



# The Briefly

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

September 2018

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## From the Rector

**T**HIS PAST MONTH, the world was captivated by the story of a mother. This mom had carried her child to full term and was about to give birth. The birth excited scientists, because there had not been a birth in this region for several years. The excitement was very short term however, because by the time the scientists arrived less than an hour later, the infant had already died.

The mom in question was an Orca whale, and she is part of the Southern Resident Orca population that roams the waters of Washington state and southern Canada. Back in 2008, I saw a bunch of those Orcas off the San Juan Islands, at least 20 of them, playing and carousing, swimming at furious speeds, leaping through the air, and attacking their prey with a vengeance I have never seen in any other species in the natural world. My heart is pounding right now just telling you about them.

Here is a photo of a mom and her baby from that beautiful summer day ten years ago...

Since that time, there have been few babies born, and in the last few years, none at all until the one last month that lived for an hour. The Orca calves do not develop or are stillborn because their parents do not have enough to eat. Though they travel in huge arcs of territory, they cannot find any chinook salmon, or at least not enough to not leave them malnourished. Where did all the salmon go? To start, they were caught by the free-for-all fishing industry of the 1980s. A million to a million and a half a year out of Puget Sound, fish that averaged 17½ pounds.

Now the same thing is happening across the Salish Sea, and the Orcas have no other place to go to find fish. Second, the series of dams, and the so called fish ladders that go with them, on both the Columbia and Snake River systems have made it virtually impossible for the salmon to return. Third, the toxins in the rivers from raw sewage are killing what is left. Fourth, the replacement of natural fish with hatchery fish means the few fish there are, are minuscule

**C** The stress and strain on our planet is complex and will not be solved easily...

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Gracie Bear—Love First—We are Pilot Site #3, See Page 5

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## Submissions to **The Briefly**

Please submit articles  
to Barbara Morehouse,  
[BrieflyEditor@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:BrieflyEditor@grace-stpauls.org).

John Banks happily receives  
photos, charts, and graphics at  
[jdbanks@gmail.com](mailto:jdbanks@gmail.com).

**The deadline for the  
October 2018 issue will  
be Tuesday, Sept. 11.**

## From the Rector

*Continued from Page 1*

compared to what they were before, not to mention the hatchery fish threaten the health of the true chinook.

Of course we experienced the same thing in northern British Columbia and lower Alaska, where a small stream that used to have hundreds of salmon by late summer had seven when we were there. The entire ecology of the northwest United States, western Canada, and Alaska lives and dies with the salmon run, all the wildlife, as well as all of those deep forests and ancient rivers.

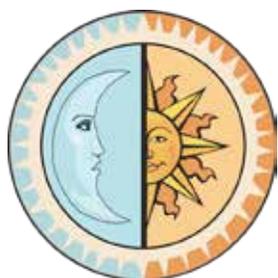
It seems that Tahlequah, the Orca mom that we watched carry her dead baby for 17 days, understands what is happening to her species, perhaps better than us. The Orcas know they are not reproducing and they are desperate to figure out a way to survive, even to the point of carrying a dead baby for a couple weeks in the hope that some miracle will happen.

When the Episcopal church made Care of Creation one of three centering themes of our denomination for the next triennium, I literally started crying. I did so because a miracle did happen. I did so because of that mother Orca. I did so because all of our hard work here at GSP with our Season of Creation and our centering of our family, as well as the entire church, on connecting us to God through creation, has made a difference. I cried for the brown bears of Alaska, the ones who hold on to life while

their ancestors in the lower 48 have all been decimated, for the Orcas of the northwest, struggling for survival, the bald eagles who still exist in some numbers on a tiny island called Haida Gwaii off the British Columbia coast, after they have been all but eliminated in our country. I wept for the wilderness desert surrounding us that continues to be poisoned and reduced each day.

The stress and strain on our planet is complex and will not be solved easily. But some things are fairly simple. We can save those Orcas tomorrow. We do that by fighting to end the overfishing, to obliterate those damn unGodly dams. We do it by not dumping any more crap into those rivers. We give those salmon a straight run to the home of their origin in clean water, and everything will change in a year. That beloved, is God's work, that is our calling as GSP, and as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.

As we begin our Season of Creation again next month, we need to revel in the fact that our church and our world now sees the direct relationship between God and the natural world. Together, we can reverse the destruction, we can bring people to the realization that the evangelism of our time is to protect God's Creation.



## Equinox Celebration on Sept. 20

*By Martha Whitaker*

**O**N THURSDAY, SEPT. 20, GSP will celebrate the Autumnal Equinox with a Celestial Celebration during the Spirit Now service. This is the time when the nights and the day are of almost exactly equal length, because Earth's rotational axis is neither tilted away from nor towards the Sun.

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. While we welcome shortening days and the promise of cooler temperatures, it is likely to still be quite warm, so 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.

# Greetings from Our Senior Warden

By Marjorie King

IT WAS JUST LAST SUMMER that I attended my first worship service at Grace St. Paul's. My husband, Jim Steinman, and I were looking for an activist church. Months earlier, I had started volunteering in the GSP Radical Hospitality program as a part of my immigration advocacy work in several local organizations. We knew of the refugee support work and the many fine concerts here. The rich diversity of activities for all ages advertised on your bulletin boards excited us.

Parishioners seemed to really walk the Jesus talk through Joseph's Pantry and the bread ministry. However, before that first Sunday, we were unprepared for GSP's spiritual impact on us. The life-affirming liturgy, the variety of music, the passion of the sermon, the participation of the congregation in all aspects of the service answered needs in us that we didn't know we had!

Sunday mornings became the highlight of our week and we sought opportunities to support our new church. Well, as they say, be careful what you wish for! In the fall, Jim was asked to be the co-coordinator of the annual Giving and Receiving campaign while I participate in the Radical Hospitality Committee and the nursery. This spring, I was asked to serve as the temporary Senior Warden for the remainder of the year. With a big gulp and a prayer, I accepted.

The following three months in my new

position have been very rewarding for me. Although I served on the vestry of another church, as Senior Warden at GSP I've learned a lot about the many tasks needed to run a well-functioning church. I marvel at the daily dedication of staff and volunteers and am honored to be one of you. I have a whole new understanding of your commitment to the vision given us by example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

As the Senior Warden, I am the right hand of Father Steve. I prepare the agendas for the executive committee meetings on the second Tuesday evening of the month, and the vestry on the fourth Tuesday evening of the month. Sometimes during Father Steve's absence I make decisions on my own, such as the recent afternoon heat respite for our homeless friends in McBride Hall. Usually, I prefer collaborative leadership, which depends on good communication between us.

If you have an item you wish to bring up to the church leaders, please contact me at [seniorwarden@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:seniorwarden@grace-stpauls.org). I also enjoy chatting during coffee hour or whenever you see me around. (Wearing your nametag helps me to learn everyone's name more quickly, too.)

Together on the journey,

*Margie*

## Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,  
Director of Music



**S**TRENGTHEN FOR SERVICE, GOD, the hands and voices of the Grace St. Paul's choir as we begin another season. There are many competing attractions in this ever-connected world, but nothing beats singing for a full tune-up of body and spirit.

If you like to sing and would care to join us, the choir rehearses in the chancel on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. (7 to 9 p.m. during Advent and Lent) and again on Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. before the 10 a.m. service. We do a broad range of musical styles and composers, from early to contemporary, although some of the music we call "contemporary" is pretty much 40 years old now. Please come give it a try. We have a good time.

Many thanks to the singers and players who enlivened our worship during the summer as the choir took its much-needed break. We return restored and refreshed, or at least not bitter and resentful, like our cats if we're home late to feed them. In order of appearance and listed once (some participated more than one Sunday), we thank **Wesley Hunter; Susan Marcus, Harlan Hokin, and Spencer Hunter; Karen Hanson and Fr. Richard Mallory; Dave Coatsworth and Bruce Anderson; Adam Conyne; James Neeley and Rosalie Cassiday; Mark Jarvis; Greg Swanson; Michael Manning and Pamela Dellal; Winifred Williams; Sally Lefko, Steve Smith, Teresa Finley, Jane George, Sue Roberts, Roger Sperline, and Sylvia Payne; Ann Stephens; and Don Lundy, John Camm, and Sam Brown.**

We ease into the first Sunday on Sept. 9 with the Hans Leo Hassler setting of *Cantate Domino* for the offertory, which is one of those pieces everyone can sing almost without looking at the music. With only one rehearsal beforehand, you need a piece like that for the kickoff. Then, for communion, **Barbara Pritchard and Susan Marcus** will sing "He shall feed his flock/Come unto me" from Handel's *Messiah*, and aren't we lucky to have them!

On Sept. 16, we'll get our Shaker vibe going and sing "Followers of the Lamb," arranged by Philip Dietterich. He changed the text "I'm glad I am a Shaker" to "I'm glad I am a Christian" and we'll change it to "I'm glad I am beloved"

unless I think of something better. The scores are from that era when publishers thought it was cool to print in brown ink, maybe to go with the brown bell-bottom suits. It looks pretty against the buff paper and is almost legible. If we need more rehearsal time, I'll come up with Plan B. For communion, we'll sing "Lord of the Dance," another Shaker tune arranged by Sydney Carter. Lots of dancing involved. Feel free.

Our offertory anthem on Sept. 23 is one of my favorites—"The Lamb," by John Tavener, on a text by William Blake. It links with the Epistle adjuring us to be pure, peaceful and merciful and to the Gospel inviting us to welcome the little child. The communion anthem is "The Harvest of Justice" by David Haas. I rather like the Proverbs reading—a capable wife is more precious than jewels. Maybe I'll try that on at home.

The last Sunday in September happens to be the last Sunday in our traditional understanding of Late Pentecost. On Oct. 7, we begin the Season of Creation, which is slightly out of phase with other churches. Many celebrate Creation during the month of September, but we carve out the Sundays from the Feast of St. Francis to the Last Sunday after Pentecost, essentially the months of October and November. The lectionary readings commence with Esther, so for the offertory I whipped out "Coplas de Purim," a Sephardic piece of great antiquity from Tangiers, Morocco. It is in Ladino, a Judeo-Spanish language carried with the Jews expelled from Spain in 1492, after the forces of the Catholic monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, gained control of all Spanish territories. It is estimated that there are currently some 160,000-300,000 Ladino speakers worldwide. For communion we will sing "Let my prayer come up" by 17th c. Anglican composer John Blow.

Many blessings for late summer. I won't say early fall, because that never happens in September, does it? Our early fall is somewhere around the middle of November.

Peace,

*Christina*

Love Self  Love Neighbor  Love God.



The Love First Curriculum has arrived!

## Children, Youth & Family Report

**S**UNDAY, SEPT. 9, the first day of Children's Formation for the fall/winter seasons, we are embarking on a new adventure as a pilot site for *Love First*, a children's ministry framework designed by Colette Potts at Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church. As a family therapist and author of *Love First: A Children's Ministry for the Whole Church*, Potts helps parishes reframe children's formation around the gifts that we are uniquely equipped to offer: diverse, intergenerational community and opportunities for service.

The curriculum has a few basic principles, two of which are: that parents want to raise kind, grateful, and caring children; and the only thing we need to raise them is ourselves.

*Love First* incorporates bible stories, service, prayer, and the gifts of our community into an intergenerational, mission-focused program specifically tailored to each church. There is no replacement for real community building; if we trust that we are the people our children need, and trust that our children have gifts to share with us, we can build a children's ministry through the blessings we already have in one another.

Sunday morning hanging out with the bears



We are still looking for a few leaders/parents to help teach a class once a month. No experience necessary, just the gifts and talents you already have.

I hope you and your families will be part of this exciting new adventure! Please come and check it out, Sunday Sept. 9!

### Important Dates:

Sept. 2—Labor Day weekend, no classes

Sept. 9—First day for fall/winter seasons and the start of *Love First*

### Social Services Ministry

We are taking a tour Thursday, Sept. 13. We will meet at the church and carpool downtown. Everyone is invited!

Contact Pastor Kimberlee ([pastorkimberlee@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:pastorkimberlee@grace-stpauls.org)), or the parish office, 520-327-6857, or her cell, 970-390-9729.

**YOU'RE INVITED**

**COME & SEE**

how Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest creates community solutions.



## Parish Focus

# Dianne Gundersen: 'Gumdrop'

By Ann Schlumberger

**D**IANNE GUNDERSEN HAS experienced much variety in her life's journey. She worked as an auditor for a CPA firm, served as policewoman during the Detroit riots, worked as a marine cargo surveyor and arson/fraud investigator for an international insurance company, and was a volunteer clown for the Shriners. Her final and favorite position was being a rural mail carrier in Arizona.



Dianne Gundersen

An only child, Dianne was born May 24, 1945, in St. Louis. Her father worked for an insurance company, and the family moved whenever he was promoted. Thus she attended elementary school in Indiana and high school in Dearborn, Michigan. Being athletic by nature, she participated in varsity tennis during her high school years.

Estranged from her parents, Dianne was active in the anti-war events of the

1960's and '70's. She was often homeless as she worked her way through college. Imbued with the spirit of the '60's, she is particularly proud of co-creating, while she attended college, the first federal work-study program at a religious institution. Representing the Canterbury Club at Western Michigan University, she established a lunchtime soup kitchen and, later, a weekend

folk music cabaret. Both were crewed by Canterbury-sponsored work-study students. By the time she left the school, what had started as a one-employee project (herself), had evolved into a program employing 30 work-study students.

While completing her college studies, she also served as directress of what was "a very Anglo Catholic Altar Guild" at the chapel. She also provided anti-draft counseling, an activity that led to the police being required to have a warrant in hand before they could to set foot on the chapel property—"Like GSP," Dianne says, "only 46 years earlier!"

With her major in Business Administration completed, Dianne went to work for a CPA firm, where she worked as an auditor for 5 years. Craving more physical activity and a more varied routine, she set off on a different professional journey: serving as a marine cargo surveyor for agents of Lloyd's of London. After a Lloyd's-insured ship passed through customs, Dianne would climb down into the ship's holds to discover if any of the cargo was damaged and if so, to determine the cause. With this information in hand, she could then process the claim. She never knew what she'd be required to do the next day. Occasionally she was sent to investigate cargo outside of the U.S.A. Her motto was "Have evidence bag and camera, will travel."

After relocating to Tucson, Dianne became interested in joining the Border Patrol, but failed the age requirement, having applied one month too late. Instead, she became a police officer in Tucson. Thinking her duties would be to investigate arson and fraud, she soon discovered that her assigned role was, instead, "to intimidate minorities as a patrol officer." This was not only totally against her personal ethics; it also violated the psychological and sociological principles of modern policing. She resigned and moved on to work for the public library, then took a job as the tech assigned to the Pima County jail. Subsequently she hired on to work as a rural mail carrier. This, of all her occupations, was her favorite.

Now a retiree, Dianne keeps busy, enjoying

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**Parish Focus**

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activities such as participating in the local Ladies Oriental Shrine, where she was eventually chosen as their leader: “High Priestess for Southern Arizona.” She also took on the role of a clown named “Gumdrop,” one of a group of clowns carrying out outreach for the organization. The group, Dianne says, would visit nursing homes where they would put on skits and entertain those confined to bed. Her favorite memory, which she will never forget, is the time when, waving to one apparently comatose patient, she saw the man smile in response. His family said that his smile was the first indication they’d had that he was conscious. As a result, they told her they would no longer consider “pulling the plug” on him. She believes she may have saved his life.

It was through her participation in Shriners that Dianne met Les Skates, a retired Marine Corps sergeant major. He was a bartender as well as head of refreshments for the Sabbar Shrine. The two married in 1998 and thoroughly enjoyed life together until his death in 2010.

Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2000 at age 55, plucky Dianne has continued to be as active as possible. Only in the past year has she had to rely on a wheelchair to get around.

She describes herself as a “never-missed-church-on-Sunday” sort of person. While she attends Grace St. Paul’s, she is a 38-year member of St. Michael’s and All Angels Episcopal Church, and a charter member of that parish’s Community of Hope (COH) chapter, which is an organization devoted to pastoral care. One year, she served as St. Michael’s and GSP’s representative at the COH national convention.

At GSP, Dianne participates in our Social Services ministry. She is a stalwart attendee at the Thursday morning Bible lectionary study class and is a member of Fr. Breckenridge’s Karate class. And this busy lady still finds time to volunteer at the VA and TIHAN!

*Social Media Sunday 2018*

**Living a Digital Faith**

**W**HETHER WE LIKE IT OR not, social media is here to stay. For example, as of January 2018, Facebook had over 2 billion active users. Instagram, growing faster than any other social media platform, has 800 million active users.

On **Sunday, Sept. 30**, the Episcopal Church will celebrate Social Media Sunday 2018 (**#SMS2018**) to encourage members to use social media to share the “good news” and for the church be a voice in the wider digital conversation. At GSP, we are inviting our members to consider participating in one or more ways. Here are some suggestions:

- Take a photo at GSP and post it on your own social media account. It could be a selfie, or a group photo of friends, or an image of GSP that makes you smile.
- Tweet or post on Facebook a line from the sermon or a prayer or hymn in the service that moves you.
- Check-in online from GSP to let people know where you are.
- In every social media post, remember to include **#SMS2018**.

- Write a review of GSP on Yelp ([yelp.com/biz/grace-st-pauls-episcopal-church-tucson](http://yelp.com/biz/grace-st-pauls-episcopal-church-tucson)) or Facebook ([facebook.com/GraceStPauls](http://facebook.com/GraceStPauls)).



As a congregation, we have some ideas up our sleeve for **#SMS2018**, including the possibility of live-streaming the peace on Facebook at the 10 o’clock service and a “sanctuary selfie” taken by the Rector with the congregation in the background! Also, there will be a discussion at 9 a.m. in the Bloom Room on the role of social media in the individual and collective life of faith. We hope you will join us!

*Please contact Catherine Penn Williams through the church office (520-327-6857) if you have any additional ideas, questions or concerns.*



## Nourishing Spirits Returns for a Third Season!

*GSP's Small Groups Program for 2018-2019*

**A**RE YOU A NEWCOMER to the GSP community? Have you been around for decades but want to get to know new people? Would you just like to deepen your roots at GSP, make new friends or create a support system? What feeds you spiritually? Do you have questions about Christianity?

Nourishing Spirits, begun in 2016, is returning for a third season! This small group program is designed to help participants find a greater sense of belonging, feel more rooted at GSP, and share about their spiritual journeys. As in previous years, participants will be divided into small groups that will gather six times (approximately once a month) between October 2018 and May 2019 for dinner and discussion.

Here's how it works:

- People sign up to participate and are assigned to a small group. Each small group will meet together six times between Oct 2018 and May 2019.

- Group size will be limited to 8 persons and will close after the first meeting.
- Each group will meet the first time for dinner at the home of their coordinator/ host sometime in the last two weeks of October.
- For following meetings, group members will determine the dates, locations and how they wish to handle meals.
- Each group meeting will also include a discussion about a spiritual topic.

See what previous participants have said about Nourishing Spirits:

- "Our group developed a nice camaraderie. I looked forward to seeing the others each time we met."
- "I have participated both years and am looking forward to another year. Please continue this valuable program."
- "Keep the program going. People get to know each other and that is good."

*Stay tuned for more information about how to register. Contact Catherine Williams at [adulded@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:adulded@grace-stpauls.org) if you have any questions!*



## Blessing of our Companion Animals 2018

**O**ur relationship to animals is sacred and blessed. Grace St. Paul's celebrates and blesses our relationship to animals every year through the Blessing of Companion Animals.

From our service bulletin: "The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life. From the beginning animals have been an integral part of God's world and animals have been God's metaphor of life and love. Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah. A giant fish saved Jonah; ravens brought bread to Elijah; animals were included in the repentance enjoined on humans. The metaphors of God as a mother hen and Jesus as the good shepherd confirm for us the sacred

in the animal kingdom. Animals also share in Christ's redemption of all of God's creation. We therefore invoke the divine blessing on these animals, recalling Francis of Assisi. As we do so, let us praise the Creator and thank the Creator for giving humanity the special vocation of being caretakers of all of the world's animal population. May we always remember our great responsibility as caretakers of creation and seek always to walk in God's path."

To honor the special relationship between you and your pet(s), you are invited to be a part of the annual Blessing of Animals, **Sunday, Oct. 7, at 5 p.m.**, on the labyrinth.

Everyone and their companion animals are welcome: lizards, horses, cats, dogs, hamsters, and all animals not listed. It's a fun time! For animals who have crossed over, bring your favorite picture.

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH: SUNDAYS @ 9 &amp; 11:45 a.m.

**NO CLASSES FOR ADULTS ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 2****Exploring Today's Lectionary through Lectio Divina****Sunday, Sept. 9, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

Interested in a method that makes scripture accessible and relevant? Join us as we dive into the intrigue of scripture by looking at the lectionary readings for this Sunday. After reviewing the background of the Epistle reading from St. James and the Gospel reading from St. Mark, we shall use the *Lectio Divina* method with the *Message* paraphrase of the appointed readings. *Lectio Divina* has its roots in the third and fourth centuries. From the Benedictine perspective, Richard Rohr describes this method of reading scripture as one that looks for wisdom instead of quick answers. It says, "What does this text ask of me? How can I change because of this story?"

*Presented by Chuck Dickson, a member of the adult spiritual formation ministry team. Chuck is a retired history teacher and one of our most popular presenters.*

**Spiritual Practices (Part 5): Service****Sunday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

Consider the possibility that service isn't just something we do for other people. Service changes us by shifting our time, attention and resources to something other than ourselves. How might practicing intentional acts of service change your perspective? Your neighborhood? Your work place? Your community? Join us for a discussion of these and other questions as we explore service as a spiritual practice.

*Victoria Stefani is a writer, artist, and scholar of literature, folklore, and mythology. She has taught literature, cultural studies, and writing at the University of Arizona and Humboldt State University. With her husband Joe she moved to Tucson in 1992; they have been part of the Grace St. Paul's community since 2013.*

**The Challenge of Paul (Part 7):****The Long-Distance Apostle****Sunday, Sept. 16, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Room****The Challenge of Paul (Part 8):****The God-Worshippers****Sunday, Sept. 23, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

What if most of what we've been taught about the Apostle Paul is wrong? In the same way the radical Jesus was tamed into a transfigured being floating in the clouds, a radical Paul has been historically defamed as a woman hater, puritan, and homophobe who was also sympathetic to slavery. In this series of classes utilizing short videos and discussion, we will see how John Dominic Crossan, Irish-American New Testament scholar and historian of early Christianity, recasts Paul as the itinerant teacher who invited Romans and Jews into a life of resistance against Rome's oppressive regime of economic exploitation and occupational violence. Crossan's progressive biblical scholarship invites us to go deeper into the life of the first century missionary who imagined a human community in which all people, Jews, Gentiles, male, female, slave and free — in other words, everyone is invited to a common table around which everyone has enough.

*Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams, a longtime presenter and small group leader for the adult spiritual programs at GSP. In the world she is a Jungian-oriented psychotherapist in private practice.*

**Jordan Peterson and Christianity****Sunday, Sept. 23, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Room**

Jordan Peterson is a psychologist, writer, and lecturer who has emerged as a controversial though arguably strong voice in the contemporary culture debate. This class will explore Peterson's views on religion in general and Christianity in particular, along with the debate those views have engendered, through his lectures,

**Report on General Convention 2018****Sunday, Sept. 9, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Room**

Every three years, the Episcopal Church gathers in the largest democratic assembly in the world to discuss, debate, and deliberate on issues affecting the church and the world. This year, the two houses of our legislature met in Austin, Texas from July 4 to 13. Some 450 pieces of legislation were considered. Our Rector was a deputy to this year's Convention. He will share with us the high and low lights of the frenetic ten days in Austin. We will discuss *Prayer Book* revision, same-sex marriage revisions, the new emphasis in the Church on the Care of Creation, Evangelism, and Racial Reconciliation, and dozens of other topics that will affect all of us directly at GSP. There will also be meaningful discussion around the pigeons that stayed with us all ten days and whether they were actually physical manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Some may want to talk about how **Steve+** will be able to concentrate on legislation at the next General Convention, which will be held in Baltimore, two blocks from Camden Yards. There will also be plenty of opportunity for questions to find out more about your favorite issue, as well as a discussion about how we will implement changes at GSP.

*Presented by the Rev. Steve Keplinger who was a deputy to the 2018 General Convention of the Episcopal Church.*



interviews, and panel discussions. The facilitator will assemble pertinent video clips and lead a conversation.

*Presenter Anton Faynberg is an itinerant scholar, part-time philosopher, half-time musician, full-time jester. His interests include literature, poetry, music, and religion. He loves the warmth.*

### Uniquely American Religions: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)

**Sunday, Sept. 30, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Room**

According to church records, LDS church membership has grown every decade since its beginnings in the 1830s and it is among the top ten largest Christian denominations in the U.S. Mormons have been both admired and reviled; from 1838 until 1975, it was technically legal to kill a Mormon in the state of Missouri! This class will provide a look at the LDS Church, including its theology and history, beginning with Joseph Smith in 1830, through the pioneer period, to practices of the church today.

*Victoria Stefani is a writer, artist, and scholar of literature, folklore, and mythology. She has taught literature, cultural studies, and writing at the University of Arizona and Humboldt State University. With her husband Joe she moved to Tucson in 1992; they have been part of the Grace St Paul's community since 2013.*



### Social Media Sunday 2018:

#### Living Our Faith Online

**Sunday, Sept. 30, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

Whether we like it or not, social media is here to stay. Today the Episcopal Church celebrates Social Media Sunday 2018 (#SMS2018) as a way to engage members in using social media to share the "good news." Join us for this class and discussion about how social media impacts our lives, our faith journeys and spiritual practices as we consider what a healthy, life-giving relationship to social media might look like.

*Catherine Penn Williams is fascinated by the intersection between faith and social media. She is a frequent presenter for the ASF ministry at GSP.*

## THIRD FRIDAY FALL FILM SERIES

This fall we're showing independent films that tell stories of people who make transformative connections with others, in unexpected ways and surprising places. There is no charge, and a discussion follows each film. Bring a friend!

### The Station Agent (2003)

**Friday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room**

In this award-winning comedy-drama, the life of an unsociable train aficionado, Finbar McBride (Peter

Dinklage), takes an unexpected turn when his boss dies and leaves him an abandoned railroad depot in New Jersey. Fin decides to relocate to the small town, where he reluctantly befriends talkative food vendor Joe (Bobby Cannavale) and unhappy wife Olivia (Patricia Clarkson). As the trio's interactions deepen, relationships are formed, and each of their lives is transformed.

*Catherine and Steve Williams, film enthusiasts, will facilitate the film discussions.*

## MAKING CONNECTIONS: SMALL GROUPS @ GSP

### GSP Readers Group: *The Snow Leopard*

#### by Peter Matthiessen

**Friday, Sept. 14, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Room**

*The Snow Leopard* (1978), a beautiful true account of a wildlife research trek into the Himalayas, reads like a novel. It's rich with sensory detail — capturing the sights, tastes, smells, sounds and textures of the author's journey as well as his observations and feelings along the way... In addition, there's an eco-spiritual aspect to the book. As he travels, Matthiessen grieves the loss of his wife and seeks to deepen his Buddhist meditation. This colors his observations and the snow leopard becomes a metaphor for the author's spiritual quest." (Winner of the National Book Award)

*For more information, please contact Victoria Stefani at 520-743-3978.*

### Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys

**Mondays, beginning Sept. 10, 10 a.m.-noon, Bloom Room**

Every week, we focus on a different intersection between spirituality, religion, and culture. The topics vary and there's always a lively discussion. Each session stands alone and all are welcome. No registration is necessary. *No meeting on Monday, Sept. 3.*

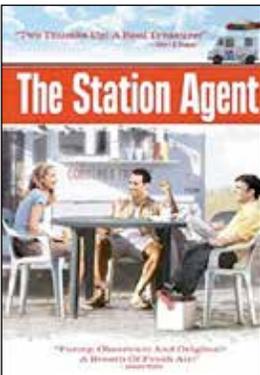
*Co-facilitated by Jim Franks and Catherine Penn Williams.*

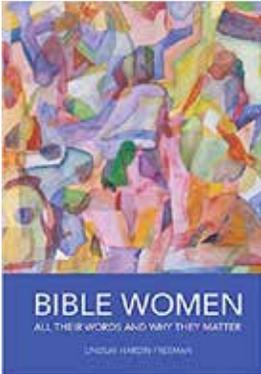
### Between the Lines

**Thursdays, 10 a.m., Bloom Room**

Join Fr. Richard Mallory for a lectionary Bible study on Thursdays. Besides providing a solid approach from biblical studies, the class offers a depth psychological take on the passage at hand. We encourage you to attend a meeting to get a taste of the class and to help you decide if this group is for you. No registration is necessary.

*Fr. Mallory is Associate Rector at Grace St. Paul's.*





## Bible Women

**Fridays, Sept. 7 & 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Bloom 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 Friday. No registration is necessary and participants are welcome to join the group at any time.

For more information contact Victoria Stefani, 520-743-3978 or [vstefani@email.arizona.edu](mailto:vstefani@email.arizona.edu).

## Saturday Java Jive: Coffee & Conversation

**Saturdays, 9-11 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. There is actually no one in charge of this group and it's been thriving for 10 years in spite of—or maybe because of—that fact. Come join us!

## Creativity & Spirituality

**Saturdays, beginning Sept. 1 through Nov. 3, 2-4 p.m., Bloom Room**

Join us any first Saturday and share your creative journey with others who want to awaken and enliven their art. Our creative cluster meets to support one another by taking some time out each month to explore our art and spiritual life. Each meeting includes check-in, writing for a short burst of time to a word prompt, reflection and sharing, and then a group art exercise. Class limit 18 people.

Email Denise Mulloy [demulloy@gmail.com](mailto:demulloy@gmail.com) or Pat Dickson [patriciasdickson@yahoo.com](mailto:patriciasdickson@yahoo.com) for more information.



## Mowatt satirizes American obsession with 'Fashion'

September's First Friday Play Reading features a script by Anna Cora Mowatt, a major female playwright of the 19th century. She is generally regarded as a significant contributor to the development of American drama.

Her most successful play is "Fashion," produced on Broadway in 1845. Imaginative and articulate, this play satirizes the obsession of Americans with European clothing fashions. French fashions and nobility are skewered as they are adopted by an American upper-class family.

Mowatt, raised Episcopalian and coming from a socially prominent family, was the first upper-middle-class woman to make a

public career in the theater, and her successes helped to legitimize acting as an occupation for women.

Please join us on **Friday, Sept. 7, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Bloom Room to read if you wish or participate as "audience;" scripts are provided.

Sharon McKenzie and Nanalee Raphael, both long-time theatre aficionados, are the facilitators. This script is suitable for folks of all ages.

*There is no admission charge, however a donation of canned food such as hearty soup, ravioli, chili or tuna for the Joseph's Food Pantry at Grace St. Paul's would be greatly appreciated.*



# 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  
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Youth Group

#### 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  
7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation

#### WEDNESDAYS

7 a.m., Holy Communion  
10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters  
4:30 p.m., Spirit Dojo

#### THURSDAYS

10 a.m., Bridge Group  
10:30 a.m., *Between the Lines*  
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  
10 a.m., Grief Group

### What's Happening in September 2018...

**1st** 2 p.m., Creativity & Spirituality group  
**2nd** 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation  
2 p.m., St. Andrew's Bach Society  
**3rd** **LABOR DAY** 🇺🇸  
(Parish office closed)  
10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*  
**5th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry  
7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**  
**6th** 6 p.m., **Spirit Song**  
**7th** 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**  
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading  
**9th** 9 a.m., *Exploring Today's Lectionary through 'Lectio Divina'*  
11:45 a.m., *Report on General Convention 2018*  
**10th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*  
**12th** 4 p.m., Foundation for Episcopal Campus Ministry  
4:30 p.m., Children & Family Karate  
**14th** 9:30 a.m., **GSP Readers Group**  
6 p.m., Arizona Opera  
**15th** 6:30 p.m., Southern Arizona Friends of Jung  
**16th** 9 a.m., *Spiritual Practices*  
11:45 a.m., *The Challenge of Paul*  
**17th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*  
**19th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry  
4:30 p.m., Children & Family Karate  
**20th** **Autumnal Equinox Spirit Now**  
**21st** 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**

6:30 p.m., Film & Fellowship  
**23rd** 9 a.m., *The Challenge of Paul*  
11:45 a.m., *Jordan Peterson & Christianity*  
1 p.m., Primavera cooking team  
**24th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*  
**25th** 9 a.m., Primavera meals group

12:30 p.m., TiHAN Volunteer Orientation  
6:30 p.m., **Vestry Meeting**  
**26th** 4:30 p.m., Children & Family Karate  
**28th** 12 noon, Opera Guild of Southern Arizona  
**30th** 9 a.m., *Social Media Sunday 2018*  
11:45 a.m., *Uniquely American Religions*

### ... And in October 2018

**1st** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*  
**2nd** 6 p.m., Anton & John's Group  
**3rd** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry  
4:30 p.m., Children & Family Karate  
7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**  
**4th** 6 p.m., **Spirit Song**  
**5th** 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**  
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading  
**6th** 2 p.m., Creativity & Spirituality group  
**7th** **FIRST SUNDAY IN CREATION SEASON**  
9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation  
5 p.m., **Blessing of the Animals**  
**8th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*  
1 p.m., TiHAN C&S Training  
**9th** 6 p.m., Anton & John's group  
**10th** 4:30 p.m., Children & Family Karate  
**12th** 9:30 a.m., **GSP Readers Group**  
**13th** 9 a.m., Southern Arizona Friends of Jung  
**14th** 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation  
3 p.m., AZ Opera  
**15th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*  
**16th** 6 p.m., Anton & John's group  
**17th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry  
4:30 p.m., Children & Family Karate  
**19th** 10:30 a.m., **Bible Women**  
6:30 p.m., **Film & Fellowship**  
**21st** 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation  
1:30 p.m., True Concord  
**22nd** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*  
**23rd** 9 a.m., Primavera Meals Group  
6 p.m., Anton & John's group  
6:30 p.m., **Vestry Meeting**  
**24th** 4:30 p.m., Children & Family Karate  
**28th** 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation  
1 p.m., Primavera cooking team  
2 p.m., Arizona Early Music Society  
**29th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*  
**30th** 6 p.m., Anton & John's group  
**31st** 4:30 p.m., Children & Family Karate