



The Briefly

June/July 2011

The monthly newsletter for the community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Rector's Letter

Like many of you, and like so many others in our denomination, I came to the Episcopal church from a different tradition. For the most part, that transition was an easy one. I found that Anglicanism responded positively to virtually all of the theological conundrums with which I had previously struggled. But there was one particular practice in some Episcopal churches that threw me for a loop. In fact, I remember literally choking the first time I heard about it. A priest was telling me about what his church did in the summer months. "We just kind of shut everything down. We go on vacation."

He did not mean that they did not continue to worship, of course. But he did mean that most other activities were severely curtailed. I was baffled. "Where do the kids go without Sunday School?" I wanted to know. "How do people get social services? How does the church community continue to care for and feed one another? How do we teach the notion that worship is a springboard for us to experience God in our daily lives and live into God's realm, if we offer people no way to serve and care for others in the summer? How do we create God's beloved community if we force the community to disperse come June every year?"

I also found it telling that this same priest, come September and October, found it perplexing that a portion of the congregation did not come back. He also wondered why he could not seem to get the community to connect on anything but a surface level. I wonder.

All of us need a break of course, and I will be the first to encourage all of you to take some vacation time, which should include some time away from GSP. But the notion that religious practice is a nine-month experience, suggests something far beyond a sabbatical. The idea that we should fold up our church tents sounds to me like we have bought

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The idea that we should fold up our church tents sounds like we have bought into our culture's understanding of religion...



Fr. Steve with newcomer Laura Chase (second from right) with partner Clare and son Matthew at May's first Newcomer Dinner. See Page 2.

Rector's Letter

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into our culture's understanding of religion. It suggests that we too think religion is something we do on Sundays, and then head back into our "real lives."

That, of course, is the opposite of how we understand faith at Grace St. Paul's. We are here so that every aspect of our lives will be saturated with God's presence. That cannot happen if we go minimalist every summer. That is why we will not be disappearing in any way, shape or form this summer. Our programs and activities will change as we live into the lazy, hazy days of the season, but they will be just as spirit filled, just as energizing and just as centered in bringing light and life to our community.

For example, Sunday school is changing for the summer, as we create a more relaxed

and fun atmosphere for our children, but it is not going away. We will have a one-room schoolhouse setting, but it will be just as engaging as always. Our adult education program will be in full force with some great learning opportunities. We will also offer a fun movie series. We will be *adding* a new service, a summer candlelight Compline service. We will have a very exciting summer camp for kids in August. We are also planning a church picnic for July. And wait until you experience our *hoop-de-doo* Pentecost service on June 12. (*Hoop-de-doo* is an accepted liturgical term, you can look it up.)

So read on and learn about all the great activities coming up. Let us continue to live into the Spirit, serving and caring for one another all summer and beyond.

Shalom,

— Steve +

Briefly Deadline & Editor's Comments

It warms our hearts to see so many new projects and ministries communicating through *The Briefly*. Keep it up! ... and just so you will know a little more about what we need here, I'll fill you in on the time table. Each month we ask for your articles the Monday before the last weekend of the month, (unless the last weekend is the last *day* of the month... whew... too close!), therefore the next deadline is **Monday, July 18**, for the August issue. By the following weekend we do edit and paste-up, and if you are not in before that you could miss us – so sad.

Reminder: regular contributors e-mail articles to the lead editor, Lynda Canfield. First-timers go to Craig Garver, and Calendar entries go to Wendy Pipentacos. Any commonly used word processing format is acceptable, but Craig says it's easiest if you simply paste the article into an e-mail. If you do not have access to a computer, call the parish office and ask if there is a volunteer who can help you type it into an electronic file.

New Activities Coming This Summer

by *The Rev. Kate Baird*

Candlelight Compline: In the Anglican tradition, Compline or Night Prayer is the final service of the day and is designed to be a contemplative service that emphasizes spiritual peace. Outside under the stars, amid candlelight and Gregorian and Taize chants we will explore this early Christian practice. Compline will be held at 8 P.M. on the first and third Sundays of the month starting June 5th. Come join us in the garden for a visually and spiritually uplifting experience.

20 & 30 Group: Are you between the ages of twenty and thirty, spiritual in nature and looking for fun on a Sunday?

Then come join the newly forming 20 & 30 Group at GSP. We will meet on the first Sunday of every month at 5:30 P.M. in the Bloom Room. Expect trips to baseball games, restaurants, open mic nights, coffee and more. Hope to see you there!

Film & Fellowship: In response to congregation request, a Film & Fellowship Festival begins on June 17 in the Bloom Room. At 6:30 P.M. on the third Friday of each month come watch a film, share fellowship and food. Films will cover a wide variety of topics from politics to romance. Whether it's popcorn or spirited conversation it is sure to be a hoot.



Newcomer's Dinner

by *Michael Allen*

Michael and Kathy Allen hosted the first newcomer's dinner with Father Steve and Jean Keplinger on May 1. Six newcomers attended (Laura Chase with partner Clare and son Matthew; Johanna Rentschier (whose daughter Lily was baptized on Easter Sunday); and Rad Fann, along with GSP members Jean Smart and Lil Donovan. The small setting enabled everyone to interact in a relaxed atmosphere.

A newcomer's dinner is a wonderful opportunity not only to get to know people who are new to GSP, but also to provide a chance for those of us who have been seeing each other in the pews for a long time to get to know each other. More small dinner gatherings in the homes of GSP members are being planned in the near future, and we hope everyone will have an opportunity to participate.

Liturgy Discussion of the Month

by *The Rev. Steve Keplinger*



GSP Family Picnic!

What: The next annual GSP Picnic.

When: Sunday, July 3, after the 10 a.m. service.

What: Hot dogs on the grill (veggie dog included), coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans and ice cream treats. Family fun! Games for the children and youth.

Where: McBride Hall inside and outside.

Bring: Just yourselves, an appetite, and a little money: \$5 suggested donation per person. Children under 12 free. Max suggested donation of \$15 for a family.

Proceeds benefit Community of Hope, our pastoral care ministry.

The Creedal Statement

One of the regular elements of a Sunday or major feast day worship service is the Creed. The historical Creed that is called for on these occasions in the 1979 Prayer Book is the Nicene Creed.

The roots of the Nicene Creed go back to The Council of Nicaea in 325 C.E. After Constantine converted to Christianity and made it the official religion of the Roman empire, he realized that there were a host of different belief systems throughout Christendom. He felt a need to define orthodoxy and bring everyone into the same system of beliefs. He called together all of the Bishops of the church to do just this, metaphorically locking them in the Council until they had come up with one document that captured right belief. The result was the Nicene Creed. That first creed was much shorter than the one we use now. The present version was apparently finished in subsequent conversations following that first council. We have finished versions dating to 374.

The main theological discussions facing the church in the fourth century are very obvious in the Creed. For example, Trinitarian

controversies were the order of the day, and the Bishops went to great pains to describe the relationship among Father, Son and Holy Spirit. People were killed when their understanding of Christ's relationship to the Father and the Holy Spirit differed from the majority. There was also a strong need to describe in the Creed how we could be monotheistic, while believing in these separate "substances" of God.

The Nicene Creed is so important to our tradition because it reminds us of what was critical to some of the earliest founders of our tradition. However it is also true that our theology has continued to evolve and develop way past the issues of the early church.

That is why we utilize the Nicene Creed at Grace St. Paul's to connect us with our ancient tradition. But we also make use of more contemporary versions of the Creed to help all of us wrestle with the issues that envelop us in our understanding of faith today. We, like the Bishops of the fourth century, are called to define our own faith. The best way to do that in my mind is to learn from the past by staying connected to it, but also to realize that our faith must grow way beyond the struggles of 1700 years ago. By exposing ourselves to new expressions of faith based on the ancient tradition, I believe we are doing just that.

Pentecost Sunday

by *The Rev. Steve Keplinger*

This year, we celebrated Easter as late in the year as ever occurs in our liturgical calendar. That means that Pentecost is yet to be celebrated. It happens on June 12.

The day of Pentecost is one of only seven principal feast days in the church. It marks the day when Christianity became a reality. Pentecost means "fiftieth" and is celebrated fifty days after Easter as the birthday of the church, marking the moment when thousands became aware that though Jesus was dead, Christ still lived and is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. In some ways, Pentecost is even more important to us than Easter, because it is this day that marks the birth of our tradition.

Here at Grace St. Paul's, Pentecost will

therefore be one of the grandest celebrations of the year. Be prepared for a service that will move your spirit in many ways. We have many liturgical surprises in store for you this year, as we metaphorically bring to you the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, the wind and

tongues of fire. We don't want to give anything away at this point, but let me just say that if you liked our youth recognition service on May 15, Pentecost is going to completely "blow you away." (See what I did there?) Seriously, this is a service you will not want to miss for any reason.

The festival color in our liturgical tradition is red, making Pentecost the day of red, red, red everywhere. Come join the celebration and do not forget to wear red. See you on June 12, and be prepared to experience the full power of our tradition.



Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis, Director of Music



It's been an action-packed church year and it isn't over yet. Pentecost is June 12, which means the choir will be in the chancel at least two weeks longer than usual. We

were fortunate that most of our winter-visitor choristers were able to stay through Easter. We needed them, too. There was a lot of music for Holy Week and Easter, and it required a critical mass of singers to make it happen. Thanks to all the choir members for hanging in there. Pray you folks in the pews never find out what we would do without them. I do (pray, that is), frequently.

We have more to cover before the season ends. It's an eclectic mix, with a foretaste of summer. For the communion anthem on May 22 we will sing one of my favorite weird little hymns that the congregation never sings, called "New Dance" by Robert Wetzel. The text is a poem by W.H. Auden: "He is the Way. Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness; you will see rare beasts and have unique adventures." Or, on the other hand, you could stop taking that stuff and see if it clears up.

On May 29, we observed Memorial Day with the Jean Ritchie song, "Flowers of Joy," with a solo by Wendy Pipentacos. The piece was written during the Vietnam War, but it is all too appropriate now, unfortunately. The Lieto Ensemble, directed by Jane Click, also played on May 29. Winifred Williams has written a piece for Ascension called "And He Breathed on Them." How handy that the choir has its own composers. We will also do the Holst "Let all mortal flesh keep silence," postponed from earlier in the year.

Not all the musicians are in the chancel; a number of the congregants are fabulous players. In addition to the Lieto Ensemble, Mary Beth Tyndall, assistant principal cellist with the Tucson Symphony, has volunteered to play for us, and we are grateful for her willingness to share her talents.

We raid the TSO again to have percussionist Homero Cerón back with us, teaming up with Rick Hanson for the Pentecost offertory. They

both thumped for Fr. Steve's mutual ministry service (his installation, for those of you just tuning in to this station). Their version of "We are marching in the light of God" will never be replicated.

The summer music program will feature people who have done recitals at Grace St. Paul's in exchange for playing at a service. First up on June 19 will be David Morgan, tuba. Would you call him a tubist? He is the husband of Betsy Bright, who plays trumpet at Easter. I'm sure they make beautiful music together.

On July 10, Wesley Hunter and Madison Knutson will play to commemorate the anniversary of the death of the Rev. Canon Gordon McBride. Maddy is Gordon's granddaughter and an extremely talented young lady. But we knew that. It's a blessing having her and so many other young folks playing and singing this year. Long may it continue. Gordon would be chuffed.

If I keep telling you what is happening this summer, I won't have anything to write about in the next *Briefly*, so I'll wrap up. I do want to put in a plug for my annual summer class geek-fest, on July 24, this one about Anglican/Episcopalian hymnody. Where did all those hymns come from? If we ignore them, will they go away? Yes, is the short answer – every day another old standard gives a despairing cry and falls into obscurity. What is taking its place? Do we want to know? If this sounds like something you'd rather be doing than weed-whacking in 110-degree weather, come on down to the Bloom Room at 11:30 on July 24.

In the meantime, let us give thanks to God for the musical talents of the people who put themselves out there to learn music and sing for all of us. It isn't community without singing. Where else would the Holy Spirit find her feathers?

Peace,

— Christina

Summer Solstice Service

by The Rev. Steve Keplinger

Don't look now, but the longest day of the year is nearly upon us. Nine days from Pentecost Sunday is the Summer Solstice, the day when the sun reaches its northern most latitude and hence the day with the most sunlight all year. At Grace St. Paul's, we are on a quest to connect people with God's creation. By being aware of our natural environment, we become more aware of the presence of God in our lives and the connection between the cosmos and God.

We began our celebration in the fall with an Autumnal Equinox service. On December 21, we came back together to mark the shortest day of the year. In the spring, we combined an equinox service with the experience of Lent. On Tuesday, June 21 at 6 P.M., we will complete the cycle. We will come together in the courtyard to thank God for the gift of the seasons and to celebrate God's light in our world.

The service will include prayers and music meant to link us to the wonder of this day. It will also include a walking meditation for those who are able and another opportunity to connect ourselves with God's presence in the world around us. Following the short service, we will share a meal of the fruits of the earth, fruits and vegetables from our own gardens, celebrating our life given to us through the bounty of God's earth. Bring a natural food to share with all.

On this special Solstice evening, the service will take the place of our regular Evening Prayer Eucharist. Following the service and the meal, you may also choose to join us for our contemplative meditation experience, which occurs every Tuesday evening at 7 P.M.

Unless you are planning a trip to Stonehenge, this is the place to be on June 21 at 6 P.M. Complete the cycle with us and connect to God through the Solstice experience.



The Thomas family (from left to right): Merin, Lynta, Jayan, Judan, with Amu (Joyce) in front.

Farewell to the Thomas Family

by Martha Whitaker

After ten years at Grace St. Paul's, the Thomas Family will be moving so that Jayan can accept a tenure-track faculty position at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

The Thomases have been an active and integral part of the GSP community, and all will be missed.

Their departure also means that Merin Thomas has stepped down from serving as Youth Member of the GSP Vestry. She announced her resignation at the April meeting, where the vestry thanked her warmly for her service, and wished her and her family much happiness in their new home.

New Youth Vestry Member: Lu Pipentacos

By Martha Whitaker

With the resignation of Merin Thomas from her position as Youth Member of the Vestry, in accordance with bylaws, the Vestry nominated Lu Pipentacos as replacement. Lu has happily accepted the nomination and attended her first Vestry meeting on May 17. She said, "I look forward to seeing the changes that are happening and working with you along with the rest of the Vestry."

Lu Pipentacos In Her Own Words

I was born in Lianyungang, China and adopted at ten months of age. My parents, Wendy and John Pipentacos, brought me home to Tucson in June 1997 and I was baptized at GSP in July of that year. I've gone to GSP almost all my life and find great comfort in being part of the GSP family. Having just completed my freshman year at Tucson High in the Fine Arts Magnet program, I have taken all Honors classes, earned A's and B's, and enjoyed high school so far. I love reading, music, animals, and spending time with friends and family. Finance has always interested me and I would like to learn more about it in order to use this skill in a real world setting. I love GSP and am honored to be one of the first youth to serve on the Vestry. It's a good place to start learning how a church operates.



Children, Youth & Family Ministry

by Rosalind Garcia,
Director of Youth &
Family Ministry

Youth Recognition Sunday a blast!

Bubbles and noisemakers, music and children filled the Church for Youth Recognition Sunday. May 15, was a joyful, energizing and positive day for all. Merin Thomas, our preacher, reminded us of the positive impact the community of GSP has had on our children and families. The recognition of the wonderful and dedicated volunteers who work with the children allowed us to thank these mentors publicly. And... the awards presented to the young people who participate in the Children's Choir and the acolyte program spoke to the whole congregation about the value of youth contributions to GSP.

Retreat for J2A & GSP Youth at Chapel Rock

Memorial Day weekend will be spent in Prescott by two of our youth groups. J2A and GSP will be accompanied by their leaders to Chapel Rock, the Episcopal Diocese camp to enjoy the cooler weather and continue the bonding and building we have begun. The retreat, focused on seeing God's love in ourselves and in each other, helps to unite this group as they move into greater participation in GSP's youth ministry, making sure that we all grow together emotionally and spiritually. The youth will be leaving for Prescott on May 27 and returning to GSP on the afternoon of May 29.



Farewell & Thanks to Harriet Claiborne

by Martha Whitaker

By the time this issue of the *Briefly* is published, Harriet Claiborne will have served her last official day at GSP. Ever since our first interim rector, Fr. Harold Clinehens, recruited Harriet, our children's ministry has not merely survived during our period of transition, but has grown and thrived!

Harriet, with the support of Emily Nickerson, successfully implemented a Montessori-based curriculum for our youngest children, coordinated the program for elementary-aged children, and worked with Wendy Pipentacos to help coordinate the youth program.

Harriet has done remarkable work over the past few years, and we are grateful for her ideas, organization, excellent communication with parents, and especially the love she brought to her work with GSP children and youth. Long after she leaves, Harriet "will continue to hold Grace St. Paul's and its beautiful people in (her) prayers and in (her) heart every day."

Rite 13 Ceremony

A unique aspect of the Journey to Adulthood program is that it seeks to provide rites of passage for our young people that are often lacking in their culture. These rites help define points of progress along the path to adulthood; signs that the youth are growing and becoming adults. The Rite 13 ceremony is the liturgical cornerstone that lays the foundation for the entire congregation at Grace St. Paul's to rise up and tell our young people in one mighty voice, "You matter to us. Your lives are of inestimable value. The journey on which you are now embarking is significant." It is one way in which the community fulfills our baptismal covenant of "seeking and serving Christ in all persons."

The first Rite 13 celebration in quite some time will be Sunday, June 5, 2011 at the 10 A.M. service. It will be preceded by dinner and a rehearsal on Friday, June 3 at 5:30 P.M., followed by a rehearsal for the Sunday ceremony in the Church.

Normally the ceremony is preformed within four months of a young person's thirteenth birthday, however since we have not had a ceremony at GSP for quite some time, we are inviting older youth to participate. All young people involved in J2A and GSP are also invited to participate in this moving rite of passage.

New Children's Eucharist

by The Rev. Kate Baird

Mother Kate will begin holding a children's eucharistic service in the Week's Room on the last Sunday of each month. This service, while open to everyone, is designed specifically for the elementary aged children. Taking place at the ten o'clock hour, it encourages children to question and interact with all parts of the service as well as the sermon.

A special thanks to Henry Dirdadian for building a beautiful children's altar for the service. The first service will be Sunday, June 26.

Tucson Interfaith HIV/ AIDS Network (TIHAN)

Thursday, June 16 6-8 P.M.

HIV 101 - Basics of HIV - Myths & Facts
Living with AIDS Speakers Panel Discussion

Thursday, June 23 6-8 P.M.

HIV and Your Faith
How you can help in your community?
Prayer, Education, Care Packages

TIHAN's info table will be in McBride Hall the second Sunday of the month through August. We need donations for Poz Café in August, and six volunteers to help with the event. Contact Jay Elliston, tcsnjay@aol.com or (520) 884-4527.

Imagining the Face of God

An Original Interactive Art Exhibit

by The Rev. Kate Baird+

Evangelism. Just saying the word makes most Episcopalians shudder and run for the door. It is, however, one of my callings. Evangelism can be done in a creative and fun manner, and never have we as a society needed it more. Many of today's youth are growing up in un-churched homes, with un-churched parents. Consequently the only God they may be familiar with is the harsh, judgmental God from TV and news reports.

To introduce college age students to the God we worship at GSP – the God of social justice and compassion, and the God of grace and love, I designed an interactive art/religion display. The idea is to get students thinking in new ways about God, to get them talking about God and to introduce Grace St. Paul's to those who show an interest. With pictures of how God is depicted by different cultures and time periods as inspiration, participants are encouraged to draw or write their own image of God and hang them on the installation. As more images of God are hung, the more time participants spend looking and thinking about the various ways of imagining God.

Many of you saw and/or participated in the *Imagining the Face of God* display in McBride Hall at GSP on Sunday, May 1. Buoyed by the great response it received, the project was installed on Wednesday, May 4, at the West Campus of Pima Community College (PCC). We had more than 75 students and faculty participate in the event, and by the end of the day the project overflowed with pictures.



Numerous students showed real interest in checking out GSP. Sitting adjacent to the cafeteria, Allison Towner and I could easily overhear the buzz from the students. We were delighted to note that all during lunch God was the main topic of conversation. The installation must have impressed the powers that be at PCC, because they invited us back and found a sponsoring group for us, thus avoiding future table fees.

This was only the first of many such events. With some slight modifications, including making GSP more prominent, I will set up the display next fall at the University of Arizona and at all three of the Pima Community College campuses. I am also exploring the possibility of taking it to various local high schools.

Designing the project was one thing, making it happen took a cast and crew. Many thanks to the wonderful people who did just that: Eleanor Kohloss's artistic talents made my many images come alive in a series of wonderful paintings. Eric Carr, Holden Sanders, Adrienne Gossard, Annie Holbrook, James Teal, Allison Towner, and Beth Miksa all contributed to transforming PVC pipe into an imaginative artistic frame.



The Kinship Corner

Giving gives me pleasure. It's that simple. I was lucky to grow up in a family where being generous was considered wise and wonderful. Both my parents were fantastically generous, not only with their money, but also with their time and talents. Volunteering was a regular activity in life, and using your monetary resources to give others pleasure was highly regarded, especially when unexpected. Long after my parents died, that legacy lives on in my siblings and myself.

When I sit down at my online banking account to pay my bills, usually on the first Saturday of the month, the first payment I make is always my pledge to GSP.

My pledge is not something I have to pay – it's something I choose to pay. Why? Because generosity is fun; like spending more than you should on a birthday present for someone you love, or splurging on a few Christmas gifts, or over tipping a waiter just because waiting tables is a hard job to have.

GSP means a whole lot to me. I grew up here, but when I went away to college I not only left Grace Episcopal Church behind, but also being an Episcopalian. I'll leave the details of that journey for another time, but like many of you, I followed different spiritual paths and came to GSP many years later. During all those intervening years, I considered myself to be "religious" but I kept that side of me inside. "This Shirt" is my favorite song by Mary Chapin Carpenter about an old worn shirt that has been through many life experiences and is still beloved. My faith was the worn shirt that

I kept close, but didn't show to anyone. Well, GSP was the first place where as an adult I felt comfortable enough to show my well worn shirt of faith with all its rips and tears.

Being able to share my faith just as it is is only one reason that GSP is important to me. Another is the joy I get from contributing my time. Little did I know the enormous blessing that was coming my way when a regular parishioner at the 8 o'clock service, who had been a good friend of my mother's when I was growing up, took my hand and said to me, "I think you should be an usher." I had no idea what that entailed and I wasn't going to say no, but the whole idea of greeting people made me nervous because I am quite shy. Well, needless to say, my usher "gig" led to my feeling not only useful to a place I love, but also very connected to a whole lot of people whom I would not have known otherwise...and that has led me to other service paths, and blessings galore.

Giving of money and time is one of life's great privileges, and I invite you to give yourself that privilege — the privilege to enjoy generosity.

—Peggy Scott, Co-Chair
Giving & Receiving Ministry

New Projects Need Leadership!

by Linda Hutson

Would you like to be involved in one of the following two separate *new* projects:

Investigating Solar Opportunities for GSP: If you are interested in being part of a group who will investigate solar options that we may be able to utilize and save not only energy but also up front money, please contact Linda Hutson, azlhutson@comcast.net or (520) 797-2532.

Community Garden: Wouldn't it be awesome to have a community garden right in our own backyard? We could offer fresh food to our clients at Joseph's Pantry, get to know others in a new way and show the face of Jesus from our own little patch of this creation! If you are interested, please contact Linda Hutson, azlhutson@comcast.net or (520) 797-2532.



You Will Be Missed

We are sad to announce the deaths in April of the following beloved members and relatives of members at Grace St. Paul:

Gilbert Bradley, April 11.

Henry (Hank) McClelland, April 15.

Gladys Olson, Donna Shreve's mother, April 25.

Carole Jane Hadover Farley Ridley, Steve Farley's mother, April 26.

We will continue to hold these people in our prayers.

Welcome to the Family

The following very important people have been welcomed into our family of grace by Baptism in April:

Peter Ellis Cook, 4/24/11 – 3 months

Ethan Edward Bakun, 4/24/11 – 2.5 years

Della Rose Pitello-Jeffers, 4/24/11 – baby

Kamis Ateng Magot, 4/24/11 – 11 years old

Lual Ateng Magot, 4/24/11 – 14 years old

Awuouu Ateng Magot, 4/24/11 – 17 years

Lily Corinna Orlando, 4/24/11 – 8 years old

We hope you will be among us for many, many years.

Using Social Media to Build Genuine Community

While some see social networking as a sign of society's trend toward superficiality, Grace St. Paul's is doing its best to use online media in meaningful ways to help build a sense of genuine community.

Did you know that GSP has a Facebook page? If you "Like" us on Facebook, you will have access to hundreds of photos from our events and services, links to sermons, as well as get live updates in your status feed. It's a great way to stay connected and interact with the GSP community. But that's not all.

Some think of social networking sites as a distraction, but it can be much more meaningful, even if in subtle ways. Thanks to the magic of Facebook, people I used to see for a short time on Sunday now get to share their lives with me from moment to moment throughout the week. I get to know them in deeper, more meaningful ways, making church acquaintances into real-life friendships as we discover similarities and get glimpses into each other's triumphs, struggles, passions, and lives. Conversations are started. Passions are shared. Jokes are told. Encouragement is given. Community gets deepened. As a whole, our shared connections make us a stronger and more vibrant church in ways that were unavailable just a few years ago.

Along with helping us connect with each other, the GSP Facebook page keeps GSP members, friends of GSP, and potential members informed about what's happening

here too. We also use our page to reinforce our Episcopal identity, and market GSP by posting non-GSP items that fit our mission of inclusivity, progressive Christianity, and social justice. In fact, in one month we had over twenty-five thousand views! We have also received lots of appreciative feedback from people who can't attend the services or events, who feel like they get to enjoy them vicariously through our photo albums, updates, and links.

We are also now live on Meetup.com, a networking site that allows members to publish events, meetings, and groups to the local community. The first event we posted was the special Taoist tea ceremony we integrated into our M3M service, which was then sent out to all the Meetup members in Tucson who listed things like tea or Taoism as interests, bringing in new people within hours of its launch! Meetup is free to join, and is a great way for you to get more connected, both with Grace Saint Paul's and the larger Tucson community.

Between Facebook, our Web site, and Meetup, it is easier than ever to stay connected to your GSP community, keep in touch with friends throughout the week, and keep up to date on local events and happenings. We will continue to seek ways we can reach out to the GSP family and our community as a whole, and we will do our best to continue utilizing technology in meaningful ways.

—Eric Carr



Adult Spiritual Formation

As Summer heats up, we are tempted to stay at home and chill, but keep in mind that Adult Education and Spiritual Formation is offering many interesting classes to entice you out. We have fascinating Sunday classes, and are beginning a film series, play reading experiences, and an evening spiritual practice/book study group.

Spirit Players – A Play Reading Experience

**First Friday of the month, June 3, July 1, & Aug. 5
6:30-8 P.M., Bloom Education Center**

In the spirit of literary gatherings of the Victorian era, we will read scripts that relate to the theme of life passages of everyday people. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in “cold” readings of each play. No theatre or public speaking experience is necessary; parts will be randomly assigned to anyone who shows up. Non-readers are welcome as well and can participate as an audience. All plays are appropriate for all ages.

June 3: Two versions of the story of Adam and Eve: one is a medieval miracle play, *The Creation of Adam and Eve*, the other an adaptation of the Samuel Clements’ short story, *The Diary of Adam and Eve*.

July 1: *Everyman*: classic morality play that follows the life of an average man.

Aug. 5: *Our Town*, by Thornton Wilder, a modern classic that follows two families in a small New Hampshire town in the early 20th century.

Facilitated by Eric Rau and Nanalee Raphael, Grace St. Paul’s Spirit Players who enjoy meeting with folks for play-time.

Who’s Got My Air?

**Sunday, June 5, 9-9:50 A.M.
Bloom Education Center**

Discussion of the integration of prayer and breath and how breath connects all living beings. Brief demonstration of prayer and breath practices.

Facilitated by Linda Brown, chairperson of intercessory prayer team.

Women and Wells:

How Water Impacts Lives in the Third World

**Sunday, June 5, 11:45 A.M.-12:45 P.M.
Bloom Education Center**

An interactive meeting that presents short video clips of how different women in Haiti, Guatemala, and other Latin American and Caribbean countries have been helped by the non-profit organization, Food for the Poor. This interdenominational ministry is the third largest relief and development charity in the United States.

Facilitated by The Rev. Bill Beers, an Episcopal priest, organizational consultant, and author. Rev. Beers, a representative of Food for the Poor, is also a former hospital chaplain and university instructor in religion, philosophy, and social sciences.

Soul Feast: An Invitation to Spiritual Life

**Second Wednesdays, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10
& Sept. 13, 6:30-8 P.M., Weeks Room
Pre-registration required**

Ever wonder about different practices and disciplines of the Christian Life? For example, practices we have seen birthed at Grace St. Paul’s in the last year include an ongoing meditation group and evening prayer. In Marjorie Thompson’s *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*, she says, “by themselves the Spiritual Disciplines can do nothing; they can only get us to the place where something can be done. They are the means by which we place ourselves where God can bless us.” If you have a spiritual practice, come and share your wisdom; if you would like to learn more about different spiritual practices, join us as we practice together. We will explore spiritual reading, praying, worship, fasting, examination of conscience, spiritual guidance, hospitality and development of a rule of life. Thompson’s book will be available at The Rector’s Bookshelf. Please read through chapter one if possible before the start of the class. Be sure to pre-register at the church office, as class size is limited.

Facilitated by Linda Hutson, spiritual director at Grace St. Paul’s.

Bridging Borders Film Series

**June 10, July 8, and Aug. 12, 6:30-9:00 P.M.
Bloom Education Center**

Bridging Borders is pleased to continue its annual film festival with entertaining and thought-provoking films addressing migration within and between countries from a variety of points of view. A discussion after each film will focus on the issues raised in the film and what they mean for us as 21st century people of faith.

June 10 – *Children of Invention*. Because they couldn’t pay the rent, the Cheng family is evicted from their home and end up as squatters in a model apartment in an unfinished Boston building. Things really get complicated when mother Elaine is arrested for her accidental involvement in a pyramid scheme and a very young brother and sister are left to fend for themselves. This wonderful film was an official selection at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival.

July 8 – *The Band’s Visit*. When an Egyptian police brass band travels to Israel to play at the

Adult Education & Spiritual Formation Meeting (open to all)

Thursday, July 14,

7–8:30 p.m., Weeks Room

Have you ever wondered about a special topic in your spiritual life? Have you read a book that you think would help others grow in their spirituality? Ever wanted to facilitate a class or small group? If so, come to the adult education planning meeting. Topics and class facilitators for the 2010–11 fall and winter schedules are wanted and needed. The more the merrier!

If you need a class proposal form, or have any immediate questions, contact Chris LaBour or Chris Ledyard, TSSF, co-chairpersons of Adult Spiritual Formation and Education Covenant Group, through the church office at (520) 327-6857.

opening of an Arab arts center, almost everything goes wrong. The group, which does not speak the language, ends up abandoned and lost in a remote desert town, igniting a charming cross-cultural comedy. From what follows, both the Egyptians and the locals learn a few things about one another – and themselves. The film was awarded a prize at Cannes.

Aug. 12 – *Which Way Home*. A stunning HBO documentary about the plight of the children left behind when their families travel to the United States to find work. Rebecca Cammisa received a Fulbright Scholar Grant and traveled to Mexico to film the saga. The story follows the perilous journey of three children from Latin America determined to rejoin their families in the United States. The film was nominated for an Oscar.

Moderating the films will be members of the Bridging Borders committee.

Reading Scripture through Other Eyes

Sundays, June 12, 19, & 26, 9–9:50 A.M.

Bloom Education Center

The annual conference from Trinity-Wall Street presents contemporary theological thinking. The January 2011 institute discussed the need to truly hear others and how they understand the same Scriptures that we read and interpret. We will watch a video of a guest speaker each week and discuss the insights from each related to appreciating different approaches to the Scriptures.

First Session: Steed Davidson, assistant professor of Old Testament, Berkeley: *Reading Out Loud*.

Second Session: Gerald West, professor at School of Theology, South Africa: *Do Two Walk Together* (a new approach to Bible study).

Third Session: Walter Brueggemann, renowned scholar and author of many books on the Hebrew Scriptures: *Where is the Scribe?*

Facilitated by Lynne Albright, Trinity Coordinator for Grace St. Paul's.

Sensual Spirituality Sunday

July 3, 10 & 17, 9–9:50 A.M.

Bloom Education Center

A three-session exploration of the role of senses on the spiritual journey. Traditionally, and erroneously, the body and our senses have been depicted as detractors or impediments on the path to spiritual awareness and the experience of God.

This course will examine the role of the senses in other world religions, and then the Christian treatment of the senses, with an emphasis on the positive role they may play in our spiritual pursuits. The book, Edward Hay's *Pray All Ways*, will serve as a guide in this brief reflection on an often neglected aspect of our religious lives.

Facilitated by the Rev. Frederick Masterman, Priest Associate at GSP.

Christina's Annual Music Class

Sunday, July 24, 9–9:50 A.M.

Bloom Education Center

Have you ever wondered who came up with the hymns we sing every week? What historical and theological forces shaped Episcopalian hymnody? Did the voice of God actually boom forth and proclaim that 19th century hymns are boring? For a total geek-out, come to this class on the history of our hymns. We will survey the various eras and styles from the earliest to the most recent and sing wondrous examples.

Facilitated by Christina Jarvis, choir director for Grace St. Paul's.

Beyond Our Differences

Sundays, July 31 & Aug. 7, 9–9:50 a.m.

Bloom Education Center

Come and discuss interfaith perspectives that may provide food for your spiritual journey, including different segments of the PBS video featuring Desmond Tutu, Karen Armstrong, the Dalai Lama, and other international figures addressing spirituality's role in overcoming cultural differences. As noted in Bill Moyers' web page, *Beyond our Differences* explores the common threads that unify the world's religious traditions. Religious leaders, politicians and luminaries in their fields give voice to the positive effects of spirituality and morality, focusing on commonalities spanning all faiths. While the negative – even violent – side of religion is widely reported, director Peter Bisanz documents the hope for positive change and healing universal to so many.

Facilitator Roger Pierce was ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), has attended GSP for about a year, and has a special interest in adult spiritual formation and spiritual growth.



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 June

1st 7 A.M., Holy Eucharist
6 P.M., Global Chant

2nd **Ascension Day**
9 A.M., Conversational French Class
3 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic
6 P.M., Spirit Now Service

3rd 9 A.M., Qigong Class
5:30 P.M., Rite 13 Dinner & Rehearsal
6:30 P.M., *A Play Reading Experience*

5th 8 A.M., Coffee & Conversation
8 A.M., Holy Eucharist
9 A.M., Child Care
9 A.M., *Who's Got My Air?*
10 A.M., Holy Eucharist
11:15 A.M., Coffee Hour
11:30 A.M., Youth Groups
11:45 A.M., *Women & Wells*
5:30 P.M., GSP 20's & 30's
8 P.M., Candlelight Compline

6th 7:30 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic

7th 6 P.M., Evening Prayer & Eucharist
7 P.M., Meditation Group

8th 7 A.M., Holy Eucharist
6 P.M., Global Chant
6:30 P.M., *Soul Feast – An Invitation to Spirituality*

9th 9 A.M., Conversational French Class
3 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic
6 P.M., Spirit Now Service

10th 9 A.M., Qigong Class
6:30 P.M., Bridging Borders Film Series: *Children of Invention*

12th **The Day of Pentecost**
8 A.M., Coffee & Conversation
8 A.M., Holy Eucharist
9 A.M., Child Care
9 A.M., *Reading Scripture Through Other Eyes*
10 A.M., Holy Eucharist
11:15 A.M., Coffee Hour
11:30 A.M., Youth Groups
11:45 A.M., *Tour of GSP Buildings*

13th 7:30 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic

14th 6 P.M., Evening Prayer & Eucharist
6:30 P.M., EfM Year 11 Group
7 P.M., Meditation Group

15th 7 A.M., Holy Eucharist
6 P.M., Global Chant

16th 9 A.M., *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*
9 A.M., Conversational French Class
3 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic

6 P.M., AIDS Prevention Education for Youth
6 P.M., Spirit Now Service

17th 9 A.M., *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*
9 A.M., Qigong Class
6:30 P.M., Film & Fellowship

18th 9 A.M., *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*

19th **Trinity Sunday**
8 A.M., Coffee & Conversation
8 A.M., Holy Eucharist
9 A.M., Child Care
9 A.M., *Reading Scripture Through Other Eyes*
10 A.M., Holy Eucharist
11:15 Coffee Hour
11:30 A.M., Youth Groups
12:30 P.M., *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*
8 P.M., Candlelight Compline

20th 9 A.M., *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*
6 P.M., Primavera Meals, Third Monday Group
7:30 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic

21st 6 P.M., Evening Prayer & Eucharist
7 P.M., Meditation Group

22nd 7 A.M., Holy Eucharist
6 P.M., Global Chant

23rd 9 A.M., Conversational French
3 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic
6 P.M., AIDS Prevention Education for Youth
6 P.M., Spirit Now Service
9 A.M., Qigong Class

24th **Food Ministries Sunday**

26th 8 A.M., Coffee & Conversation
8 A.M., Holy Eucharist
9 A.M., Child Care
9 A.M., *Reading Scripture Through Other Eyes*
10 A.M., Holy Eucharist
10 A.M., Children's Eucharistic Worship Service
11 A.M., Children's Music
11:15 A.M., Coffee Hour
11:30 A.M., Youth Groups
1 P.M., Mother's Kitchen (Primavera cooking)

27th 7:30 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic

28th 9 A.M., Primavera Cooks! Fourth Tuesday Group
6 P.M., Evening Prayer & Eucharist
6:30 P.M., EfM Year 11 Group

29th 7 P.M., Meditation Group
7 A.M., Holy Eucharist

30th 6 P.M., Global Chant
9 A.M., Conversational French Class
3 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic
6 P.M., Spirit Now Service

Looking Ahead to July

1st 9 A.M., Qigong Class
6:30 P.M., *A Play Reading Experience*

3rd 8 A.M., Coffee & Conversation
8 A.M., Holy Eucharist
9 A.M., Child Care
9 A.M., *Sensual Spirituality*
10 A.M., Holy Eucharist
11:15 A.M., Coffee Hour
11:30 A.M., Youth Groups
5:30 P.M., GSP 20's & 30's
8 P.M., Candlelight Compline

4th 7:30 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic

5th 6 P.M., Evening Prayer & Eucharist
7 P.M., Meditation Group

6th 7 A.M., Holy Eucharist
6 P.M., Global Chant

7th 9 A.M., Conversational French Class
3 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic
6 P.M., Spirit Now Service

8th 9 A.M., Qigong Class
6:30 P.M., Bridging Borders Film Series: *The Band's Visit*

9th 10:30 A.M., Memorial Service for Carole Jane Hadover Farley Ridley
11:30 A.M., Reception following Memorial Service

10th 8 A.M., Coffee & Conversation
8 A.M., Holy Eucharist
9 A.M., Child Care
9 A.M., *Sensual Spirituality*
10 A.M., Holy Eucharist
11:15 A.M., Coffee Hour
11:30 A.M., Youth Groups
7:30 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic

11th 6 P.M., Evening Prayer & Eucharist

12th 6:30 P.M., EfM Year 11 Group
7 P.M., Meditation Group

13th 7 A.M., Holy Eucharist
9 A.M., TIHAN Volunteer Orientation
6 P.M., Global Chant
6:30 P.M., *Soul Feast – An Invitation to Spirituality*

14th 9 A.M., Conversational French Class
3 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic
6 P.M., Spirit Now Service

15th 9 A.M., Qigong Class
6:30 P.M., Film & Fellowship

17th 8 A.M., Coffee & Conversation
8 A.M., Holy Eucharist
9 A.M., Child Care
9 A.M., *Sensual Spirituality*
10 A.M., Holy Eucharist
11:15 A.M., Coffee Hour
11:30 A.M., Youth Groups
8 P.M., Candlelight Compline

18th 6 P.M., Primavera Meals Third Monday Group
7:30 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic

19th 6 P.M., Evening Prayer & Eucharist
7 P.M., Meditation Group

20th 7 A.M., Holy Eucharist
6 P.M., Global Chant

21st 9 A.M., Conversational French Class
3 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic
6 P.M., Spirit Now Service
9 A.M., Qigong Class

22nd **Food Ministries Sunday**

24th 8 A.M., Coffee & Conversation
8 A.M., Holy Eucharist
9 A.M., Child Care
9 A.M., *The History of Anglican Hymns*
10 A.M., Holy Eucharist
11:15 A.M., Coffee Hour
11:30 A.M., Youth Groups
1 P.M., Mother's Kitchen Primavera Cooking Group

25th 7:30 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic

26th 9 A.M., Primavera Cooks! Fourth Tuesday Group
6 P.M., Evening Prayer & Eucharist
6:30 P.M., EfM Year 11 Group
7 P.M., Meditation Group

27th 7 A.M., Holy Eucharist
6 P.M., Global Chant

28th 9 A.M., Conversational French Class
3 P.M., Healing Touch Clinic
6 P.M., Spirit Now Service
9 A.M., Qigong Class

29th 8 A.M., Coffee & Conversation

31st 8 A.M., Holy Eucharist
9 A.M., Child Care
9 A.M., *Beyond Our Differences*
10 A.M., Holy Eucharist
11:15 A.M., Coffee Hour
11:30 A.M., Youth Groups