

As we continue in the worship experience we are linked to the ultimate sacrifice. We celebrate that God sent us Jesus to live among us. We remember that Jesus gave himself over—physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually—an act of love for God and all that God has created (including us). This symbol of faith helps to inform our own lives as Christians but more importantly, our identity as God’s creation. From this root our devotion and faith often involves some element of self-denial or sacrifice—giving up something we value, giving up attention to our human wants and needs in order to focus on God. Even as we give gifts to those we love, we are thinking more about them and less about ourselves.

When we give without strings, unselfishly, unencumbered, we arrive at what God’s unconditional love and abundant giving must be like.

Gifts are given for all sorts of reasons. We experience generosity and joy when we give. If we give out of a sense of compulsion (motivated by guilt or shame) or out of self-interest (to win praise or gain influence), there is a good chance that we will end up feeling used, unappreciated, or even wonder if our gift was received with the purpose we intended. When we give as an act of worship and thanksgiving the reasons above are irrelevant. We do like to be appreciated and acknowledged but we have to acknowledge that when we give without strings, unselfishly,

unencumbered, we arrive at what God’s unconditional love and abundant giving must be like.

I hope that as we continue to travel this path and celebrate God’s abundance during this Season of Creation, we can all experience our giving as an act of worship, giving back to God that which has been entrusted to us and being faithful that God will use these gifts again to flourish God’s abundance in creation.

Zombies, rummage, happenings & more By Rosalind Garcia

GSP bubbled with the enthusiasm of many children and their families as we renewed old friendships and began new on Registration Sunday, Sept. 8.

Children and teens played games as their parents greeted one another, filled out forms and searched for insurance information (“I know the card is here somewhere!”). The energy was remarkable considering we had all had a late night on Friday enjoying a beginning of the program year party at the Garcia’s house. The high energy levels continued later in the morning as scared humans ran from a sudden infestation of Zombies in the sanctuary.

Had you realized the zombie apocalypse had begun right here at GSP? In truth, this was a choir game brought to us by Music Director, Christina Jarvis. We practiced our chest and falsetto voices as we played games. No actual humans or zombies were injured in the playing of this game, but it was a riotous morning!

So, with the zombie apocalypse in our rear view mirror, we barrel into fall and GSP’s program year. We have much to anticipate this fall, including the resumption of Sunday morning children’s programs, youth groups, St. Cecilia’s Children’s Choir and the St. Zeno Zombie Choir for youth (apparently, music and zombies are inexorably linked).

Our **fall rummage sale** to benefit the youth pilgrimage is set for **Saturday, Nov. 16, from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.** We are already collecting gently used items, particularly furniture, appliances and household goods in the Mary of Bethany room.

Most excitingly, the **J2A youth pilgrimage** to Taizé, France, and Canterbury and London, England, has been approved. Our J2A youth with their leaders, Brian Fairbanks and Alice Garcia, will depart in early June 2014!

Finally, GSP will be the “happening” place for youth as we host the first youth “**Happening**” event in Southern Arizona. “Happening” is a *Cursillo* event that occurs over a weekend with the help of many volunteers. This one is scheduled for Nov. 1-3 and will involve not just GSP, but churches from all over Southern Arizona. “Happening” has been regularly scheduled in Phoenix, but

we are now able to offer the same experience to teens in Southern Arizona. We need help with food as well as small gifts and handwritten notes for participants. If you would like to help us, please contact Rosalind Garcia at Rosalind.Garcia@grace-stpauls.org or at 327-6857. This is a massive undertaking and we appreciate everybody’s help.

We have much to be grateful for as we enter our third year building a large, vibrant and life-changing children and youth program. Registrations and attendance are up, young families are coming to GSP and are experiencing deep spiritual connections, perhaps for the first time in their lives.

However, growth brings with it new challenges. Most immediately, we are running out of space for our growing numbers of children and we need more volunteers. Please consider offering us your time. It doesn’t need to be every Sunday and it doesn’t need to be directly with children (although, we would love more volunteers working with kids) We do have lots of work!

*Thank you to this year’s
Sunday morning volunteers!*

Beginning class (pre-k and kindergarten)

Nikki Kerns
Suzanne McCullough
Rochelle Ramey
Holden Sanders

Primary Class

Holly Shinn
Judy Gossard

Intermediate Class

Jim Kane
Jean Keplinger
David Christy
Madeleine Caldwell

Youth Groups

Eric Carr
Michael Sugimoto
Alice Garcia
Brian Fairbanks

Helping out and/or in training for youth leadership

David Christy
Kendyl Reisinger



Cursillo is a learning, sharing, inspirational experience of living in a Christian community. Its purpose is to help youth in the church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders.



Pride Month in Tucson

Join Us in Representing
GSP at Pride Oct. 12

Truth in advertising: We need you to stand in the sun for 2-4 hours, engage strangers in conversation, and promote GSP to the GLBT community. Sounds tough, right? It is.

So why would you want to do this? *It's actually sort of fun!* Grace St. Paul's enjoys a great reputation with the GLBT community in Tucson, but new people move into town every year, and are delighted to hear about our parish. Just as with **Christianity 3.0**, it is important to continually help our community understand that religion and Christianity don't need to be a judgmental, closed-group, fear-based experience.

Call to action: Come to the Welcome Table during Coffee Hour on Oct. 6 or contact Bruce Anderson (azlizard@comcast.net) to sign up for a shift (2 hours) at the Oct. 12 Pride Festival.

Pride Celebration Oct. 13 at 10 a.m.

By Bruce Anderson

The theme of the Oct. 13 10 a.m. service will be **Pride!** Pageantry, readings, and preaching will celebrate diversity and GLBT pride.

This is not the interfaith service. It's our parish celebration. But it would certainly be appropriate to invite your GLBT friends—and wear your rainbow garb!

Gay Marriage

How We Got Where We Are!

By Bruce Anderson

In light of the blessed event of George and David Ruder's marriage last month, we thought you'd like to know a bit more about the history of gay and lesbian weddings and ceremonies at GSP.

Some time in the late 1980s, a small group of about 18 people gathered in the choir area of the Grace Church chancel to recognize a union between two men. It was kept quiet, it was not publicized, and the service shows in church records as simply a Eucharist. In the early 1990s, two women exchanged vows during the 10 a.m. service. Even then, most of the congregation treated it as something fairly acceptable.

In August 1998, Chris Eastoe and James Callegary celebrated their commitment in a grand ceremony on the Labyrinth of Grace St. Paul's. Attended by more than 150 people, it was held on church property, though not in the church, as the bishop at the time didn't approve. There were prayers, music, and celebration. At the end of the ceremony, The Rev. Bill Countryman surprised Chris and James and guests by giving a (non-canonical in The Episcopal Church) marriage blessing. The celebration continued in the parish hall.

Fast forward to November 2005, when David Wachter and Bruce Anderson celebrated a Renewal of Commitment in the church on the occasion of their 20th anniversary. Gordon McBride treated it as a marriage ceremony, but the words—mostly written by Fr. McBride—were entirely different. It was publicized in the bulletin, there was a full congregation and a small, talented vocal ensemble. Dr. Pamela Decker played special music on the organ, and a great party followed in the parish hall. But, it was still not officially called a marriage.

In August 2007, The Rev. Kate Bradley and Carol Brorsen held a commitment ceremony in the church, attended by many parishioners. A few years previously, when Grace St. Paul's had called Kate as Assistant Rector, after she graduated from Episcopal Divinity School, the parish was delighted when Carol came to Tucson and lived in the rectory with her. After

this ceremony, they merged their names to Bradsen.

In July 2012, the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church made headlines when it approved a provisional rite of blessing for lifelong same-gender relationships.

On Aug. 29 of this year, the IRS ruled that same-sex couples legally married in a state that allows gay marriage will be recognized by the federal tax code as married, even if their state of residence does not recognize that marriage. Same-sex couples (including some from GSP) are flocking to states where same-sex marriage is legal, in order to get married and return home.

Finally, last month, George and David Ruder celebrated with a wedding at Grace St. Paul's. The two men were festooned with rainbow sashes, as the GSP choir and clergy preceded David and George and the wedding party into the chancel. The occasion was full of ceremony: a flower girl (their daughter Mariana), a large altar party, special music, hymns, a lasso ceremony, vows, the unity candle, and Eucharist. In his sermon, Fr. Steve recognized the historic nature of the event in The Episcopal Church's life. Grace St. Paul's stands on the cutting edge, once again!

So what are the next steps?

There are two things that must yet happen. First is giving legal standing to GLBT couples in Arizona. As a recent meme on our Facebook page said: "Married in the eyes of God. Someday the state will catch up."

Secondly, The Episcopal church (and remember, our church includes dioceses in the United States, Honduras, Taiwan, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, the British Virgin Islands and even parts of Europe) will need to continue to have more conversation so that at the next convention, these provisional rites can be approved as marriage rites for same-sex couples, officially recognized by the national church. Until then, Grace St. Paul's remains on the cutting edge of marriage equality.

The GSP staff and editors recognize that not everybody at GSP is comfortable with the word "marriage" for same-sex couples. Diversity is part of who we are and this article is meant to open conversation—not end it.

Blessing of the Animals

By Joyce C. Henderson



Joyce, age 3, with cat (and clock)

Every fall there is a special ceremony which has great meaning for me. I have never been without a cat or a dog or a parakeet, and with two older brothers, other types of pets as well. Even in college I had a kitten in my dorm room (illegally, of course). The bond I have with my four-footed family is truly my support and grounding in Creation.

This year at GSP, we bless our animal companions on the first Sunday in Creation, **Oct. 6, at 5 p.m.** on the Labyrinth. This date is also close to the feast day for St. Francis of Assisi, known for his love of animals and for a sermon to the birds. St. Francis was canonized in 1228, two years after his death.

Kevin E. Mackin, O.F.M., in his book on *St. Francis: Lover of All Creation*, wrote:

“The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its

most basic.... No wonder people enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing. Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated.”

So please bring your animal companions to this wonderful ceremony for Creation. All God’s creatures are welcome. If you feel that your animal companion might misbehave, don’t—all seem to sense that this is their ceremony and they behave! If you cannot come, the Franciscan prayer for animals follows:

“Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in Creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures.”

Hispanic Ministry Summit

By Deacon Nancy Meister

GSP clergy attended a Hispanic Ministry summit sponsored by the diocese at San Pablo’s in Mesa on Aug. 24. Its goal was to encourage congregations to reach out to the new generation of Latinos, 18 million of whom are bilingual and bicultural, but like to hear some part of the liturgy in Spanish.

Bishop Smith opened by noting this was a Summit that most of the clergy did not want to attend and didn’t see a reason for attending.

Carmen Guerrero, Canon for Multi-cultural Ministries, helped us understand the historical roots of popular Hispanic religiosity combining Native American practices and Colonial Roman Catholic practices. For example Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12, has a connection to the Rosary and to the Virgin Mary. El Dia de Los Muertos, Nov. 2, has pre-hispanic cultural roots in which death is a continuation of life, not an end. The altar can be seen as a communion of saints.

The Rev. Anthony Guillen from the Episcopal Church spoke about the New Generation of Latinos (NGL’s), of whom two-thirds are U.S. born and are the youngest age group. Fifty four percent of these Latinos are on Facebook, they like

prayers in Spanish, preaching in English, and they attend on the basis of a personal recommendation, not advertising. They are into social media and radio and look for worship that affirms cultural identity.

The Rev. Alberto Cutie, a second-generation Cuban American from the diocese of Florida, said that Hispanics are looking for a place that is culturally sensitive and welcoming with an emphasis on family values, children and youth. His key point was that the church must be seen as a community, “la misa a la mesa.” Folklore, food and cultural customs are

important and a strong connection to God. Hands-on service and faith in action is important also to the NGL’s.

Bishop Smith in his Epistle reported that ten years ago there were three Episcopal churches in Arizona that offered worship in Spanish. Now there are eight, including a new one, Santa Maria in Phoenix. We are the first diocese to hold a Hispanic Ministry summit. GSP’s liturgy committee has already added saying the Lord’s prayer in Spanish every other week, along with our regular Gospel readings in Spanish and Dinka.

Arizona Interfaith Meeting on Immigration Reform

By Deacon Nancy Meister

On Aug. 28, Arizona religious leaders met in Casa Grande with Sen. John McCain and Rep. Raul Grijalva to discuss immigration reform. The meeting was organized by Arizona Interfaith Network and Pima County Interfaith Coalition. Five bishops, including Episcopal Bishop Kirk Smith and Tucson Roman Catholic Bishop Gerald Kicanas, attended and spoke. The group agreed that we cannot have 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the shadows and hundreds more

dying in our desert (169 last year and 129 so far this year).

Sen. McCain has advocated for Senate Bill 744, which includes increased funding for Border Security and a path to citizenship. Sen. McCain was very articulate about the fact that the bill is not amnesty. He stated, “we believe in redemption” and the path to citizenship is ten years. He stated it is rare that a bill like this has approval of such diverse groups as the Chamber of Commerce and AFL-CIO. He outlined the economic benefits of the bill which is estimated by the Congressional budget office at

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Pantry Update: We passed!

By Andrew Gardner

On Tuesday, Sept. 10, Joseph's Pantry passed its inspection by the Pima County Health Department. Shortly, we will be a licensed food pantry and will be able to continue to receive perishable items (including vegetables, dairy, and frozen meats) from the Community Food Bank (CFB), in addition to the non-perishable boxes that we currently distribute.

The CFB has been receiving more and more frozen meats as part of the United States Department of Agriculture's Emergency Food Assistance Program. Eventually, those frozen meats may become a regular part of the food box, so it was very important for us to be licensed so we can continue to participate.

The second big story from the Pantry is the success we've had utilizing the CFB's Agency Market, which makes food collected in local drives available to agencies like Joseph's Pantry. Much of the soup, vegetables, and fruit that we are able to provide comes from the Agency Market, and it also provides a much greater variety of food than we would otherwise have. We often receive hundreds of dollars of food, often weighing more than 350 pounds, at each visit.

If you have two hours to give, even just once a month or once every two, you can have a real impact on stocking the pantry. Please email Andrew at Andrew.Scott.Gardner@gmail.com for more information.



New Format for Newcomer Dinners

By Eric K. Carr

Did you know that we have a tradition of inviting newcomers to join each other for a welcome dinner? It's often a home-made meal shared with a small group, mostly of newcomers, hosted by members, and attended by the rector, and is a great chance for people to get to know each other and become part of the GSP family in a deeper way.

If you'd like to, we want to be sure that you get a chance to attend a newcomer dinner—even if you've been at GSP for a couple of years! With so many new people and families joining our congregation, it's been challenging to keep track of who has been to a newcomer dinner already, and who still needs to be invited. Lately I've been hearing from people who said they'd never been invited to one, and now that I'm hosting them with my partner, Richard Rhoads, we've decided to change the format.

To make it simpler, we will have four newcomer dinners per year, one each quarter. That way, if you miss one, well, you can simply go to the next season's dinner.

Anyone who is new to GSP, or who hasn't been to a newcomer dinner yet, can register for the next dinner by calling the Parish Office at 327-6857. Give us your name, the number of guests you'll be bringing, and a way to contact you (e-mail preferred if you have one). If we get a lot of RSVPs, we'll convert the dinner to a potluck.

I spoke with a few people about their experiences, and one recurring theme was that the people who attended usually ended up forming really strong bonds with each other. Often, they would sit together at church, or would discover common interests that would blossom into friendships and deeper relationships. Some said the newcomer's dinner was when they really felt like they became part of the church.



If anyone else has the time and place to host a newcomer dinner of your own, we'd love to talk to you. It's a lot of fun, and a great way to meet new people and support an extremely important part of GSP's ministry.

For more information contact Eric (enersanctum@mac.com) or Richard (rvanrhoads@gmail.com).

Our next dinner is tentatively scheduled for the evening of **Saturday, Oct. 12**. We hope to see you there!

October 2013-
January 2014

Spirit Players: A Play Reading Experience

Fridays, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6 & Jan. 3, 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.

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.

Film & Fellowship

Fridays, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20 & Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m.,
Bloom Education Center

How about a great gathering, an outstanding movie, and even some food to share! Film & Fellowship will give you all three—plus in-depth discussions about the themes presented in the films and how they apply to our lives and society today.

This monthly event is led by *Eric Carr* and *Kitt Cordero*.

Introduction to Centering Prayer Practice by Father Thomas Keating

Sundays, Oct. 6, 13 & 20, 11:45 a.m., Bloom
Education Center

An introductory course on meditation in the Christian tradition known as Centering Prayer. While this is listed as an introductory course, long time meditators should find it inspirational. Each 30- to 45-minute class will feature an audio presentation by Father Keating and is meant to be heard sequentially to get the most out of the course, but can be beneficial to anyone that just drops by for one or more of the scheduled talks:

- Oct. 6—What Centering Prayer is not and what it is
- Oct. 13—The Method of Centering Prayer I
- Oct. 20—The Method of Centering Prayer II

Facilitated by *David Clements*.

EfM Graduates' Forum

Mondays, Oct. 28, Nov. 18, 1 p.m.; Dec. 16, 10 a.m.,
Weeks Room

This monthly forum is for graduates of EfM. The purpose of the forum is to provide an on-going format in which we can continue to participate in the transformation of the world within a supportive group. Each month's forum is a two hour meeting with a theme, a short reading or video, reflection and discussion, and ending with worship.

Advance registration is required. Please call the church office to sign up.

This forum is convened by *Brian Arthur*, member of GSP and current EfM facilitator.

Gifted by Otherness Women's Group

Wednesdays, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.,
Mary of Bethany Room

We are encouraged by L. William Countryman and M.R. Ritley in their book, *Gifted by Otherness*, to adopt a positive attitude to spirituality and to take a proactive role in the Church through telling our own stories, recognizing our spiritual gifts, interpreting spiritual writings in our own context, and refusing to apologize for who we are. Along the way, we'll review aspects of progressive theology and take plenty of time to share our stories. This free course is intended for gay and lesbian women, but is open to all who are contending with spiritual issues relating to sexuality and who have a willingness to respect the many faces of human sexual orientation.

Facilitated by *Chris Eastoe*, long-term member of GSP, former Senior Warden and Treasurer, current vestry member

Co-Creation & Giving at Grace St. Paul's.

Sunday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

The third spiritual path, *Via Creativa* of Matthew Fox, builds on creation spirituality (*Via Positiva*, the first path), and consists of a call to co-create, to contribute imaginatively to God's creation. Because our GSP community evolves in response to that call, joyful and generous giving of time and money to GSP is a valuable exercise in co-creation.

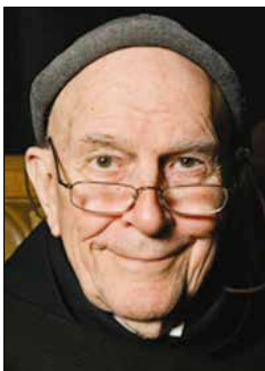
Facilitated by *Chris Eastoe*, vestry member, former Senior Warden, and enthusiastic student of Matthew Fox.

ANIMATE: Faith Development for Progressive Christians (Group I)

Mondays, Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28, Nov. 4, 11 & 18, 7-9
p.m., at the home of Catherine Penn Williams.
Minimum 6 to hold the sessions; maximum
enrollment 10.

This adult course imaginatively explores central topics of Christianity. In each *Animate: Faith* 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. Each session delves into a faith topic: God, religion, Jesus, salvation, the cross, the Bible, and church. Presenters include: Lillian Daniel, Bruce Reyes-Chow, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Lauren Winner, Shane Hipps, Mark Scandrette and Brian McLaren.

Led by *Catherine Penn Williams*, an experienced small group and retreat leader. She is interested in finding ways to translate the tenets of Christian faith for modern people. Contact Catherine or the church office for directions. Registration deadline is Oct. 4 through the church office.



Fr. Thomas Keating

ANIMATE: Faith Development for Progressive Christians (Group II)

Mondays, Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28, Nov. 4, 11 & 18, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Bloom Education Center. Minimum 6 to hold the sessions; maximum enrollment 10.

This adult course imaginatively explores central topics of Christianity. In each *Animate: Faith* 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. Each session delves into a faith topic: God, religion, Jesus, salvation, the cross, the Bible, and church. Presenters include: Lillian Daniel, Bruce Reyes-Chow, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Lauren Winner, Shane Hipps, Mark Scandrette and Brian McLaren.

Led by *Brian Arthur*, teacher and parish leader. Please contact the church office for registration. Registration deadline is Oct 4.

The Solitary Visions of Charismatic Religious Leaders

Sundays, Oct. 13 & 20, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Founders of the world's great religions spent time in solitude, often in times of testing, far from home, physical resources and human friends. These periods of silence and seclusion, during which they learned to be alone with their thoughts, led each one to revolutionary action. The similarity to Native American vision quests is evident.

Two presentations by *Dr. Chuck Dickson*, long-time GSP member, will examine the visions and the people like Abraham, Jesus, Buddha, and others whose lives were redirected by their experiences.

Project Visibility: Receiving Quality Care for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Older Adults

Friday, Oct. 18, 9:30-11 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Sandy Davenport from Pima Council on Aging will discuss Project Visibility and will present options to consider when a person who is GLBT is seeking care at home, in a retirement community, assisted living or nursing home. Project Visibility provides training for home health agencies and facilities who wish to provide a safe and respectful community for GLBT residents. Sandy will explain what this program includes, how to determine if a service provider has received training, and how to help service providers obtain training. Sandy will also discuss questions that GLBT individuals, their families, caregivers and/or their pastoral care visitors should be asking in advance of requiring care at home or in a long-term care setting and also when making a final decision regarding a residential facility.

Please register in advance so we can have appropriate seating and materials. Call the Parish Office at 327-6857.

Oil Spoils Our Water & Soil

Sunday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Skye Siegel, from Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ), offers a general overview of PDEQ as a regulatory agency and Pima County's Clean Water Program. Water quality issues will be highlighted, with a focus on transportation-related pollutants. There are many simple things people can do to improve our water quality now and for future generations!

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time (Marcus Borg)

Sundays, Nov. 10 & 17, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Progressive biblical scholar Marcus Borg offers a new understanding of scripture as he examines both the Old and New Testaments, not as historical documents but as vital teaching stories about our relationship with God in our own time. These sessions are a must if you've wondered how to apply scripture in the 21st century.

Facilitated by *Catherine Penn Williams*, scripture student and member of GSP.

The First Christmas

(Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan)

Sundays, Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Top Jesus scholars, Borg and Crossan, show how history has biased our reading of the nativity story in the Gospels. They ask: "What do these stories mean?" in the context of both the first century and our own time. Their conclusion: The Christmas story is far richer and more challenging than people imagine.

Facilitated by *Roger Pierce*, GSP member.

Glossary of Episcopal Terms

Sundays, Jan. 5 & 12, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

A quick look at all those funny words Episcopalians use, especially the ones that nobody else uses.

Presented by *Dr. Chuck Dickson*, member of Grace St. Paul's since 1999 and of innumerable other Episcopal parishes for many decades before that time.

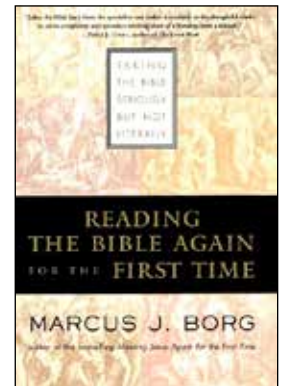
Immigration

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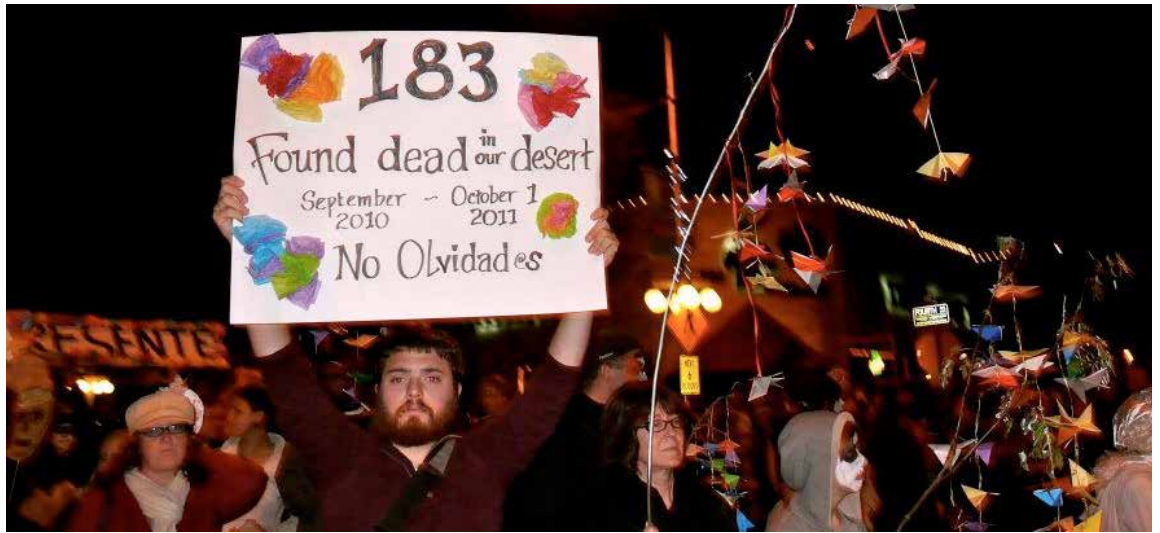
35% of the GNP at \$850 million. Sen. McCain said that he believes that by December we could have Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR). It only needs to be brought to the House floor. Rep. Grijalva said there are parts of the bill he might not agree with such as increased border security. But both stated this is the best chance we

have to get a consensus bill. They asked the group of faith leaders to work to educate their congregation about CIR.

Before leading the group in a closing prayer, Bishop Smith announced the publication of the book *Bishops on the Border*, with a forward by him, which includes his own personal experience with the border, along with chapters by the other four bishops from Arizona.



In 2011 members from GSP, the Restoration Project, and other social justice groups marched together to commemorate those who have died along our border.



All Souls Procession 2013

By Catherine Penn Williams

On Sunday, Nov. 3, my husband Steve and I will join tens of thousands of other Tucsonans for the 24th annual **All Souls Procession** through downtown Tucson. We will march with the others to ritually and collectively commemorate the losses in our lives—including people and animal companions, relationships, work, dreams, and any other significant loss.

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 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.

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.

This year participants will gather at 5 p.m. at the intersection of Sixth St. and Sixth Ave., north of the underpass. The Procession itself will begin at 6 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.

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, flowers (especially orange/yellow marigolds), and small la catrina figures.

If you would like more information about participating in the Procession or would like to meet at the end of the route for the big finale, please contact Catherine Penn Williams at catherinepennwilliams@gmail.com.

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 Procession coincides with All Souls Day, celebrated by The Episcopal Church on Nov. 2, but is especially inspired by Mexican culture's interpretation as *Dia de los Muertos*.

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



A Day of the Dead altar that was created at Spirit Now in 2012.





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 October 2013

WEEKLY SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Sundays

- 8 a.m., [Holy Communion](#)
- 8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation
- 9:45 a.m., Child Care
- 10 a.m., [Holy Communion](#)
- 10 a.m., Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour
- 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups

Mondays

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

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

- 1st** 6:30 p.m., [Telling Our Stories](#)
- 2nd** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 7 p.m., [Gifted by Otherness Women's Group](#)
- 3rd** 9:30 a.m., Southern AZ Youth Ministry Meeting

- 4th** 6 p.m., Adoption Reunion Support
- 8 a.m., TiHAN Training
- 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players: A Play-Reading Experience
- 6th** 9 a.m., [Co-Creation & Giving at GSP](#)
- 11:45 a.m., [Centering Prayer](#)
- 5 p.m., Blessing of the Animals
- 7th** 10 a.m., [ANIMATE: Faith Group II](#)
- 7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)
- 9th** 7 p.m., [Gifted by Otherness Women's Group](#)
- 7 p.m., Sonora Winds Concert
- 10th** 5:30 p.m., TiHAN Congregational Liaison Meeting
- 11th** 10 a.m., TiHAN Congregational Liaison Meeting
- 12th** 8:30 a.m., [Building & Grounds Work](#)
- 10 a.m., Memorial Service & Reception for Clif Click
- 13th** 9 a.m., [Solitary Visions of Charismatic Religious Leaders](#)
- 11:45 a.m., [Centering Prayer](#)
- 6:30 p.m., [Telling Our Stories](#)
- 14th** 10 a.m., [ANIMATE: Faith Group II](#)
- 7 p.m., Joseph's Pantry Meeting
- 15th** 6:30 p.m., NAMI Family Support Group
- 16th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 7 p.m., [Gifted by Otherness Women's Group](#)
- 18th** 9:30 a.m., Project Visibility
- 6:30 p.m., Film & Fellowship Movie & Potluck

- 20th** 9 a.m., [Solitary Visions of Charismatic Religious Leaders](#)
- 11:45 a.m., [Centering Prayer](#)
- 21st** 10 a.m., [ANIMATE: Faith Group II](#)
- 22nd** 6:30 p.m., [Vestry Meeting](#)
- 23rd** 7 p.m., [Gifted by Otherness Women's Group](#)
- 24th** 3 p.m., Memorial Service & Dinner Reception for Mary Jane Hunt
- 26th** 8:30 a.m., [Building & Grounds Work](#)
- 4 p.m., Parish Fun Night
- 27th** 9 & 11:45 a.m., [Parish Wellness Meeting](#)
- 3 p.m., UA Symphonic Choir & Sonora Bells Concert
- 6:30 p.m., [Telling Our Stories](#)
- 28th** 10 a.m., [ANIMATE: Faith Group II](#)
- 1 p.m., EfM Graduates' Forum
- 29th** 1 p.m., TiHAN Training
- 30th** 7 p.m., [Gifted by Otherness Women's Group](#)

What's Happening in November

- 1st** 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players: A Play-Reading Experience
- 3rd** 9 a.m., [Oil Spoils Our Water & Soil](#)
- 3 p.m., Tucson Chamber Artists Concert
- 6:30 p.m., [Telling Our Stories](#)
- 4th** 10 a.m., [ANIMATE: Faith Group II](#)
- 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6th** 7 p.m., [Gifted by Otherness Women's Group](#)
- 7th** 6 p.m., Adoption Reunion Support
- 9th** 4:30 p.m., Piano Studio Recital & Reception
- 10th** 9 a.m., [Marcus Borg: Reading the Bible Again for the First Time](#)
- 6:30 p.m., [Telling Our Stories](#)
- 11th** 10 a.m., [ANIMATE: Faith Group II](#)
- 7 p.m., Joseph's Pantry Meeting
- 12th** 5:30 p.m., Family Caregiver Support Group
- 15th** 6:30 p.m., Film & Fellowship Movie & Potluck
- 16th** 7:30 a.m., [Rummage Sale](#)
- 17th** 9 a.m., [Marcus Borg: Reading the Bible Again for the First Time](#)
- 18th** 10 a.m., [ANIMATE: Faith Group II](#)
- 1 p.m., EfM Graduates' Forum
- 19th** 6:30 p.m., NAMI Family Support Group
- 20th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 22nd** 9:30 a.m., Community of Hope
- 23rd** 2 p.m., Final Exit Network
- 24th** 3 p.m., AGO Fundraiser Concert & Reception
- 28th** [Thanksgiving](#)—Office & Social Service Ministry Closed
- 29th** [Thanksgiving Holiday](#)—Office & Social Service Ministry Closed
- 30th** 4 p.m., Parish Fun Night