



The Briefly

The newsletter for the parish community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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September 2016

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Rector's Letter

It was a wild, crazy, and beautiful ride. For the first three years of my time at Grace St. Paul's, our church was on a steep climbing curve. Our parish exploded in growth both spiritually and numerically as we broke new ground in innovative liturgies, prophetic preaching, children and youth formation and activities, and social justice programs for our community. During that time, the Bishop received more people into this church than he has at any other time during his tenure.

Since then, our growth pattern has leveled out. It's not that we have had less opportunity to continue to grow. All of you who are at Sunday worship on a regular basis know that we continue to attract newcomers every single week. The issue for us is that we reached our level of absorption. What I mean by that is that once we reached a certain critical mass, we could not take on any more passengers. Without more resources to pastorally care for and personally support every member of our beloved community, it became impossible to continue growing in that pattern.

C We have dreamed of a future ... and a new wave of growth. The future is now!

Studies by the Alban Institute, the experts on church growth, verify this pattern nationally. In fact, we actually grew far beyond the metrics they suggest. Operating a small program-sized parish like ours with one paid clergy person and the staff size we have is supposed to be impossible. Their numbers say we should have reached the absorption level with 100 less people attending an average Sunday service. The fact that we could support so many more, so well, is a tribute to all of you and all of your hard work and love in lifting us up.

For the last two plus years, your leadership

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With the passing of a loaf of bread during services on Sunday, Aug. 28, Bill Trujillo (left) hands off the Bread from the Pantry ministry to Matt Chase as Fr. Steve and Deacon Nancy Meister look on.

Submissions to The Briefly

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

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

**The deadline for the
Oct. 2016 issue will be
Tuesday, Sept. 13.**

Rector's Letter

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has known that this was the case and they have worked hard to come up with creative solutions. In addition, so many of you have stepped up financially and with your volunteer hours. We have planned for and dreamed of a future where our resources could increase enough to support all of us and a new wave of growth. Well today, I am here to tell you that the future is now.

As we begin our new program year this month, three major factors have placed us in a position to welcome with open arms all of the people in Tucson and beyond who are thirsting for spiritual growth. First, our new Minister of Spiritual Formation for Children, Youth, and Families, Amy Cormode, gives us the energy and person hours that we have so desperately needed to infuse our most critical ministry for tomorrow. She is implementing a new plan right now as we begin the year to do just that. Second, The Rev. Richard Mallory arrives on Sept. 12, giving us the clerical presence we have longed for, for a couple years. His leadership in social services, his pastoral presence, and his

liturgical assistance will allow us to grow in all of those essential areas. Finally, we have struck a deal with Banner Health to lease 60 spaces in our parking lot beginning this month. Those spaces will be available to Banner employees Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. This will mean that we will need to be a little creative on certain days during the week to accommodate our own needs. But this leasing agreement is a gigantic windfall for our budget and will go a long way in filling a potential gap in our budget. I cannot thank our Junior Warden Bill Moore enough for his part in finalizing this agreement.

What all this means is that our wait is over. GSP is ready now to bolt our way into the new reformation and accomplish all the things that only resources have prevented us from doing in our immediate past. The future is now!



Nourishing Spirits: Becoming the Body

Would you like to feel more “rooted” at GSP? Make friends, build relationships or create a support system? What feeds you spiritually? Do you have questions about Christianity? Do you wonder how other people feel about religion? We are excited to introduce *Nourishing Spirits: Becoming the Body*, a new program of small group gatherings beginning this fall. Small groups of the same people will get together six times (approximately once a month) between October 2016 and April 2017 for shared dinner and discussion.

For the initial meetings, we will offer four different group times:

- Group #1—Sunday, Oct. 16, 5:30 p.m. (Carrie & Andy Kube, hosts)
- Group #2—Monday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m. (Jim & Terri Franks, hosts)
- Group #3—Sunday, Oct. 23, 5:30 p.m. (Catherine & Steve Williams, hosts)
- Group #4—A family group of ten persons (Amy Cormode, host; date & time TBA)

Group size will be limited.

Initial meetings will be at the home of the host(s). Each group will decide on the dates and locations for subsequent meetings.

Interested? You may sign up for one of the groups beginning Sunday, Sept. 12 at the Welcome Table in McBride Hall or by email at adulted@grace-stpauls.org. We will add additional groups as demand requires.

Please contact Catherine Williams at adulted@grace-stpauls.org if you have any questions.

Not sure you want to commit to a group right now? That's okay!

Please join us for the Big Parish Potluck Dinner on Friday, Sept. 23, at 5:30 p.m., in McBride Hall!

We'll share more about *Nourishing Spirits: Becoming the Body* and there will be time for lots of great fellowship and small table discussion, too.



Equinox Celebration on Sept. 22

By Martha Whitaker

On Thursday, Sept. 22, night and day will be exactly the same length, and at GSP we will honor the Autumnal Equinox with a Celestial Celebration.

Please join us on the labyrinth in front of the church during our regular Spirit Now service, starting at 5:30 p.m. We will gather in the shade of the cloister for a short, informal, yet meaningful liturgy. An ice water station will be set up to ensure everyone remains hydrated.

During the service, everyone will have the opportunity to place a lit candle in one half of a sand-filled ceramic bowl, which symbolizes the even split between night and day. The service also includes simple chants, and a walking meditation on the labyrinth. In the past we have been blessed with live piano, and sometimes Native American flute playing to accompany the labyrinth walk. It is truly a very special, beautiful experience designed to help us re-establish our relationship to God through creation and each other.

Invite your friends to join you, and take part in a service where we experience God through a celebration of the nature, creation, and the natural seasonal marker of the Autumnal Equinox.



Arizona Welcomes Refugees

By Kitt Leonard

Each week, refugees from all over the world arrive at the Tucson airport, ready to start their new lives in Tucson Arizona. Members of **Arizona Welcomes Refugees** are working to apply personal diplomacy to reclaim Arizona's sense of welcome for those in dire need.

We disagree strongly with politicians' rejection of refugees who are running from terror in their homelands and have been vetted by multiple high-level security checks.

Many of these families who have escaped trauma are being re-traumatized by the ugly rhetoric and actions emanating from our own politicians. The Statue of Liberty lifts her lamp beside our golden door as a symbol of hope around the world — we should not allow those who serve as our leaders to snuff out that lamp and close the door for ugly political purposes.

We are taking action to show that we Arizonans DO welcome those in need. We are regularly organizing welcoming parties of at

Arizona airports for those refugees who are coming to Arizona from around the world to personally let them know they are wanted here.

After days of travel with no sleep, these refugees are so overjoyed to be here in America, and so moved to be greeted by us. In these times, it is often frustrating to feel that there is little we can do to create real change in a complicated world. This is something simple we can do to make a real difference, one heart at a time.

Every time we get to share in these special moments I feel so honored to be present as a family transitions from a life filled with fear and terror and loss into a life filled with peace and love and hope for the future. Join us if you can next time! We meet each first Thursday of the month in McBride Hall at 7 p.m.

Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. One day at a time. The election is only two months away, and we will definitely rejoice when it's over. I hope we won't be quoting Voltaire: "Life is a shipwreck, but one must remember to sing in the lifeboats." No matter what happens, this, too, shall pass.

In the meantime, the new season begins. Well, okay, not technically, because it's still Late Pentecost, but the choirs and Sunday School will resume on Sept. 11, and we will welcome Fr. Richard Mallory as Associate Rector. We were joking in Liturgy Meeting that it's a good thing he's not named Steve, otherwise we'd have Steve cubed instead of Steve squared. Of course, there are lots of Dicks in the choir, but no priests, so there shouldn't be any confusion. We're so happy you're here, Fr. Richard!

For those of you interested in joining the choirs, and I hope there are many, here's the drill:

Adult Choir

Christina Jarvis, Director
Pamela Decker, organist

Rehearses 7:30-9 p.m. (7-9 during Advent and Lent) on Thursday nights in the chancel and at 9:15 in the chancel on Sunday mornings to prepare for the 10 o'clock service.

Sings for the 10 a.m. Sunday services and additional services such as Ash Wednesday (March 1*), Maundy Thursday (April 13*), Good Friday (April 14*), Easter Vigil (April 15*), and Christmas Eve (guess). We sing for the 10 a.m. Easter service but not on Christmas Day.

**2017 dates*

All are invited to come along—the group is not auditioned. For those who want extra help, I offer note-bashing sessions before the Thursday night rehearsal.

We also welcome the participation of parish instrumentalists. We sing all styles and eras appropriate for a 30-voice choir and do two anthems and a sung psalm most Sundays.

St. Zeno's Zombie (Youth) Ensemble

Wesley Hunter, Director
James Beckwith, pianist

Rehearses Sundays at 12:30 p.m., after Youth Group.

Currently scheduled to sing this choir season for the First Sunday in the Season of Creation (October 2), All Saints' (November 6), Christmas Eve (December 24, duh), the Last Sunday after Epiphany (February 26), Palm Sunday (April 9), Easter Vigil (April 15), and Rogation Sunday (May 21).

Includes singers and instrumentalists of middle and high school age. Younger ages may be considered at the discretion of the director.

Kids Doing Music

Wesley Hunter, Director
James Beckwith, pianist

We are in the process of exploring a new way of thinking about music for the pre-middle-school age groups. Musical skills will no longer be taught in Sunday School. Instead, we hope to have a time other than Sunday for kids to meet and play together through singing, instruments, clapping, bouncing crumpled paper balls off each other's heads... wait, not that last one. Parents may expect to see a survey coming soon to find out whether your individual or several children would like to participate. It would be especially cool to get a drumming circle going.

And now to the season. We have the usual trade-off between starting with a big, honking anthem or with something easily done in one rehearsal. The obvious preference would be a big, honking anthem that can be done in one rehearsal. This year, however, we will begin with a Bach chorale, always in good taste: "Jesu, lead my footsteps ever" from *The Christmas Oratorio, Part IV*. For the communion anthem, Miriam Huber and Cathy Wolfson will sing a Mendelssohn duet, "I waited for the Lord". Context: if you're that 100th sheep milling around on the dark hillside while the other 99 are baa-ing peacefully in the field, hang in there; Jesus is coming to get you, and he isn't mad. Thanks to Miriam and Cathy for their beautiful offering and for giving their colleagues a chance to spend more time rehearsing for the coming weeks.

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Choir Notes

Continued from Page 4

For Sept. 18, I've ordered two new pieces, settings of "Be thou my vision" (*Slane*, arr. Heather Sorenson) and "One bread, one body" (John Foley, SJ; arr. Mark Hayes). These are cool arrangements of familiar melodies, pleasant for the choir to sing and the congregation to hear. The *Slane* arrangement features an instrumental ensemble of violin (Wesley Hunter), oboe (Kathy Creath), and cello (Bruce Anderson) in addition to piano.

On Sept. 25, we will do a mash-up of "Peace like a river" and "Kum ba yah", arranged by Jean Ann Shafferman, which we did a while back. For communion, the choir women will sing "In paradisum" from the Fauré Requiem.

I would like to thank everyone who sang or played an instrument to adorn our worship this summer. We are blessed by their talent and willingness to share it. There was one switcheroo in August (I warned you that the schedule was a suggestion). Alan Brundage kindly offered his Aug. 21 date to former choir member Kristina Maakestad. Kristina, who is attending UNLV, comes to town from time to time, and loves to sing at GSP; we love to have her sing, too!

Alan Brundage, in his baritone superpower (as opposed to viola or violin superpowers), will sing instead on Sept. 4—two works by Ralph Vaughan Williams from *Five Mystical Songs*—for the offertory, "Love bade me welcome" and for communion, "The Call." Blessed are the flexible, for they will never be bent out of shape.

While I'm offering shout-outs, I want to personally thank all those who refreshed the Education Center décor, from the designers to the contractors and painters. The Bloom Room looks fantastic, the new restrooms are terrific, and I especially love the hall by the choir office. No more smurf-blue walls! Yay!

Thanks to those who attended my session on Anglican Church Music on Aug. 15, with apologies for having to bail on the July 24 date. I could actually remain standing, which is always a good thing if you're giving a talk. We barely made it into the 17th century, so if we do the next 250 years, those of you who missed it are in with a chance. I'm sure you can't wait.

Next month we will celebrate the Season of Creation and relish God's gifts to all created beings. May you have a blessed and productive fall. Excelsior!

Peace,

Christina

Children, Youth & Families

I don't know about you, but the summer has flown by for me and my family! I can hardly wrap my head around the fact that school has started and it's moving towards September.

We had a great summer at GSP, with the Rooted Summer Camp in June as well as taking several of our youth to Chapel Rock, the Diocese of Arizona's summer camp. Summer Sunday school has continued each week for ages 4-12, and we've had a pool party each month to connect and have fun together.

We've also had several baptisms of children in our parish family this summer and some new additions as well. These are people to welcome in!

It's the time now to be looking ahead to the year and the variety of ways that we will be able to grow together and support each other in the growth and spiritual formation of our children and youth.

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I am working on a website that will be linked into our GSP website, giving our part of parish life a presence on the internet as well as being a good way to communicate information to each other.

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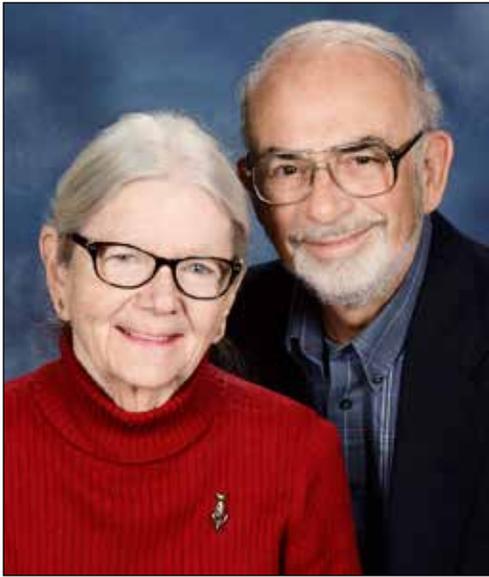
There is an exciting training for Godly Play method of spiritual formation happening at the end of this month at St. Barnabas in Phoenix that Chris LaBour and I will be going to, and then bringing back into our Sunday School program for the Kinder through 5th grades.

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Sunday, Sept. 11, will be the start of our program year, and we will kick it off with an Open House. Check the bulletin for specific details, as plans are being developed as of this printing.

*By Amy Cormode, Minister of
Spiritual Formation for Children, Youth & Families*





Senior Focus

Heather Williams,

Island Girl

By Ann Schlumberger

Heather Jean Alexander (a more Scottish name her Scottish father could not have found!) was born in the Philippines on Aug. 13, 1935.

Her mother, Frances, whose two grandfathers who were medical missionaries in Hawaii, had been born in Hawaii. Frances' father was a chemical engineer on a sugar plantation, who had been transferred to the Philippines. As a result, Frances would eventually meet and marry Alec Alexander, Heather's father, who worked for an import-export company there.

Heather and her two sisters were born and raised in the Philippines, and the family just missed being interned during World

War II. In 1941, Alec, who had always chosen to have the family spend his home leave in Britain, could not vacation there because of the war, and Frances' Hawaiian family was moving to California because of the threat of war in the Pacific. This was just before the Pearl Harbor attack. Thus, the Alexanders decided instead "to discover America." They remained in the U.S. during the war, returning to the Philippines in 1945.

For college, Heather chose Stanford University in California. She first enrolled in pre-nursing but decided that the new field of physical therapy sounded more interesting. She interrupted her college career in 1957 to go back to the Philippines to care for her ailing mother. While there, because her physical therapy studies had included a number of classes in education as part of the program, she was able to teach at the school where she had attended the sixth through twelfth grades.

In 1958, Heather returned to Stanford to finish her degree and met her husband, Tom Williams. Six months later ("a shockingly short

time in those days!"), Tom and Heather were married in Berkeley, with Aunt Margaret giving the bride away because Heather's parents were back in the Philippines.

After Tom was discharged from the Coast Guard, the couple moved to Santa Monica, where he was employed by a computer systems company while Heather worked as a physical therapist at the LA Veterans' Hospital. She loved the work. Later, they took a trip to Europe using as their guide the best seller *Europe on Five Dollars a Day*. They bought a VW Bug, camped around the continent for six months, and also visited Heather's relatives in Britain. Their European adventures completed, they shipped the VW to Tucson, where they visited Heather's uncle and a different Aunt Margaret who owned a ranch 65 miles outside of Tucson. Tom was employed by a contractor to do computer work at Fort Huachuca, and Heather taught at "a three-teacher school in the middle of nowhere." Initially, the young couple lived on the ranch. Their first two children, Holly (1964) and Mitch (1965), were born in Sierra Vista.

Then Tom was transferred to Heidelberg, Germany, where baby Thomas joined the family in December 1966. A problem with the German assignment soon revealed itself: Tom had to work in Stuttgart while Heather stayed in Heidelberg alone with three young children and with no friends, no phone service, no car, and little knowledge of German. Nevertheless, the outgoing Heather enjoyed Heidelberg and fondly remembers taking her trio down to the Neckar River to watch the barges going through the locks. She learned German and enjoyed meeting people from all over the world who were attending Heidelberg University.

At the end of three years, Tom realized that to stay current in the field, he needed to update his computer knowledge. So, in 1968 the Williams family moved back to Tucson so that he could study at the University of Arizona. Tom completed his coursework and took a computer systems position in LA, where they resided for three years. Later, Tom obtained a job in the Caribbean. It was a two-year contract that eventually extended to 22 years.

On St. Croix, the three children attended

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Blessing of the Animals 2016

By 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. 2, 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? Yes, we have Brother Chuck who has just professed his final vows as a First Order brother. And, Reverend 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 Reverend 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!

Senior Focus

Continued from Page 6

St. Dunstan's Episcopal School, and Heather completed coursework in Special Education at the College of the Virgin Islands.

When son Thomas was in the third grade, Heather began teaching Special Ed in a public school there. While in the Virgin Islands, the family participated in setting up Special Olympics events every year. Each summer, one of children was sent to Heather's sister in Virginia to work in her tourist business so he or she would have a sense of what life in the States was like.

Upon retirement, Tom and Heather moved back to Tucson, where they still owned a home they had bought here in the 1970s. They

have resided in Tucson for the past 18 years, during which Heather has taught Special Education part time for TUSD, both on contract and as a volunteer. In 2014, she reluctantly quit volunteering in the classroom after sustaining a serious injury from a fall.

As a child, Heather had served as an Altar Guild helper to her mother and had sung in the choir at their Episcopal church in the Philippines. Today, as a member of GSP, Heather is a stalwart member of our Altar Guild, particularly helping with the 7:45 service and with funerals. Although not a member of the GSP choir, she lends her strong voice as a lay reader, in English as well as in Spanish, which she learned as a child in the Philippines. She has also

served as a chalice bearer.

Heather's three children are all churchgoers, with son Thomas being a Pentecostal minister in Clifton, Ariz. Son Mitch and family live in San Jose, and daughter Holly and family reside in Seattle. Heather and Tom have taken frequent trips to the West Coast to attend the graduations and weddings of some of their seven grandchildren. They are delighted that their oldest grandson and his wife have moved to Phoenix.

Not surprisingly, after so many years living on islands, Heather's main pleasures, other than visiting family members, have been visiting U.S. landmarks, going to the mountains on fishing trips, and attending concerts and operas in Tucson.



Pokemon Go: Heaven, or Hell?

By Spencer Hunter

Pokemon is a video game and also a card game where players can score points by collecting pictures of cute Japanese monsters on playing cards and store them in their pockets, hence the term “pokemon,” short for “pocket monsters.” Pokemon Go is a cell phone version of the video game that superimposes animated 3D-like virtual pokemon over the real world as seen through the cell phone camera. It is unusual in that it requires players to get off their backsides and go out into the real world to score points. Within just a few hours of its release, Pokemon Go has been downloaded all over the world and is immensely popular.

The Pokemon Go craze has now hit GSP, which has two, count them, two “PokeStops” where players can load up on supplies to catch and contain their collected pokemon: one at the front of the church, and one at the back.

I present you with two views of this phenomenon:

The Rev. Canon Megan Traquair (Diocese of Arizona) says, “It is an unusual opportunity to build the start of a relationship with persons we may not know at all. And that is what Jesus did all the time... In fact the Pharisees were scandalized by the way Jesus used ‘inappropriate’ circumstances to engage strangers.” (“Pokemon Go: Look For Pikachu and find Jesus.” http://www.azdiocese.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3180108)

Pastor Rick Wiles of TruNews.com, on the other hand, says, “The enemy, Satan, is targeting churches with virtual, digital, cyber-demons. This technology will be used by the enemies of the cross to target, locate, and execute Christians.” (“End Times’ Pastor Warns ISIS Could Use Pokemon Go To Target Christians With ‘Cyber-Demons,’” <http://www.rawstory.com/2016/07/end-times-pasror-warns-isis-could-use-pokemon-go-to-target-christians-with-cyber-demons/>)

Evening Prayer Every Tuesday—With A Theme

You are invited to join a small, prayerful community in the Julian Chapel for Tuesday Evening Prayer at 6 p.m. for prayer and conversation.

We’re going to do something different during the Season of Creation. Starting Oct. 4 through Nov. 8, there will be Evening Prayer

with Eucharist exploring one of the following themes each week: God, the source and destiny of the cosmos; God of order and dynamic change; the justice of God and the dignity of all creatures; the kinship and unity of all creation in Christ; reading God’s goodness in the diversity of life; and called to be God’s partners in the care of the planet.

If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at 520-327-6857. See you there!

Living Generously

By Peggy Scott

GratITUDE. Funny thing about gratitude—sometimes, in its most intense form, it is a lot like grief. It comes suddenly, in waves, and it can blow open your heart.

When I was a young adult, I lived in Spain and had my first experiences of death. There, when a loved one dies, the survivors put everything aside for 2 or 3 days. They don't leave the body of the deceased one alone until that person is buried, usually no longer than a couple of days later. They gather in their grief and support each other closely during that time. There's no sending the body away to be kept until the funeral like we often do. And the result? I think living all that grief so intensely helps to heal.

Back to gratitude. Perhaps you saw a story on the news. A stepfather had helped raise a teenage girl from infancy. She had some contact with her birth father, but the stepfather also did all he could to fulfill the role of father

when the birth father was not around. He must have done it out of love, because the scene was his birthday. He opened the present from his now teenage stepdaughter, and sank to his knees in tears. It was a letter asking him to adopt her. There was gratitude, intense gratitude, and it broke open both their hearts.

Each of us have so much to be grateful for, especially in community at GSP. And at its deepest, when that gratitude is not only felt, but held close and cultivated, it leads to living generously.

Psalm 112 reads, "They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful and righteous. It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever."

Generous living is much more than what we do with our money. It's about being kind to one another and to all living things. Let your gratitude break open your heart today.



Former choir member Kristina Tullgren, who is attending UNLV, comes to town from time to time and loves to sing at GSP. She performed for us on Sunday, Aug. 21.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: SUNDAYS @ 9:00

No 9 a.m. class on Sunday, Sept. 4

Exploring Today's Lectionary

Sunday, Sept. 11, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

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.

Facilitated by Jim Franks, a member of the Adult Spiritual Formation ministry. Jim also currently serves on the Vestry at GSP.

Social Media in an Age of Uncertainty

Sundays, Sept. 18 & 25, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

Social media: We're not sure how to live with it and we find it difficult to live without it. Social media connects us to family and loved ones, it can create and sustain a sense of community and—in a time of rising individual and collective anxiety—it can feed our worst fears. Join us for a conversation about the blessings and pitfalls of life lived with social media—and how the Church and we can become agents of hope and transformation for an uncertain world.

Catherine Penn Williams will moderate a panel of speakers that will address these issues.

FREE ONLINE CLASS OFFERING!

Bridging the Political Divide with Parker Palmer

This free online course can be taken any time between Sept. 5-19.

As we know, we are in the midst of what may be the most polarizing and contentious elections in recent U.S. history. Many observers note that the political rancor and rhetoric has reached all time highs, injecting unprecedented fear, division, and unease into our culture. How do we make sense of this? How do people of faith respond? How do we remain calm and centered amidst our difference and tension, taking our roles as peacemakers and even prophets, seriously?

Educator, author, and activist Parker Palmer has a few ideas. He has written extensively on faith and

democracy issues. In this course, he offers thoughtful insight into how we might approach divisive political issues with grace and grit.

Register for free by going to <https://www.churchnext.tv/library/bridging-the-political-divide/37618/about/>. Once registered, the course can be taken for free from Sept. 5-19. It will take an average student 45 minutes to complete. No special software is required.

There will be a follow-up group discussion of this course on Sunday, Oct. 9, at 11:45 a.m. in the Bloom Room.

Please contact Brian Arthur through the church office if you have any questions.

3RD FRIDAY FILMS @ GSP

Fall Film Series: Food Stewardship

3rd Friday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room

As Christians, we believe we are called to be good stewards of the Earth. Do we really need to concern ourselves with what we eat? Yet, we live in a very different world than our grandparents' generation, and nowhere is this more evident than in the mass production of food. The influence of lobbyists and multinational corporations on the huge business of agriculture has changed the way food is grown, impacts the environment and has challenged the health of our nation. And the poor are often left with the price tag. Join us on the third Friday of each month during the fall for a free film and discussion about food production in America today.

Friday, Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room

"Fed Up" (2014), a documentary that claims everything we've been told about food and exercise for the past 30 years is dead wrong. "Fed Up" is the film the food industry doesn't want you to see. From Katie

Couric, Laurie David (Oscar winning producer of "An Inconvenient Truth") and director Stephanie Soechtig, "Fed Up" will change the way you eat forever.

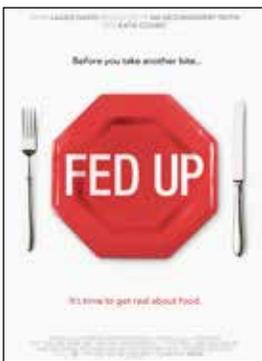
Friday, Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room

"Forks Over Knives" (2011) examines the profound claim that most, if not all, of the degenerative diseases that afflict us can be controlled, or even reversed, by rejecting our present menu of animal-based and processed foods.

The major storyline in the film traces the personal journeys of a pair of pioneering yet under-appreciated researchers, Dr. T. Colin Campbell and Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn.

Friday, Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room

"Food, Inc." (2008) is an Oscar-nominated film that lifts the veil on our nation's food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that's been hidden from the American consumer. U.S. agri-business consistently produces more food on less land and at cheaper cost than the farmers of any other nation. What could



Digital Faith: Social Media Sunday 2016 (#SMS16)

Coming up on Sunday, Sept. 25, Social Media Sunday is an ecumenical effort to share the good news about building community with social media.

Here are some easy ways folks at Grace St Paul's can participate:

- Include the hashtag (#SMS16) in the bulletin and invite everyone to take part
- Snapchat a story from church
- Instagram a selfie from church
- "Check in" on

Facebook, update your status and tell everyone you are at church

- Tweet the most inspiring line from the readings
- Video a snippet of the sermon and upload it to YouTube
- Post pictures of a community outreach project

No matter which social media channel you use, make sure to include the hashtag #SMS16 in the post, so it will be included in the worldwide conversation.

Thanks to Nicole Krug, Canon for Media and Communications, for all of these great suggestions!

possibly be wrong with that? According to the growing ranks of organic farmers, "slow food" activists and concerned consumers cited in this documentary, the answer is "plenty."

UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE: BIBLE STUDY @ GSP

Bible Women

Fridays, Sept. 2 & 16, 10:30-11 a.m., Weeks Room

Where are the voices of women in the Bible? What do they have to say to us about our own lives?

This class studies the Bible through the words of women in the Old and New Testaments. The focus is on actual scripture and its contexts; an optional text, *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter* by Lindsay Hardin Freeman, is available from Amazon in softcover (\$22) or Kindle (\$9.99).

The group meets twice a month on the first and third Fridays. No registration is necessary and participants are welcome to join the group at any time.

For more information contact Vicki Stefani, 520-743-

Jim Franks, a member of the Adult Spiritual Formation ministry, will host this film series. Jim also currently serves on the Vestry at GSP.

3978 or vstefani@email.arizona.edu.

For Everyone: Coffee, Bagels and Bible Stuff Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 a.m., McBride Hall

Join a diverse group in a discussion of the I Corinthians. In our second year, many 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. Formerly a group for men, this class now welcomes everyone!

Bill Moore, GSP Junior Warden, is the group facilitator.

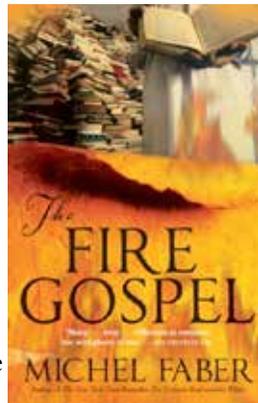
MAKING CONNECTIONS: SMALL GROUPS @ GSP

GSP Readers Group

Friday, Sept. 9, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Room

Michel Faber's *The Fire Gospel* is a wickedly funny, acid-tongued, media-savvy picaresque that delves into our sensationalist culture. Theo Griepenkerl, a Canadian linguistics scholar, is sent to Iraq in search of artifacts that have survived the destruction and looting of the war. While visiting a museum in Mosul, he finds nine papyrus scrolls that have been perfectly preserved for more than two thousand years. After translating them from Aramaic, Theo realizes he is in possession of the Fifth Gospel, and it offers a shocking and incomparable eyewitness account of Christ's crucifixion and last days on Earth. A hugely entertaining, and by turns shocking story, *The Fire Gospel* is a smart, stylish, and suspenseful novel.

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



Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys

Mondays, beginning Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-Noon, Bloom Room

In this small group we share 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, religion and culture, 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, Brian Arthur and Jim Franks. Brian is a longtime EFM mentor at GSP, Catherine is the convener of Adult Spiritual Formation, and Jim serves on the GSP Vestry.

Saturday Java Jive: Coffee & Conversation

Saturdays, 8:30-11 a.m., Epic Cafe (745 N. 4th Ave. at 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.



Grace St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

WEEKLY SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Sundays

- 7:45 a.m., *Holy Communion*
- 9 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
- 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

Tuesdays

- 6 p.m., *Evening Prayer & Communion*
- 6 p.m., Arts & Crafts for Adults
- 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m., *Holy Communion*
- 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters
- 5 p.m., Spirit Dojo

Thursdays

- 7:30 a.m., *Coffee, Bagels & B.S. for All*
- 10 a.m., Bridge Group
- 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
- 5:30 p.m., *Spirit Now—An Emerging Worship Experience*
- 7 p.m., AZ Welcomes Refugees

Saturdays

- 8:30 a.m., *Saturday Java Jive*
- 9 a.m., Altar Guild

What's Happening in September 2016...

2nd 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**
6:30 p.m., **Spirit Players Play-Reading**

4th **LABOR DAY WEEKEND**
No 9 a.m. class today.

11:45 a.m., **PAX Meeting**

5th 7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

7th 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

10th 9:30 a.m., **Citizens Climate Lobby**

3 p.m., Animals & Spirituality Project

11th **Voter Registration on the Breezeway**

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

1 p.m., Sudanese Worship in Dinka

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

7 p.m., Joseph's Pantry meeting

14th 4 p.m., **Foundation for Episcopal Campus Ministry**

6:30 p.m., *Living Wholeheartedly* by Jewel Lea Grant

16th 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**
6:30 p.m., **Fall Film Series**

18th 9 a.m., *Social Media in an Age of Uncertainty*

19th 10 a.m., **Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys**

21st 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:30 p.m., *Living Wholeheartedly* by Jewel Lea Grant

22nd 5:30 p.m., **Vernal Equinox Spirit Now**

23rd 9:30 a.m., **GSP Readers Group**

5:30 p.m., **Big Parish Potluck Dinner**

24th 8 a.m., TIHAN Volunteer Orientation

25th **SOCIAL MEDIA SUNDAY**
9 a.m., *Social Media in an Age of Uncertainty*

1 p.m., Mother's Kitchen

26th 10 a.m., **Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys**

27th 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks!

6:30 p.m., **Vestry Meeting**

28th 6:30 p.m., *Living Wholeheartedly* by Jewel Lea Grant

Coming up in October

2nd 9 a.m., *Coffee & Conversation*
5 p.m., **Blessing of the Animals**

3rd 10 a.m., **Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys**

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

4th 8 a.m., TIHAN Care & Support Training

5th 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

6:30 p.m., *Living Wholeheartedly* by Jewel Lea Grant

7 p.m., **Sonora Winds Concert**

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

7th 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**

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

8th 9:30 a.m., **Citizens Climate Lobby**

9th 9 a.m., *Coffee & Conversation*

1 p.m., Sudanese Worship in Dinka

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

7 p.m., Joseph's Pantry meeting

12th 6:30 p.m., *Living Wholeheartedly* by Jewel Lea Grant

13th 5 p.m., TIHAN Faith Community Liaison Meeting

14th 9:30 a.m., TIHAN Faith Community Liaison Meeting

15th 9:30 a.m., The Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross

16th 9 a.m., *Coffee & Conversation*

17th 10 a.m., **Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys**

19th 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:30 p.m., *Living Wholeheartedly* by Jewel Lea Grant

21st 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**

6:30 p.m., **Fall Film Series**