

The Briefly

October 2011

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

I remember the exact moment. It happened in the midst of Holy Week, this past year — Maundy Thursday evening to be specific. We had just participated in the intensely intimate act of foot washing, and as we continued with that beautiful service, something happened to me. I felt this warm glow enveloping me. As I passed down the rail, feeding each of you on that same night when Jesus said, “Do this in memory of me,” I started crying. I had suddenly become palpably aware that I was home. At that moment I realized that I was not the new guy anymore, but part of your family. It was one of those perfect moments.

It has now been one year since Jean and I arrived. Without a doubt, this has been the most eventful year of our lives. The intensity of the experience is far beyond what I can possibly describe to you. The challenges presented were so exciting that I lived on sheer adrenalin for those first few months, and I relished every moment of it. In less than a month, we celebrated an equinox and introduced

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an entire new liturgical season. We captured the best of the past and brought about changes that catapulted us into a brave new way of being church. We celebrated the birth of Jesus in such a powerful fashion, that many people never left after visiting us on Christmas. We went on to start a new children and youth ministry, filling us with a new vitality. We brought in a new era of transparency and energy in our Annual meeting. We were all invigorated by our new parish administrator and senior warden, who continue to fill us with energy and love. We suffered together through the tragedy of a shooting that changed who we were and redefined our mission. As a result, we were instrumental in bringing together, right here at Grace St. Paul's, religious leaders who had never been in the same room before and political leaders who stopped the never ending cycle of polarization.

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GSP's Ongoing Story

To commemorate the first anniversary of Fr. Steve+ and Jean's arrival, James White presented Steve with an agave pole to be made into a GSP story pole once the desiccation process is complete. The agave grew throughout Steve+ & Jean's first year. After it blossomed, James harvested and prepared the pole. Martha Whitaker made the green flags, and Linda Hutson presented Jean with an orchid plant, which will continue to blossom during their second year. The first GSP story pole was created by Fr. Gordon McBride+, on the tenth anniversary of St. Paul's merger with Grace Church. *By Martha Whitaker.*

Rector's Letter

Continued from Page 1

We also faced intense personal tragedy and loss. Four suicides and 20 more deaths in our parish shook us to the core. However, they also gave us an opportunity to struggle with the tenets of our theology and come out the other side stronger in our beliefs. They continue to change us, and we will never be the same. They also brought us so close together as a community that every visitor immediately comments about the love in this place.

We experienced together a Lenten season that was not about self-mortification but was all about a vision quest together. It brought us to that amazing Holy Week, beginning with a very emotional Palm Sunday and taking us to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, when we were moved to wonder and tears, exploding us into an incredibly joyful Easter.

Then there were all the fantastic parties, the fiesta when we arrived, the coolest Mardi Gras ever, the Celebration of Mutual Ministry, the

ball games, the dinners for newcomers and on and on.

Summer brought a new era of excitement, a brand new one room Sunday school experience, monthly children's services, a new Compline service and an unbelievable Kid's Summer Camp.

Finally, we topped it all off with the Bishop's official visitation, where we Received and Reaffirmed 70, count 'em, 70 new members. That is more than at any service, including Regional Confirmations, since Bishop Smith arrived in Arizona. In fact, it is more than anyone remembers, ever, in the Diocese.

I cannot thank all of you enough for loving Jean and me through the pain while simultaneously doing so much to live into the beloved community that we have envisioned together. What a year we have had, and what an amazing future we are going to have together.

Shalom,

Steve +

Editor's Note

Congratulations everyone! Almost every single article came directly to me "the gatekeeper" at real_canfield@yahoo.com. Angel Wang and I split them up and skated through everything relatively easily. Wendy got the calendar at wendypipe@yahoo.com and John received most of the photos at jdbanks@gmail.com. Anyone I needed to redirect on photos recovered instantly and graciously, resending their pics to John on the spot. You are heroes. From now on just do the same every month, with no copying of articles to additional parties, and you will never have to hear this song and dance again.

The **next deadline is Monday, Oct. 17**, for the November issue. With the new streamlined system, the team should be able to get all issues out on or before the first day of the publication month. Any suggestions? Think we should publish an article on something we haven't covered yet, or enough? Burning to contribute an article of your own? E-mail Lynda Canfield at the above address and we shall talk.

Quilts for the Ministry Fair... and for Life!

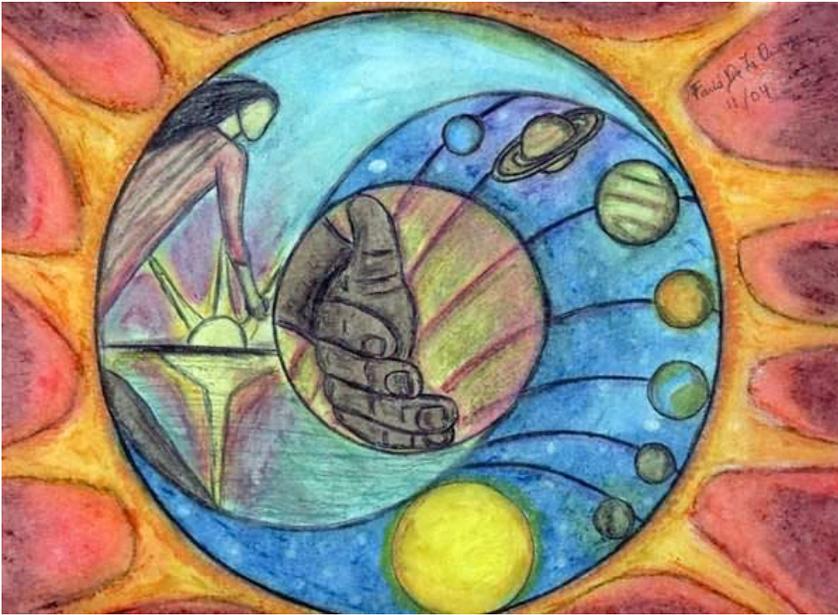
What is a quilt? It's more than just a blanket that keeps you warm. It is a special gift of love from people who care about you. These quilts will be constructed by people who care, and will be given for children in need. The children are not necessarily abused or neglected, but often live in low-income families or families in temporary poverty. Quilts can provide not only physical warmth, but the emotional warmth of having a special blanket made especially for them.

Along with these donations, quilts will be given to each child that is baptized at Grace St Paul's. The cross that is worked into pattern is a reminder to the families of the promises given to us in Baptism. We will also be making quilts for St Andrew's Children's Clinic in Nogales, and lap quilts for shut-ins and nursing home residents

How can you help? In several ways. If you have any 100 percent cotton fabric, light weight flannel, prints for baby, solids or whatever you think might work. Monetary donations are also welcome to provide funds to purchase the batting and other supplies that are needed. Quilts will be for sale too! All proceeds go back in the quilter's fund. If you are interested in buying a quilt for a mother, grandmother, spouse, sibling, etc who is either confined to their home or lives at a nursing home, please contact us with information. Maybe a grandchild, niece, nephew, or special person in your life is on your mind for a baptismal quilt, also available for purchase.

Sound interesting? We invite you to join with a group that plans to meet for quilting every Wednesday. For more information, contact Judith Turner at 822-4227.

—Judith Turner



Season of Creation

By Steve Keplinger+

For those of us who regularly attend church on Sundays, it may seem like we have been in the season of Pentecost for centuries. In fact, a few of us irreverent folk (okay, perhaps only this irreverent folk) actually make jokes about this, announcing with tongue firmly in cheek that it is the 228th week of Pentecost.

The truth of the matter, though, is that for Lectionary-based churches around the world, we are presently only halfway through this season. Pentecost begins 50 days after Easter and continues all the way through the summer and the fall, right up to the beginning of the season of Advent in very late November or early December.

Such however, is not the case here at Grace St. Paul's. Our season of Pentecost is ending now. On Oct. 9, we kick off the *Season of Creation* with a special liturgy that we believe will touch your soul. There are two major reasons for this. First and most important,

the connection between God and God's creation has been neglected by the church for centuries. In fact, I would suggest that it has been more than just neglect. Many of us were actually instructed that there is no connection between the natural world and God, only between humanity and God. I believe that we as the church need to take our share of the responsibility for the destruction of our natural environment. It is absolutely essential therefore, that we honor our experiences of God in the slot canyon, the mountain, the river and the forest. It is, in my mind, the church's duty to change humanity's relationship with the environment. We need to make a paradigm shift in the way we interact with the world. Such changes must take place within all of us at a psychic level. Liturgy is one of the few remaining ways to create such change in our world. In my mind, the Season of Creation is something all of us emotionally need at the depth of our souls and it can play a major part in reattaching us to God's earth. The second reason is not quite as significant. Pentecost was way too long anyway, so why not cut it in half!

There are a small, but growing number of churches across the country that have begun what we are doing. In fact, one of the great secrets at the 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, was that we passed a resolution for churches to consider a season of Creation, during the same liturgical dates that we are marking here at GSP. A subcommittee was formed to begin work on liturgies for this season. Your Rector is on that subcommittee.

Last year's season of Creation was a tremendous success. We hope that each of you will be moved and spurred to action during this beautiful liturgical season. We also hope you enjoy saying good-bye to Pentecost two months early.

Spirit Now: A Home for Interactive Worship

Spirit Now is a non-traditional Eucharist service for those seeking an interactive faith experience. Through readings from multiple faiths, meditation and discussion our experiences of God as individuals and as a community are explored. Jane Click skillfully blends Kristopher Lindquist chants into each service while participants are encouraged to move and dance as called. The use of PowerPoint presentation allows for a rich visual arts experience. A Christian service, Spirit Now, uses readings from other all walks of life to enhance and expand our understanding of what it means to be a Christian in today's world.

—Rev. Kate Baird



Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis, Director of Music

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. The choir this year is the largest we've had in years, and the sound is so rich and full that I want to go sit in the back pew and listen. On the other hand, I'm glad I'm conducting, because then I get to be right in front of that glorious sound. When they inhale, my hair is sucked forward.

In addition to the adult choir, the children and youth choirs are up and running. The St. Cecelia's Children's Choir will sing for the 10 a.m. service on Oct. 16. The St. Zeno Zombie Choir (the youth ensemble's working title—we haven't got a new name yet) will sing for the first Sunday of Creation. That service will be a real musical *ragout*. We are reprising part of Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia*. It will sound a lot like the section we did last year (*Canticle of Brother Sun*), but it isn't the same; it's actually the reprise at the end of the mass ("Let us go in peace"). It will be similar enough to make it easier for the choir to learn, always a concern when we're working with tight schedules.

For communion, the youth ensemble will sing a Turkish Sufi hymn, with Paul Amiel on ney and Bruce Stanley on percussion. The ney is an end-blown flute with five to seven finger holes and a thumb hole. It has been depicted in Egyptian tomb paintings, and is one of the oldest instruments still in use, going back about 5,000 years. It's a great opportunity for the kids to learn about a whole different musical culture.

They can also learn quite a bit about the musical culture influenced over the centuries for the church. Their next mission, should they choose to accept it, is to work up for All Saints' at least part of the *Dies irae*, that wonderfully creepy 13th century Latin sequence hymn used in the Roman Catholic Requiem Mass and all kinds of horror movies, especially "The Shining." The text is precisely the kind we don't like. In the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, it was removed from the ordinary of

the mass because of its negative spirituality.

The poem describes the Last Judgment, in which the trumpet sounds, the graves are split open, and souls are hauled before God's throne to be consigned to heaven or hell. Here's a sample from the twelfth verse (thank you, Wikipedia): "Guilty, now I pour my moaning, all my shame with anguish owning; spare, O God, thy supplicant groaning!" Doesn't that just perfectly encapsulate Grace St. Paul's theology? Actually I rather like the Ambrose Bierce translation of the second verse (also Wikipedia): "Ah! What terror shall be shaping, When the Judge the truth's undrapping—Cats from every bag escaping!"

Sometimes it's good to remind ourselves about our history, even the parts we don't like, to realize how lucky we are to have the ability to worship as we do now. The medieval concept of God still shapes our society to a surprising degree, but we can choose to embrace original blessing rather than original sin. And the kids can sing the beautiful music guilt-free.

Their next assignment will be a Taizé chant, "In the Lord I'll be ever thankful," for Giving and Receiving Sunday. The music will still be beautiful, but the text will be more in accord with our understanding of the God's continuing revelation to people of faith. Well, except for a "Lord" or two.

I'd tell you what the adult choir is singing for Giving and Receiving Sunday, but a cat has plonked himself on my notebook and I don't have the heart to move him. He's a bit opaque. Fortunately, there will be time enough in the next *Briefly*. So let us celebrate the Season of Creation! Who knows, it may even cool down.

Peace,

Christina



Wear Your Costumes on All Saints' Day

Kids of all ages are encouraged to wear costumes to church on All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 6. The more the merrier!

Last year, even Fr. Steve presided briefly wearing a crab hat! Get a little more use out of those Halloween costumes, but remember not to let the little kids have all the fun! See you in costume on Nov. 6!

—Martha Whitaker

GSP Youth Choral Opportunities

By *Rosalind Garcia*

It's not American Idol but...You can join the

- GSP Youth Choir Ensemble or
- GSP Children's Choir and/or
- GSP Bell Choir

Christina Jarvis, our wonderful and talented Director of Music is beginning a Youth Choir Ensemble at GSP: Grace St. Paul's Youth Ensemble (currently dubbed the St. Zeno's Zombie Choir). Some of you expressed interest in the Ensemble on your registration forms.

This ensemble will include teens and college students, as well as older and younger musicians at the discretion of the director, Christina Jarvis. Singers and instrumentalists are all invited. The focus of the ensemble will

be to experience different eras and styles while having fun putting together musical offerings for the 10 a.m. service and occasionally for the Compline service. Kids may anticipate performing about once a month. The director will teach basic musicianship, but will provide opportunities for advanced kids to do their thing, while still catering for all skill levels. If you have the chops, you can use them; if you don't have the chops, you can learn them. Repertoire will include everything from plainchant to gospel and a good time will be had by all.

You can email me, Rosalind.Garcia@grace-stpauls.org, or Christina at clj@delegation.org for more information. This is an amazing opportunity, so please join us!

A Pilgrimage is Possible

We met Sunday, Sept. 11, and again Sunday, Sept. 25, to discuss some pilgrimage possibilities. I am to look at costs for a trip to Taizé, France, and Canterbury and London, England. Others were researching alternative possible destinations.

I have two pieces of good news that I have learned since our meeting. Chuck and Nan Hannan offered to head up a Sunday Dinner fundraiser, and Cam Sutton is willing to head a "dinner-with-the-clergy" raffle. Thank you to all who stepped up in our fundraising efforts. We are very grateful.

Other possible funding sources include:

1. Brian Fairbanks is willing to lead a rummage sale if the families are willing to help.

2. I have spoken with Fr. Steve, who seems to think that the Church may have some money to put towards a pilgrimage. I don't know what that means in terms of a dollar amount, but it is encouraging news and feels very supportive.

Finally, if you couldn't be at our meetings, please feel free to contact me at GSP or email Rosalind.Garcia@grace-stpauls.org. We would like everyone who's J2A age to be able to go on the pilgrimage!

Blessings, Rosalind

From Tammy Faye to Pledging

My Life as a Tithing Episcopalian

By Eric K. Carr



I used to be a minister in the Word Faith movement, touring with people like the Copelands and Benny Hinn, and was a personal friend of Tammy Faye Messner (yes, *that* Tammy Faye). If you don't know who these people are, they are the ones with big, shiny, stiff hairstyles and gaudy recording studios on Christian television preaching that God will bless you if you send them money. While I never fully embraced the prosperity gospel, I did learn a lot about what Scripture and tradition say about giving.

I've certainly experienced lean times in my life, especially recently, but I've still never had a late payment or gone without any of my basic needs. Sometimes my needs are met in miraculous ways.

As much as I find the whole prosperity gospel distasteful, I have to say that I think one of the reasons I've experienced so many financial miracles in my life is because I tithe faithfully. I got my first job when I was twelve and have been tithing on my gross income ever since—even when I was on unemployment.

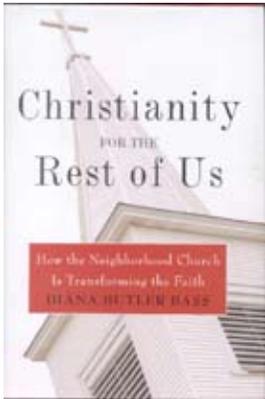
Now that I'm Episcopalian, it seems like this is a taboo topic, but the fact of the matter is that the Bible is full of Scriptures directly linking faithful generosity to our well-being. Myriad Scriptures say that God blesses those who are generous. The earliest Christian writings talk about this, and it has been taught as a part of worship throughout both Hebrew and Christian history.

These are financially scary times for a lot of people. When I look at my income versus my expenses, I know that I couldn't make it without God's help right now, but I always know that God will come through like God

always has. God really does "meet all my needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." And for me, tithing plays a big part in that connection. I don't see it as a religious duty or obligation. My experience is that giving generously and faithfully not only empowers my community to live into its calling, but also opens the door to my own prosperity in multiple ways.

We've heard a lot about the importance of pledging and how we need to increase our giving because of budget shortfalls at GSP. I'd rather concentrate on the positive side of giving, encouraging the GSP family to try an experiment that has worked for countless people I know: make a commitment to tithe for three months and see what happens. At the end, examine your finances, your quality of life, and how you feel about it. In my ten years of professional ministry, I never had anyone regret doing this exercise, and heard innumerable reports of how it deepened peoples' faith or helped them feel more connected to God's kingdom.

I encourage you to try it out for a while—maybe for a month, or perhaps even for a year. There's something beautiful about engaging in such an ancient practice. It might just be the link you need for your own faith, or it might simply be a good exercise in stewardship. Either way, it is a practice with measurable benefits for both the giver and the receiver, and it may even end up changing the way you see God at work in your finances.



Kinship Corner

By Peggy Scott, Co-Chair,
Giving and Receiving Ministry

Fall is the time for new beginnings. I don't know exactly why that is. Maybe it's because since we were young we have always used the summer vacation from school as a time to break out of our routine, relax and recharge; and when fall comes we are ready to get back into the fray. Or maybe it's because in many parts of the country the season of fall is so obviously a transition time, with the leaves turning colors and falling away. Whatever the reason, Grace St. Paul's uses fall as a time to examine one's spiritual gifts and desires, and to examine one's commitment to the community.

In her book *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, Diana Butler Bass remarks that, "Christianity for the rest of us is the promise of transformation—that, by God's mercy, we can be different, our congregations can be different, and our world can be different." I, like many of you, am profoundly different than when I first returned to Grace St. Paul's some years ago.

Many ministries and people have led me to and through that process of transformation. Perhaps one of the deepest and most life changing experiences was my participation in the Grief Group after the death of my father. Dad managed his fatal illness with careful planning; I suppose he was influenced by his long career in medicine and in hospital administration. He made time to get together with the most important people in his life and ask for forgiveness for any harm he might have done in his relationship with them. That included me and I was glad to have that conversation with him. I was also privileged to

accompany my dad in his final moments, lived in peace in the house that he loved.

With everything so planned out and managed, all the rough corners smooth, why did I need to go to a Grief Group? I didn't know, but I saw the group announced in the bulletin and something inside me said, "Go!" I went... and discovered that I was deep in grief and denial. The kind and generous ministry of the group leaders and the other participants gave me ways to navigate through those murky waters. I even wrote a letter to my father, which was extremely therapeutic, and when I shared it with my siblings I was blessed to find that they found it comforting.

The Grief Group is just one of the many ministries supported by Grace St. Paul's that make a lasting difference in our community. On Sunday, Oct. 2, all the different ministries will be represented at the Ministry Fair. I encourage you to plan ahead and take the time after the 8 or 10 a.m. service to stroll by the various tables. Listen to what might call out to you—you might hear a "Go!" of your own. And you might also hear a special call to generosity for the upcoming Giving and Receiving Autumn Campaign.



Listening in Tongues

The Heart as Rosetta Stone

By Ana Teresa Ortiz

I remember the first time I heard the Gospel being read in Spanish at our ten o'clock service here at Grace St. Paul's. I put my program down and closed my eyes. It was a reflexive action: I read and write Spanish fluently, I had always chosen to listen to the Gospel rather than read it during my adolescence in Puerto Rico. Often I would be sitting next to my grandmother, who spoke no English and whose education had ended in the eighth grade. For her it was a relief not to have to keep up with the text or painfully sound out each word.

I used to imagine us as part of many of generations of Christians for whom the Gospels were an oral text, memorized through familiarity as an alternative to literacy. The year would bring around the favorite stories and passages with comforting predictability. Today, hearing the Gospel in Spanish floods me with memories, mostly good ones. I am reminded of the strange hypothesis that I developed as a bilingual child in the Virginia suburbs: when you are a baby you understand Spanish, then you progress to being a "big kid" and speak English, and at some point you become a real adult and speak Spanish again. It was a reasonable explanation for the fact that all the children in my life, including my siblings, spoke English, while most of the adults spoke Spanish.

For me the Gospel counts when it's in Spanish in a way I can't fully explain because it's embodied in my earliest memories of language. At the Easter Vigil I saw the same thing happen with two Hispanic families sitting at the rear of the church. They were surprised out of their church routine as I started the

story of Ezekiel in the Valley of the Dry Bones in Spanish. The kids stopped playing and the adults stopped fussing as their bodies made them pay attention. The message had been personally sent to the core of who they were. But enough about us Spanish-speakers.

Why should reading the Gospel in Spanish matter to the rest of the community? The first is that it ties the members to this place, and roots us in our southwestern history. Today we speak of border crossers and argue about how to treat them, but we forget that the border crossed Tucson several times; that the flags of Spain, Mexico, the Confederacy, the Yaqui, and the Tohono Oodham have all flown over our city. We have made a commitment to this place, and have become engaged in all of its diversity.

As global citizens and part of a global church, we need to communicate with each other. The miracle on Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the frightened Apostles was not that they spoke in tongues. The miracle was that everyone listening could understand in their own language. The entire populace had been transformed, and blessed with the opportunity to listen to God's message in a personal way, as the Gospel suddenly transcended language and culture.



Green Church Committee

By Chris Ledyard

Ever wonder “What I can do in addition to sorting trash ‘to save the environment?’” The Green Church committee will be using materials from AZ Interfaith Power and Light’s (AIP&L) Care of Creation class presentation on Oct. 16 at 9 a.m., at Grace St. Paul’s. The class promises to provide practical everyday responses to the real threat of climate change. Be sure to pick up your free Cool Congregation packet to lower carbon usage for the class, either at the back of the church or at the Rector’s Table.

The AIP&L is an interfaith “religious response to global warming” of which Grace St. Paul is one of seven Tucson member churches. AIP&L sends out an e-newsletter bi-weekly to keep everyone informed of its events for participation and action. Some of the recent news: Arizona Interfaith Power and Light sponsored, along with the organization Moving Planet, a day (Sept. 24) to demand climate action and call for the world to go beyond fossil fuels. Activities included biking, and skating a short path around Tucson.

Additionally, Arizona Interfaith Power and Light supported a neighborhood rally to quit coal in Tucson, AZ and jump-start the solar economy. H. Wilson Sundt (formerly Irvington) Coal Plant is only meters from a well-populated neighborhood, releasing fine particle pollution, heavy metals, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and 1,067,132 tons of CO₂ emissions a year. This single plant causes an estimated 4 deaths, 6 heart attacks, 68 asthma attacks, and 3 asthma ER visits per year according to the Clean Air Task Force. Sundt is the largest single source of air pollution in Tucson. Yet producing electricity from solar

creates nine times more jobs than producing electricity from coal according to NREL, so we were encouraged to come together, listen to speeches, discuss, and plan a campaign to quit coal in AZ. This event was hosted by Arizona Student Environmental Coalition (ASEC) and a number of Tucson Climate Activists.

Another Green Church activity includes completion by Charmaine Diane Dame of the Energy Resource Group of a free light audit of the church. Her results should be ready in the next couple of weeks—possibly by the time this is published. She also works with a solar retailer who is interested in bidding for our solar panel project.

In addition, a web page with various links on household environmental solutions is being developed.

The Green Church committee is chaired by Spencer Hunter and meets the first Monday evening of every month at 7 p.m. at Grace St. Paul’s. All are encouraged to attend to learn about everyday approaches to affect climate change and to participate in making Grace St. Paul’s a Green Church. Please contact Spencer through our church office if you’d like more information.



GSP community garden at Presidio Gardens-CGT (above). Late summer crops awaiting fall planting season neighbors (above right).



GSP Community Garden

By Angel Wang

Imagine the simple joy of sowing and harvesting the bounty of the earth, reconnecting our spirits to the seasons of Creation. Imagine growing fresh produce for the working families, the elderly and needy that are served by GSP.

A new GSP Community Garden project hopes to grow fresh produce for Joseph's Pantry. This ministry would offer fresh, locally-grown, organic vegetables in addition to the Community Food Bank staples to those who may not otherwise have access to fresh greens. In these financially stressing times, we may consider the need within GSP's congregation, as well.

The Community Garden project will initially be a 6-month trial where we will learn how to produce food in quantity in the desert Southwest. The GSP CG will be a single plot approximately 3'x12' located at the Presidio Garden Community Gardens of Tucson (CGT), near E. Presidio and N. Palo Verde Blvd. The arrival of the cooler temperatures and the end of the monsoon season, will enable us to sow cooler weather crops, as well as using some late summer crops currently in place. With the Fall planting season, the GSP plot will be planted with local produce most requested by Joseph's Pantry users, both with or without

cooking facilities.

This project will let us tap the expertise of an existing community of Tucson gardeners along with the use of the tools, supplies and drip irrigation system provided at the community gardens. There are opportunities for outdoor work such as sowing, transplanting, weeding, watering, and harvesting. In addition, seeds can be started indoors for transplanting later. Participation is open to all interested persons including supervised youth. The project is being spearheaded by Angel Wang, with Jane Conlin, who is also a member of the CGT, and Spencer Hunter as the community liaison. Shirley McCroo, the Presidio CG manager, and Gene Zonge will also offer assistance.

The GSP Community Garden project is an excellent opportunity for hands-on involvement with the cycle of the seasons that can nourish our bodies, calm our spirits and help nurture our wider community. I invite you to come get your hands dirty, till the soil and reconnect to the ancient rhythms of our agrarian past as a part of the web of God's Creation.

Please contact Angel Wang at 805-252-2585, or angeltwang@gmail.com for further information and tentative schedule. Also refer to Community Gardens of Tucson (CGT) webpage, www.communitygardensoftucson.org.



GSP GLBT'ers for Pride

The Tucson Pride Parade will be held on Congress Street this year instead of 4th Avenue. The parade will be at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8. We would like to have a good-sized group from GSP march in the parade, so please plan on joining us and save the date. More details will follow.

Pete Weiblen



You Will Be Missed

We are sad to announce the deaths in August of the following beloved members of Grace St. Paul's:

- Mary Betty Eager on 8/1/11
- Dyan (Satya) Duggins on 8/2/11
- Tom Thompson on 8/4/11

We will continue to hold these people in our prayers.

Taking Our Message to the Streets—Literally

By Kitt Cordero

Mark the date on your calendar: All Saints Day, Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011. This is the day of Tucson's All Souls Procession. If you have not been to the All Souls Procession, it is a fantastic cultural experience designed to honor the departed with a festival and parade. Inspired by Mexico's Dia de los Muertos, the procession began in 1990 when local artist Susan Johnson was grieving the passing of her father. She chose to honor him in a celebration of creativity. The procession has grown into a two mile long procession that weaves through the streets of downtown Tucson and culminates in an extravagant show featuring a spectacular performance by Flam Chen. The procession ends with the burning of an urn filled with the hopes and dreams of those who have passed and the prayers of those who are present at the procession.

People who walk in the procession typically wear elaborate costumes and makeup to reflect Die de los Muertos, and often walk with photos and mementos of their deceased loved ones. It's a family friendly event with over twenty thousand participants. There are scores of stilt-walkers and acrobats, along with exotic floats and people of all ages dressed up in ever more creative ways. A ritual for Tucson and a community event creating connections across cultures, the parade also raises awareness of many important issues. Last year, for example, a group gained international media attention for their remembrance of gay youth who had committed suicide after being bullied. In addition, much attention was given to border issues and other social justice causes. The event is organized by Many Mouths One Stomach, and donations are collected along the procession route as well as before and after the



Participants in the All Souls Procession typically dress up in elaborate costumes inspired by Dia de los Muertos, celebrating the lives of those who have passed on and honoring their ancestors.

together as a family. Last year there were no churches marching as an organized group, and this year we would like to have a presence making a statement that there are communities of faith in Tucson who care about social justice issues.

Our plan is to carry our banner with the words, "Love thy undocumented immigrant neighbor as thyself," and have as large a group as possible marching with signs and posters for GSP.

Come join us as we inspire others, make a statement, and experience a unique Tucson tradition. We will meet in the church parking lot at 4 p.m. before carpooling together to the area near the Epic Cafe on 4th Ave. and University Blvd. Please contact Eric Carr for more information.

The Bishop's Annual Visit



On Sunday, Sept. 11, Bishop Kirk Smith visited Grace St. Paul's and received/re-affirmed seventy (yes, 70!) people into the Episcopal Church. This is not only a record for the Bishop, it is also a record for the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona! It was a joyous occasion, and was an extraordinarily powerful and moving experience for many people. The candidates for reception and reaffirmation were wonderfully diverse, spanning many cultures, ages, and ethnicities. Many couples and families decided to be received or reaffirmed together. Glorious music was provided by our organist, Pamela Decker, and the GSP choir—28 members strong!—led by Christina Jarvis.

—Martha Whitaker & Eric Carr



We Are So Glad to Have You Here

On Sept. 11, Bishop Smith received into the congregation at Grace St. Paul's:

Roger Archer
Robin Beelen
Elizabeth Bower
Eric Carr
David Clements
Jill Clements
Alysha Collins
Katherine Cordero
Kitt Cordero
Pia Cuneo
Robert C. Dougherty, Jr.
Adam Duran
Daniel Duran
Fernando Duran

Charles Denison
Phyllis Denison
Dino DeConcini
Austin Fisher
Peter Foley
Cecilia Gamboa
Andrew Gooden
Elizabeth Gooden
James Gooden
Joyce Henderson
David Hensley
LeeAnn Holbrook
Kimberly Jones
Susan O'Shea
Maudie Geraldine Mackaben
Donna Mattix
Stephen Mattix
Janet Munson
Elizabeth Murfree
Keith Murfree-DeConcini

Jayece Olson
Annette Peru
Roger Pierce
Sue Pierce
Colleen Radford
Sarah Ruttan
Tim Ruttan
Judith Turner
Carol Yamaski
William Cassidy, Jr.
Martha Moutray
Joan Zatorski
...and accepted the reaffirmation of vows of the following existing members:
Brian Arthur
Sarah Badilla
Johanna Bradley
Kenneth DeCook
Rosemary DeCook

Brian Fairbanks
Mary Fitzgerald
James Franks
Terri Franks
Sandy Hall
Robert Hilliker
Clyde Kunz
Michael Kunz
Karen Larkin
Johanna Rentschler
Holden Sanders
Robert Sharp
William Staatz
Sheryl Watterson
William Watterson
Welcome to every single one of our received and reaffirmed congregants!

October brings us a rich array of classes for Adult Spiritual Formation. Join us as we share theater and film, discover how to “green” our daily lives, explore the concept of “inter-spirituality”, learn to budget limited resources, remember our connection to Creation, and appreciate the blessings of our community.

Good Grief: A Journey of Healing

Saturdays, Oct. 1-Nov. 12

**10 a.m.-Noon, Bloom Education Center
(pre-registration required)**

This is a seven-week process-oriented group for people who have lost a loved one. It is based on Alan Wolfelt’s “needs of mourning”: acknowledging the reality of the death, embracing the pain and loss, remembering the person who has died, developing a new self identity, searching for meaning, receiving ongoing support from others. The group will include sharing, meditation, prayer and simple assignments. The group will be a safe place to fully express your feelings.

Note: Pre-registration is required, along with a commitment to attending most or all of the sessions. Be sure to check with facilitators for the times.

Facilitated by the Rev. Nancy Meister Book and Cameron Sutton. Both have received training in The Mourner’s Path and have experience facilitating these groups.

Ministry Fair

Sunday, Oct. 2

9 a.m. & 11:30 a.m., throughout church campus

Discover or reconnect with the many vital ministries that are coordinated by lay leaders at Grace St. Paul’s. You may want to join one or more after discovering they fit your interests, skills, abilities, and time schedule.

Coordinated by Martha Whitaker and Linda Hutson.

Exploring Inter-Spirituality through The Mystic Heart

Thursday evenings, Oct. 6-27

7:30-9 p.m., Bloom Education Center

Inter-spirituality is considered by some as the genuine and comprehensive spirituality that draws on the world’s diverse great traditions. While “rooting” the exploration within Christianity, this class will draw upon sister traditions to enhance solidarity with all life, moral capacity, nonviolence, self-knowledge, selfless service, simplicity of lifestyle, daily spiritual practice, and serve as a prophetic witness in the causes of peace, justice, and protecting creation. Reading of Brother Wayne Teasdale’s, *The Mystic Heart: Discovering a Universal Spirituality in the World’s Religions* is highly recommended, as it will provide a guide to our discussions. This book may be purchased through the Rector’s Bookshelf.

Facilitated by Ana Teresa Ortiz, who is a member of Grace St. Paul’s and an Interfaith Minister.

Spirit Players—A Play Reading Experience

1st Fridays, Oct. 7 & Nov. 4

6:30-8 p.m., Bloom Education Center

The theme for these readings is “Touching the Untouchable.” The play for October is *Bell, Book and Candle* and the play for November is *Shadow Box*. 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 the plays are appropriate for all ages.

Facilitated by Eric Rau and Nanalee Raphael, members of the Grace St. Paul’s Spirit Players.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Woofs, Meows, & God: How Do Our Animal Companions Guide Our Spiritual Growth?

Sunday, Oct. 9

9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Creation spirituality focuses on affirming the goodness of God's creation and our role of being responsible caretakers of God's creation. The creatures with which we are most familiar are our animal companions: our dogs, cats, birds, and all those creatures that share our homes and give us joy and love. This class will focus on how we, individually and as a church community, can foster that blessed relationship, provide care for our animal companions, and remain open to the love and guidance that they so freely offer us during our spiritual growth.

Facilitated by Rev. Nadine Martin, Deacon, TSSF; Chris, Ledyard, TSSF, vestry member; and Fr. Steve Keplinger, Rector of Grace St. Paul's.

Grace St. Paul's Wellness: Monitoring & Feedback

Sunday, Oct. 16

9 a.m. & 11:30 a.m., McBride Hall

Please join the senior warden, members of the vestry, and other parish leaders in an ongoing conversation about parish life, including Grace St. Paul's financial health. Please see your Sunday bulletin and Briefly for more details and specific announcements. Facilitated by Senior Warden Martha Whitaker.

(*Reconciliation—A Continuing Conversation*, previously scheduled for this date, has been graciously postponed by Chris Eastoe in the interests of scheduling two Wellness Sessions so that all members of GSP can attend.)

Film Festival & Fellowship

3rd Friday, Oct. 21

6:30-9:30 p.m., Bloom Education Center

Join us at 6:30 for a potluck dinner, followed by a showing of the film "The Cup (Phorpa)", a documentary about Tibetan Buddhists obsessed with the World Cup. This is a "family friendly" film and all are welcome to attend. The evening will include time for group discussion.

Coordinated by Eric Carr and Kit Cordero, GSP members and film aficionados.

Comfortable with Uncertainty—

Freeing Ourselves from Decisions Based on Fear

Sunday, Oct. 23

9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

How often do we react to situations based on old habits and fears? Would you rather seek new paths in your life? It is within our power to break free of destructive patterns in our lives. Based on the writings of Pema Chodron, an American Buddhist Nun, we'll discuss ways to cultivate fearlessness and compassion.

Facilitated by Patricia Galvin, a member of Grace St. Paul's, and seeker of a compassionate path.

Current Humanitarian Issues

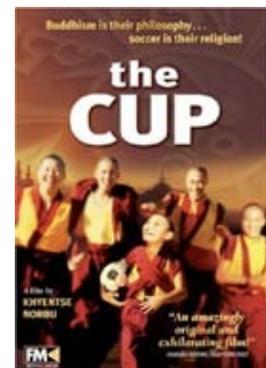
in the Ongoing Immigration Crisis

Sunday, Oct. 30

9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

The Restoration Project will present ideas for ways that people of faith can alleviate suffering and denial of human rights. This Project offers multiple outreach and humanitarian programs to migrants, both in detention and upon release. Class participants will be provided various options in helping these "strangers in our midst" who seemingly have lost all claims to their basic human rights in Arizona.

Coordinated by the Grace St. Paul's Bridging Borders Social Justice Committee.





Common Security Clubs: Building Supportive Community for Hard Financial Times

Sunday, Oct. 30

11:45 a.m.-12: 45 p.m., Bloom Education Center

This is an introduction to the Common Security Clubs (CSC) that provide a context where people can come together to understand the greater economic system that creates local conditions; to break down the stigma, isolation and shame associated with financial distress; and to share support and resources, such as referrals, opportunities for bartering, and rotating credit. Following this introductory class, participants will chose times and dates for the follow-up sessions. Education materials provided by the Institute for Policy Studies Program on Inequality and the Public Good will be provided free of charge.

Coordinated by Ana Teresa Ortiz, Grace St. Paul's member, Interfaith Minister, and a member of the Union of Religious Progressives.

The Migrant Trail: We Walk for Life

Sunday, Nov. 6

9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

The Migrant Trail is a memorial walk for those 253 people who have died in the last year and for the many others who have died and have never been found. It is not intended to duplicate the difficult, unsafe, and life-threatening experiences that migrants must endure to come to the USA. Through an audio-graphic presentation, it is anticipated that interest will be stimulated in joining the walk next year.

Facilitated by Rev. Nancy Meister Book and Jay Book, who walked the 75 miles from Sasabe, Sonora to Tucson, Arizona, over seven days during the first week of June.

Giving & Receiving

Sunday, Nov. 13

8 & 10 a.m. Worship Services

The Grace St. Paul's community will gather for worship to celebrate the spirituality of giving and our gratitude for our lives together as the Body of Christ. There will be a parish-wide brunch following both Sunday services. See the Briefly for current information.

Coordinated by the Giving and Receiving Committee co-chaired by Tricia Galvin and Peggy Scott.



Grace St. Paul's

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

What's Happening in October

1st	10 a.m., <i>Good Grief—A Journey of Healing</i> 5:30 p.m., GSP 20s & 30s	13th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration 7:30 p.m., <i>Exploring Inter-Spirituality Through the Mystic Heart</i>	26th	6:30 p.m., EfM Year 12 Group 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist	7th	7 p.m., Candlelight Compline 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
2nd	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., Ministry Fair 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups 11:30 a.m., Ministry Fair 7 p.m., Candlelight Compline	14th	DIOCESAN CONVENTION—PHOENIX 9 a.m., Qigong Class	27th	9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration 7:30 p.m., <i>Exploring Inter-Spirituality Through the Mystic Heart</i>	8th	6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 12 Group 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 6:30 p.m., <i>Soul Feast—An Invitation to Spiritual Life</i> 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry
3rd	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	15th	DIOCESAN CONVENTION—PHOENIX 10 a.m., <i>Good Grief—A Journey of Healing</i>	28th	9 a.m., Qigong Class	9th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration
4th	10 a.m., <i>NLP—Revisit & Further Study</i> 6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group	16th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., GSP Wellness 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups 11:45 a.m., GSP Wellness 7 p.m., Candlelight Compline	29th	10 a.m., <i>Good Grief—A Journey of Healing</i>	10th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration
5th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry	17th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	30th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Current Humanitarian Issues in the Ongoing Immigration Crisis</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 10 a.m., Children's Eucharistic Worship Service 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups 11:45 a.m., <i>Common Security Clubs: Building Supportive Community for Hard Financial Times</i>	11th	9 a.m., Qigong Class
6th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration 7:30 p.m., <i>Exploring Inter-Spirituality Through the Mystic Heart</i>	18th	10 a.m., <i>NLP—Revisit & Further Study</i> 6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group	31st	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	12th	10 a.m., <i>Good Grief—A Journey of Healing</i> 8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Giving & Receiving Brunch</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., <i>Giving & Receiving Brunch</i> 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups
7th	9 a.m., Qigong Class 7 p.m., Spirit Players—A Play Reading Experience	19th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry			13th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Giving & Receiving Brunch</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups
8th	10 a.m., <i>Good Grief—A Journey of Healing</i>	20th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration 7:30 p.m., <i>Exploring Inter-Spirituality Through the Mystic Heart</i>			14th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
9th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Annual Trip to "Apple Annie's" 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Woofs, Meows, & God: How Do Our Animal Companions Guide Our Spiritual Growth?</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups	21st	9 a.m., Qigong Class 7 p.m., Film Festival & Fellowship			15th	6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry
10th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	22nd	10 a.m., <i>Good Grief—A Journey of Healing</i>			16th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry
11th	10 a.m., <i>NLP—Revisit & Further Study</i> 6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 12 Group 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group	23rd	Food Ministries Sunday 8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Comfortable with Uncertainty—Freeing Ourselves from Decisions Based on Fear</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups			17th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration 7 p.m., Adult Spiritual Formation & Education Planning Meeting
12th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 6:30 p.m., <i>Soul Feast—An Invitation to Spiritual Life</i> 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry	24th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic			18th	9 a.m., Qigong Class 6:30 p.m., Film Festival & Fellowship
		25th	6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist			19th	6 p.m., Refugee Thanksgiving Dinner
						20th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Gospel of Mark—Conversation with Scripture</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups 7 p.m., Candlelight Compline
						21st	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

Looking Ahead to November

1st	6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Eucharist 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group
2nd	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., EfM—Education for Ministry 7 p.m., EfM—Education for Ministry
3rd	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration
4th	9 a.m., Qigong Class 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players—A Play Reading Experience
5th	10 a.m., <i>Good Grief—A Journey of Healing</i> 5:30 pm GSP 20s & 30s
6th	8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>The Migrant Trail—We Walk for Life</i> 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups