

The Briefly

September 2015

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



Photo directories are here!

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Rector's Letter

We walked by it twice every day on the first leg of vacation. My downtown Baltimore hotel room was coincidentally situated between the historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the new one, just down the block. On the way down to the stadium, we saw the sign gracing the front of the newer church, unencumbered. On the way back, a dozen or so homeless gathered underneath it.

All of you know that I agree with the sentiment. You heard me preach about it the week the turmoil began there. The solution to the problems here and there and almost everywhere begin with living out our baptismal covenant, bringing dignity to every person we encounter. I must say that I was proud that this banner hung over our church and that people felt comfortable and safe hanging out underneath it.

That, however, was not my only experience of Episcopal churches while I was away. We visited a half dozen or so. We were there in the mornings, in the afternoons and in the evenings. But regardless of the time of day, we had the same experience. With the exception of one that was open for public touring, the rest were all locked up tighter than a drum. In most cases, there was no one at all at the church, even in the middle of the day. But at one historic downtown church, the staff was there... and they actually denied us permission to enter.

Our churches aren't even museums any more, because no one can get inside of them to visit ...



If I had any doubt about what is happening today in churches of all stripes, they were answered while I was away. Not only are we not taking church to the people, we aren't even there at our own doors when people come to us. Our churches aren't even museums any more, because no one can get inside of them to visit. It is like we are in the catacombs of ancient Rome, holing ourselves off from the

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The banner hanging across the front of the new St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Baltimore.

Submissions to The Briefly

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

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

The deadline for the Oct. 2015 issue will be Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Rector's Letter

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strange and chaotic world surrounding us, so we can live in safety and peace.

Of course it is true that it is a dangerous world out there. Violence and hatred surround us and we must use common sense in a world of danger. But our job is not and can never be to protect ourselves from the world. That is not a church, it is a monastery. Our job as the church is to be part and parcel of the world. We must be totally immersed in the life of the cities and towns in which we reside. We must open ourselves to all and for all. We must be available and present and welcoming to a world that desperately needs us. That is how we begin to bring dignity to all. It is how we become the Jesus church.

Of course, we all want to be this church. The problem occurs when we start to worry about what might happen if we actually did it. The problem is fear. Fear makes cowards of us all and does not allow us to live into our baptismal covenant. It also insures that we will never be Jesus people and we certainly cannot possibly grow as a congregation and as a faith.

We all get this honestly. When we read our sacred stories, there is one tale after another of fearful followers and disciples. One of God's

favorite lines to us is, "Be not afraid." And in the midst of the disciples fear, here is what Jesus suggested:

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

Beloved, we will not be trapped into living in fear at Grace St. Paul's. We will always be open to a world in need and we will never respond to God or the world in fear. Instead, what motivates this congregation is love.

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

If ever Luke's Gospel has come to fruition in today's world, it is right here in the midst of all of you. Thank you for continuing to sink our boats. Thank you for bringing dignity to every human being.

Shalom,

Steve +



Tickets on sale at gsptucson.org

Dangerously Alive: A Weekend with Mark Scandrette—Oct. 9-11, 2015

Living deeply: Closing the gap between how we want to live and how we actually live

Practicing the Way of Jesus —Friday, Oct. 9, 7-9 p.m.

We live in a time of skepticism about organized religion and Christianity in particular. And yet we long for healing change for our world and in our personal lives. What might we discover if we have the courage to put the teachings of Christ into practice?

FREE: Spending Your Time and Money on What Matters Most

—Saturday, Oct. 10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

We were made to flourish and do good in a world full of abundance. Yet our typical pace of life and rates of consumption are wearing us out and destroying the planet. There is a trusted path for recovering the life of meaning, freedom and compassion we were created for. In this six-hour workshop we will explore soul postures and practical steps towards greater alignment of time, money and global sustainability. Learn to live more gratefully, creatively and sustainably.

Where Do We Go Next?

—Sunday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m.

In addition to preaching at both the 7:45 a.m. and 10 a.m. services, Mark will lead us in a discussion about our next

steps as a community to implement some of the ideas and inspirations that come out of the time we spend together on Friday and Saturday.

Ticket fee includes all programs, lunch on Saturday, and a complimentary copy of Mark's book "FREE: Spending Your Time and Money on What Matters Most"

- \$45 (purchased before Oct 1)
- \$60 (purchased on or after Oct 1)
- \$250 for Sponsors (includes 2 tickets, reception to meet Mark on Saturday evening, and recognition in promotional material)

Mark Scandrette is the founding director of **ReIMAGINE: A Center for Integral Christian Practice**, based in San Francisco, where he leads an annual series of retreats, workshops and projects designed to help participants apply spiritual wisdom to everyday life. He is author of several books, most recently, *FREE: Spending Your Time and Money On What Matters Most*. Mark lives with his wife Lisa and their three children in an old Victorian in San Francisco's Mission District.

The Season of Creation

It is not even close to what we had hoped. But it is a step... and I take it with gratefulness and joy.

At the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2009 in Anaheim, an idealistic sub-committee was formed under the Liturgy and Prayer Book committee. Our task was to come up with prayers and liturgies to address what we saw as a major gap in Episcopal worship. We were tasked with creating a way for the church to connect humanity to God through Creation.

I worked with a brilliant group of thinkers on that committee and we decided over the next three years, as we wrote and edited some wonderful prayers, that we would go for the gusto. We decided that we would ask the church not just to make available these prayers, but to create an entire new liturgical season, a Season of Creation.

Looking back now, it was a bold and daring idea. After all, we have not added a liturgical season in centuries of worship. But we believed it was not only called for, but necessary to change the psyche of the world and reverse the destruction of the planet.

In 2012, there was so much energy around other issues that the idea never made it to the floor of Convention. This year, a resolution from our early work did emerge. It was compromised and compromised but it made it and it was approved by both Houses. Here are excerpts from A058:

“Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, that the 78th General Convention authorize Liturgical Materials Honoring God in Creation... and that the materials be made freely available...

“... There have been and will continue to be unintended consequences for our environment due to our choices and behaviors, but study and prayer can help us to become more conscious of the human impact on our planet. As we consider the risen and ascended Christ drawing all things to their perfection in himself, indeed drawing the cosmos into the heart of God in that process the Eastern Church calls ‘deification,’ we find reason for hope and an impetus for the renewing and reconciling of our relationships within the

creation of which we are a part...

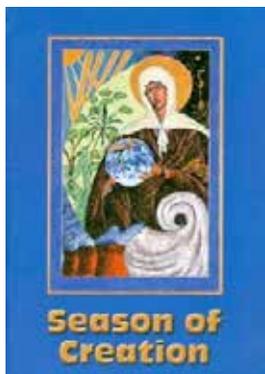
“... and be it further Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music consider these liturgical materials for inclusion in a revised edition of the Book of Occasional Services.

“Explanation: These materials respond to the desire for liturgical materials for a season of creation as expressed in resolutions proposed to the 76th General Convention. Rather than establishing a season of creation, these liturgical texts allow congregations and other groups to honor God in creation in a variety of contexts.”

The fact that the Deputies and Bishops at General Convention recognized the need to make available prayers and liturgies to all congregations and to consider putting them in our next *Book of Occasional Services* is a gigantic step that I must heartily welcome.

Here at GSP, we will continue to lead the way with our own **Season of Creation**, which begins this year on Oct. 4. More and more churches are following our lead and with the passing of this resolution, I expect more to do so. Every step takes us closer to the whole church celebrating God’s presence in the natural world and helping everyone to realize that we must not just protect the earth for our sake and its sake, but also because the earth is a sacred part of God.

Steve +



Notes *from the* Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



How things have changed since I was a kid! The idea of going back to school at the end of July or the beginning of August seems bizarre. Mind you, we didn't have weeks off here and there as they do now, and with less time for our brains to bleach in the sun, we might have remembered our parts of speech come fall. At least here at Grace St. Paul's, we can replicate the old system by commencing the new choir and Sunday School season after Labor Day (Sept. 7).

The banner Sunday this year is Sept. 13. That's the day the early service transitions to 7:45 a.m.—remember, coffee is served in McBride Hall! It's also the choir's first Sunday back in the chancel. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 10, so there's still time to snag your very own cassock and surplice. Well, okay, they're seriously pre-owned, but most of them aren't completely worn out. You're in with a chance!

The Adult Choir meets Thursdays from 7:30-9 p.m. in the chancel (7-9 p.m. during Advent and Lent) and Sundays at 9:15 a.m. to rehearse for the 10 a.m. service. We add extra rehearsals the Saturdays before Christmas and Easter and move regular choir practice to Wednesday nights before Thanksgiving and Maundy Thursday in Holy Week. The choir season runs from the first Sunday after Labor Day to the end-ish of May or to Pentecost, whichever comes last.

In addition to Sunday mornings, we sing for services during Holy Week, as well as the 10:30/11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Some members of the choir provide support for hymns for memorial services as an additional form of service, at their own discretion. I choose good quality music in a wide range of styles, from chant to gospel, with emphasis on pieces that work well for a choir our size (25-35 people, depending upon the time of year). Our outstanding organist is Dr. Pamela Decker, Professor of Organ/Music Theory at the University of Arizona.

Grace St. Paul's also has a music program for Sunday School children (SSKids) led by Wesley Hunter, this season assisted by James Beckwith, pianist; Jane the Awesome (Click),

although retired from that particular ministry, will provide stunt backup to the chaps. Wes applies the state standards for music education to his work with the children of the parish and teaches basic skills. SSKids sing in church about six times a year, including the 6 p.m. service on Christmas Eve and the Easter Vigil.

Beginning Sept. 13, Sunday School will commence at 10 o'clock with music activities. The SSKids will learn skills and fun stuff about music, and they will practice singing for the Sunday School liturgy (see Rosalind Garcia's article on page 5 for more information about that), as well as for the pieces they'll be singing during the 10 a.m. and special services. So parents, drop your darlings downstairs before the service and they'll learn to sing loudly to the glory of God, just like the rest of us.

The St. Zeno's Zombie Choir, directed by me, includes the undead from roughly middle school on up. This year we will incorporate some of the older singers from the former St. Cecelia's Choir who aren't quite middle school yet but feel too old to hang with the beginners. Zombies rehearse from 12:30-1:15 p.m. on Sundays, after youth group. They also sing in church about six times a year, including the 6 p.m. service on Christmas Eve and the Easter Vigil. The first Zombie rehearsal will also be (wait for it) Sept. 13.

Parents, you may register your children for the various children's and youth activities, including the music program, after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Sept. 6. If you have any questions about the music program, please don't hesitate to email me at clj@delegation.org. If I don't have answers for you, I'll make up something plausible.

In other musical news, Fr. Steve came back from General Convention all fired up to incorporate jazz into our worship; he felt that the jazz services were among the most interesting and compelling at the Convention. We are thinking to bring in an ensemble four times a year. Trumpeter Glendon Gross, known to all who rock out at Shrove Tuesday dinners, has agreed to assist. The jazzers will participate in the anthems and also support the hymns.

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Choir Notes

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Their inaugural service will be Oct. 4, the First Sunday in the Season of Creation. I'm thinking good thoughts about excerpts from Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia* again.

Finally, if you are interested in singing or playing an instrument for contemporary Christian music (GSP-friendly lyrics, obviously), please have a word with me. I've had an inquiry about organizing a group of like minds. It would be cool to have that musical addition to the service from time to time, as well. We are musical omnivores around here; everybody shall be fed.

Peace,

Christina

'Sunday school will look very different'

In the August *Briefly*, Fr. Steve discussed the Sunday morning worship changes. After much conversation and exploration around the issues of providing the best possible worship and educational experiences for all, we have reached a decision! You will notice changes in both worship and Sunday school beginning Sept. 13, which is the first Sunday of the new program year.

First, our children will continue to come into the 10 a.m. service at the Peace, but they will stay through the end of the service so that they may participate in all of the Liturgy of the Table. In another change, the children will experience the Liturgy of the Word downstairs in various worship settings. That means they will hear and grapple with the same Gospel texts you hear upstairs and respond to those texts at experiential worship centers before coming upstairs to join the larger community. In short, Sunday school at Grace St. Paul's will look very different!

There were many good reasons to make these changes to, as Steve said, "... create the very best and most dynamic worship, educational and spiritual experiences for all

of us..." From the children's perspective, it was very important to provide them with regular worship both in ways created with their developmental levels in mind and to make our children a regular and visible part of our community.

We're excited with the possibilities created by these changes. For the children, it gives us a chance to create liturgical and educational experiences for them that are unique to Grace St. Paul's. These changes should respond to the needs of this generation of children without putting more stress on the time and energy of our families.

These changes will also affect our children's music programs, so please read Christina Jarvis' article about how we intend to better meet the musical needs of our children in these times of severe budget cuts in our public schools. Grace St. Paul's is stepping in to provide important musical education for all our children. We are hopeful that everyone will take advantage!

With Joy!

Rosalind

Young People visit

Casa Hogar Emmanuel

The youth groups recently went back to Casa Hogar Emmanuel, the orphanage in Naco, Sonora, they visited for the first time in January of this year, during GSP's third Friends and Faith Across Borders experience.

If you heard Ethan Driver's sermon on Sunday, May 31, you might remember he talked about the tremendous impact that trip had on

his moral and spiritual life. Many of the youth group members felt the same way and they requested that we arrange another visit.

During the August visit, our young people went back to visit the Casa, taking 25 quilts and 25 pillows from GSP's Desert Angels Quilters ministry. Youth group members had spent

a prior Wednesday morning working with the quilters, stuffing the pillows and sewing them shut. It was a new skill for many, but everybody managed a straight seam!





Blessing of the Animals 2015

By Rev. Chris Ledyard

Attention, all creatures great and small (including *all*, not only dogs, cats, hamsters, turtles, birds, snakes, and horses)! Every day we receive a special kind of unconditional love from our pets no matter how big or small. Just as we receive blessings for ourselves, don't our other family members deserve them too? In addition to their unconditional love, they provide a window to God's love for Creation.

On Sunday, Oct. 4, at 5 p.m., on the labyrinth, we will observe and celebrate a Grace St. Paul's custom with the blessing of animals on the First Creation Sunday and The Feast of St. Francis.

Speaking of St. Francis, did you know that we have two members of the congregation that belong to Franciscan Orders? Yep, we have

Brother Chuck, who has just professed his final vows as a First Order brother. And, Rev. Chris is a professed member of the Third Order of St. Francis. (Someday we'll write an article describing the differences between First and Third Orders.) Also, there are plenty of stories about how St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) could communicate with animals and felt at one with all creation.

Our Animals and Spirituality Ministry has grown through the support of this congregation. This Ministry includes the Animal Memorial Garden, along with Celebration of Life memorial services, Food Collections, accompanying one on the Grief Journey on the loss of a companion animal, and our blanket/towel collections for the animals at Pima Animal Care Center. If you wish to be on the email list for this ministry, contact Rev. Chris at mach8350@hotmail.com.

Mark your calendars and let's join together at the beginning of next month with our faithful animal companions for a service of blessing and thanksgiving. It's important to note that if your animal companion has transitioned, bring a favorite toy or a picture (if you have one) of your companion animal.

Come and celebrate all of God's beautiful creations!



Photos from the 2014 Blessing of the Animals.



Community, Vulnerability & Generosity

By Margaret Scott

A couple of months ago, the Giving & Receiving Ministry asked all of you a question: Tell us why you are grateful to the community of Grace St. Paul's. We got many heartfelt, deeply personal responses. Together we've given a lot of thought to generosity in recent years. If you were fortunate enough to join us at our Generosity Gatherings last year or the year before in the fall, you heard many touching stories about generosity in our lives.

That got me thinking about community and relationships. Generosity and community go hand in hand, and community can mean two of us together, a small group of us participating in a ministry, or the entire congregation. Joining in community often means putting yourself in a rather vulnerable place, reaching out to others with genuine desire for relationship. The rewards are great.

This is what community at Grace St. Paul's

looked like to me some years ago. As usher at the 8 a.m. service, I always sat in the back of the church so I could see where I might be of assistance, count the latecomers, etc. I pretty much sat by myself every week, and to tell the truth I can't remember exactly how it came about, but I mentioned to someone I didn't know well that it was kind of lonely sitting all by myself in the back. From the next Sunday on, that person chose to leave her usual pew (and we all know how strongly we gravitate toward sitting in the same place every Sunday) to sit with me in the back. Over the years, that simple act of generous companionship has grown into a deep and lasting friendship, a community of two. And recently, a community of three as another beloved friend has joined us.

Take another minute to reflect on what the GSP community looks like to you. Be vulnerable and generous. Who knows where it might lead?

Senior Focus

Janet Kells: Lifelong learner with a love story

By Ann Schlumberger



Janet Dorothy Knebel Kells, 89, was born in Manhattan and lived in Garden City on Long Island through the seventh grade. The stock market crash in 1929 reduced her family's circumstances, so they moved in with her aunt's family in Brooklyn. After her positive educational experiences on Long Island, Janet was disappointed with the quality of Girls' High School in Brooklyn. She next attended Brooklyn College but dropped out after a year and a half to go to work as a receptionist for Standard Oil, attending business school at night.

In 1946, Janet's uncle died and her father upon hearing of his brother's death went blind after cataract surgery because of the tears he shed. Subsequently Janet volunteered in the program for the blind that her father attended.

Janet was to be involved in this program's amazing expansion. First, she was employed as the secretary to the Director of Recreation for the Industrial Home for the Blind, now known as Helen Keller Services. She was to stay with that agency for 33 years, advancing to be the supervisor of all five of its senior citizens' centers while being the director of the 55-bed Burrwood Residence for the Elderly Blind and Deaf-Blind. She attended the 80th birthday celebration for Helen Keller and used finger spelling to talk with the famous lady.

In 1954, Frank Kells proposed to her, but she declined his offer of marriage on the grounds of her responsibility for her parents. During the next 50 years, she only saw Frank once when he visited New York for a conference on education of the blind.

In the 1960s, when non-traditional students began to be welcomed onto college campuses, Janet resumed her college education by taking advantage of a mentoring program at Empire State College. She earned a BS in gerontology in 1973. In 1986, she retired and moved to El Paso where she lived for three years. She didn't like the atmosphere there, and since she had a niece in Sierra Vista, Janet decided to move to Marana, where she could be "near but not on top" of her niece.

Starting in 1995, Janet began losing her sight due to glaucoma and adult macular degeneration. When she almost had a car accident, she realized she could no longer drive or care for a home, so she moved into an assisted living facility in Tucson. Then Frank Kells came back into her life.

The totally blind Frank had gotten his doctorate from the University of Arizona in Education and Rehabilitation the same year Janet had earned her degree, and he resided in Phoenix. In 2002, Janet phoned him, and they arranged to meet. He greeted her with a kiss and on the spot proposed again. That night she prayed to God for guidance in making her decision. The next morning, Frank repeated his proposal and "YES" flew out of her mouth. Frank phoned his daughter who urged him to "go for it," and the couple were married Nov. 1, 2003.

Frank and Janet lived at the Fountains and then moved to Handmaker's where Frank was in the long-term nursing care wing. One day in 2009, Janet stopped by Frank's room before going out with a friend to run errands. He called loudly "I love you," as she left, dying while she was away.

During her life, Janet has attended Dutch Reform, Evangelical Lutheran, Episcopal and Unity Churches as well as being a follower of a channeler of St. John, the beloved apostle. She began attending GSP after parishioner Robert Rosenberg, who also lives at Handmaker's,

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Senior Focus

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recommended it to her.

Despite her blindness, Janet has completed two years of the Education for Ministry (EFM) program at GSP, and her goal is to obtain the program's certificate by the time she is 91. Still an advocate for the blind, Janet's situation has been a catalyst for EFM to make materials available in a proper format for the vision impaired. Janet has also made presentations to the GSP Sunday School to help our children understand blindness.

GSP Quilting Ministry: Desert Angels

The Desert Angels Quilters began in 2011, meeting every Wednesday in McBride Hall between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Judith Turner, leader of the ministry, is joined by Sam Guard, Ron McLain, Yvonne Maynard, Dee Arnaud, and various volunteers.

"I make quilts to put a smile on a person's face during times of grief or joy," said Judith. She and the quilters have put smiles on 300-plus faces at St. Andrew's Clinic in Nogales, St. Jude's in Memphis, Tenn., Pepe's House, and numerous baptisms at GSP.

On Sunday, Sept. 27, Desert Angels Quilters will present a Quilt Sunday at GSP. Quilt Sunday is a time not only for blessing the quilts, but for offering the congregation an opportunity to participate in the ministry. By making donations for the quilts that are available, you help the quilters purchase fabric, batting, and other supplies needed to continue their work. In this way, every quilt sent out to warm hearts and lift spirits comes not only from GSP quilters, but from the entire



congregation—given with the message of Christ's love.

For this is what the Lord says...

As mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.—Isaiah 66: 12a, 13a (NIV)

Ministry Tables for September & October

On Sunday between services each ministry at GSP has an opportunity table in McBride. Here is the schedule:

- Sept. 13, Adult Spiritual Formation
- Sept. 27, Giving and Receiving.
- Oct. 4, Animals and Spirituality
- Oct. 11, Bulletin Volunteers
- Oct. 25, Prayer Shawls

NEW OFFERINGS

NO CLASS SCHEDULED—Sunday, Sept. 6



Women's Bible Study (Exploratory Meeting)

Friday, Sept. 11, 10-11:30 a.m., Bloom Education Center

There have been a number of inquiries about starting a Women's Bible Study at GSP. Join us for an initial conversation about what that group might look like and how to begin. This is an exploratory meeting to discuss dates and times for a future group and the format/resources the group might use. Come and be part of that conversation! All are welcome.

Contact Adult Spiritual Formation at adulted@grace-stpauls.org for more information if you're not able to attend this meeting.

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams, co-chair of Adult Spiritual Formation.

Dying Well

Sunday, Sept. 13, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Is there a right way to die? This question has begun to fuel much conversation in our time, from Atul Gawande's best-selling book *Being Mortal* to the international project "Death Over Dinner" where people gather over a meal to talk about dying. As a culture, we can't afford not to have this conversation. For example, in the next 25 years, Baby Boomers are expected to double the number of Americans 65 years or older to about 72 million. Join us for an important conversation about death and dying and the resources that are available to help have that conversation with those we love.

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams, co-chair of Adult Spiritual Formation.

Angels & Archangels & All the Company of Heaven

Sunday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Join us for this visual presentation on the subject of Michaelmas and angels! Specifically, we will address these questions:

- Why do Episcopalians set aside Sept. 29 as the Feast of St. Michael & All Angels?
- How significant was this day in medieval England?
- What does Michaelmas have to do with the autumnal equinox?
- What are THE HOSTS that God is the Lord of?
- What is the role of the Archangel Michael in the Bible?
- How have artists and sculptors depicted him through the centuries?
- What does the Bible say about angels?
- What is the popular modern view of angels?

Presented by historian and longtime GSP member, Dr. Chuck Dickson.

Sermons on Tap

Sunday, Sept. 20, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Bloom Education Center

Ever leave worship on Sunday and wish you could talk about the sermon with others? Why not join like-minded folks for an open discussion of the day's sermon over beer and sandwiches? This small group is for anyone with a desire to connect more deeply with others and a willingness to explore their own questions about how we live into the "good news" as preached at GSP.

The setting will be informal and relaxed. No need to register, come anytime. All are welcome! Beer, iced tea, and a light lunch will be available. Donations will be accepted to cover the costs of lunch.

This small group now meets on the third Sunday of every month.

GSP Readers Group

Friday, Sept. 25, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Education Center

The book for discussion in September is "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters at the End" by Atul Gawande. Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But in the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering.

Gawande, a practicing surgeon, addresses his profession's ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. Gawande offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the infirm and dependent elderly, and he explores the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person's last weeks or months may be rich and dignified.

All are welcome! No registration necessary. For more information, please contact the church office at 327-6857.

Exploring Today's Lectionary

Sunday, Sept. 27, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Does it all just seem like Greek to you? 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.



ONGOING CLASSES



Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys, Living the Way of Jesus

**Mondays, beginning Sept. 14, 10 a.m.-12 noon,
Bloom Education Center**

For many, our understanding of what it means to be a Christian has been shaped by church teachings but also, more importantly, by time and experience over the course of our own unique spiritual journeys. In this small group we undertake a shared conversation about what matters most to us as followers of Jesus and how we practice this in our individual lives and the life of our community. Each meeting focuses on a different intersection between spirituality and religion, and the conversation takes us where the Spirit guides. Each session stands alone and all are welcome. No registration is necessary.

Co-facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams and Brian Arthur. Brian is a longtime EFM mentor at GSP and Catherine is the co-chair of Adult Spiritual Formation.



For Men: Coffee, Bagels & Bible Stuff

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 a.m., McBride Hall

This is your invitation to join a diverse group of men in a discussion of the Book of Luke. (After 6 months we finished the Book of Acts.) Many of the men are attending their first bible study and are enjoying the attempt to put the weekly readings into historical prospective while finding current application. ALL materials are provided. Drop-ins are welcome and we start and end on time.

Facilitated by Bill Moore, GSP member.

Saturday Java Jive: Coffee & Conversation

**Saturdays, 8:30-11 a.m., Epic Café, 745 N. Fourth Ave.
(SW corner of Fourth & University Blvd.)**

Want to meet and get to know folks in a relaxed and friendly environment? All are welcome to join this long-running motley crew that meets every Saturday morning for coffee and conversation. We never know who will show up, the topic is always up for grabs and hilarity often ensues.



Epic has free WiFi, so tablets and laptops are welcome. (You never know when Wikipedia will need to be consulted.) Look for us at the group of little round tables in the back of the café.



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 September 2015

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., Desert Angel Quilters
- 5 p.m., Spirit Dojo

Thursdays

- 10 a.m., Bridge Group
- 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
- 5:30 p.m., [Spirit Now—An Emerging Worship Experience](#)

Saturdays

- 9 a.m., Altar Guild

2nd 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters
12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

3rd 7:30 a.m., *For Men: Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

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

5th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

6th 2 p.m., St. Andrew's Bach Society Concert

7th **LABOR DAY—OFFICE CLOSED**
10 a.m., EfM Post-Grad Forum
7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

9th 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters

10th 7:30 a.m., *For Men: Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

11th 10 a.m., Women's Bible Study (Exploratory Meeting)
11:30 a.m., GSP Reading Group

12th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

13th 9 a.m., *Dying Well*
11:45 a.m., **Sermons on Tap**
6 p.m., **SpiritSong: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé**

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

16th 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters
12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

17th 7:30 a.m., *For Men: Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

18th 8:30 a.m., TiHAN Volunteer Orientation

9:30 a.m., Community of Hope

6:30 p.m., **Film & Fellowship**

19th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

20th 9 a.m., *Angels & Archangels & All the Company of Heaven*

11:45 a.m., **Sermons on Tap**

21st 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

22nd 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks!

6:30 p.m., **VESTRY MEETING**

23rd 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters

24th 7:30 a.m., *For Men: Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

5:30 p.m., **Spirit Now: Autumnal Equinox**

25th 9:30 a.m., GSP Readers Group

26th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

27th 9 a.m., *Exploring Today's Lectionary*

1 p.m., Mother's Kitchen (Primavera)

28th 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

30th 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters

Coming up in October

1st 7:30 a.m., *For Men: Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

2nd 6:30 p.m., **Spirit Players Play-Reading**

3rd 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

8:30 a.m., Grief Group

4th 9 a.m., **Giving & Receiving Fall Campaign Gathering**

5 p.m., **Blessing of the Animals**

5th 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

10 a.m., EfM Post-Grad Forum

7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

7th 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters
12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry

8th 7:30 a.m., *For Men: Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

9th 7 p.m., **Dangerously Alive: A Weekend with Mark Scandrette**

10th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

9 a.m., **Dangerously Alive: A Weekend with Mark Scandrette**

11th 9 a.m., **Dangerously Alive: A Weekend with Mark Scandrette**

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

12th 10 a.m., *Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys*

7 p.m., Joseph's Pantry meeting

14th 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters

6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry

15th 7:30 a.m., *For Men: Coffee, Bagels & B.S.*

16th 9:30 a.m., Community of Hope meeting

6:30 p.m., **Film & Fellowship**

17th 8:30 a.m., **Java Jive, Epic Café**

18th 11:30 a.m., **Giving & Receiving Fall Campaign Gathering**

11:45 a.m., **Sermons on Tap**