

The Briefly

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Rector's Message

Why are we still waiting?

The last two months have been an amazing time of spiritual, emotional and liturgical growth here at Grace St. Paul's. So many wonderful things have happened in such a short period of time, that it is difficult for us to be anything but grateful. In the midst of this chaotic pace we have been setting comes the season of Advent. At this time of year, our religious tradition suggests to us that we slow down and enter a process of not doing. Sometimes liturgical seasons do not operate in the same rhythm as our lives. However this year, the season of waiting seems to have come at just the right time for us.

While everyone around us is in a total frenzy, Advent encourages us... to watch and wait.

Of course, the problem is the world surrounding us. No time of year is more frenetic in our culture than December. While everyone around us is in a total frenzy, Advent encourages us to do the opposite, to watch and to wait. I suspect that a portion of the media will go on again this year about culture battles and the war against Christmas. Being sensitive to the religious beliefs of another however, is not a war on Christmas. I am personally much more concerned that all of us have lost the real meaning of Christmas because as Christians, we have accommodated our religion to the culture. We have let go of the liturgical season of Advent, because we are just too busy to live it. And without observing this season of waiting and hoping, the reality of Christmas will be impossible for any of us to experience.

To be a true Christian in Advent means that we must be counter-cultural. Each of us needs to come up with creative ways to not be sucked into the whirlwind. Each of us needs to have a non-anxious presence while the world scurries. Each of us needs to be quiet enough that we can hear the still small voice of God.

There is no question that we have much to teach the world about how we can find God in our lives again. There is also no question that having a season of Advent is emotionally beneficial to all of us. But from a theological perspective, does the season of Advent still make any sense? For whom or what are we waiting? Is Advent really supposed to be about some sort of suspension of belief so that we can experience the birth of Jesus as something totally new? Another understanding heard in some of our hymns and prayers, suggests that what we are really waiting for at this time of year is the second coming of Christ. But this imagery is not very helpful for those of us who believe that Christ's incar-



Briefly Deadline

The next deadline for *The Briefly* is Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011, for the February issue. Please send electronic articles to Martha P.L. Whitaker at: jartham@cox.net. Either MS Word or Word Perfect format is acceptable, or you may simply paste the article into the body of your email. If you do not have access to a computer, please call the parish office and ask if there is a volunteer who can help you type it into an electronic file. Please send graphics and photos at the highest resolution your camera provides, without any editing or resizing, in TIFF or JPEG format, directly to John Banks: jdbanks@gmail.com. Remember that if you need to "talk" with me, please use my mplw@hwr.arizona.edu address, since I only check the jartham@cox.net address when I'm ready to edit.

From the Senior Warden

Advent invites us into anticipating the arrival of an unknown savior, into welcoming new possibilities, and an unimagined future. Our Christian narrative is always one of hope and renewal, in spite of the reality that all things inevitably have an end. Beginnings and endings, death and rebirth. Each year we tell a story that is, ultimately, a story of the Divine and, yet, it is also a very human story.

This year, the advent of new beginnings and the ending of the old have a special resonance for me. In January, I will step down after four years as Senior Warden and new leadership will come forward: a new Rector's warden will be appointed by Fr. Steve and new members of the Vestry will be elected by the congregation. We are very fortunate that Linda Hutson, our capable Junior Warden, as well as the Vestry's returning veterans and officers, will serve as a strong bridge between our past and our future.

Rector's Message

Continued from Page 1

nation was not a one-time event. Christ is here with us right now. If that is true, does a liturgical season of waiting still make any sense for us?

My response is that yes, Christ is already present with us, but that presence is akin to the way Jesus described the realm of God. He told the disciples that it was already here. But he also said that it was not yet.

Over the last couple months, all of us at Grace St. Paul's have experienced the realm of God in our midst. We know full well that our God is a present reality because we have experienced that God in profoundly powerful ways. But at the same time, we see the suffering around us first hand, up close and personal. We know darn well that the realm may be here, but it is also not yet.

Over the last four years we experienced a huge cycle of change at Grace St. Paul's, and, in September, we entered a new season of beginnings. That season will continue for a time as, together with Fr. Steve, we identify new visions and ministries for our community. Only last month, the Vestry approved a proposal to begin a new ministry of education and spiritual hospitality to returning veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

But let me return to endings. Grace St. Paul's is a special place, full of amazing people—it has been a joy to serve this community through the transition period. I cannot find words to express how grateful I am for all the support and the leadership that so many of you took on. We learned a lot about ourselves in the process—and about being the face of Christ to each other and the world. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Faithfully,
Catherine

That is what we wait for this Advent season. We wait for the emergence of the realm of God in new and exciting ways. We wait for Christ's presence in an even more transparent way than we have experienced in the past. We know that God is already here. But we wait for an even greater unveiling of that God in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Let us wait together in fervent hope that the realm of God will arrive...again and again. Let us wait together for Immanuel, for God with us again. Let us wait in hope for the real Christmas, a Christmas that brings the presence of Christ's love to all of the world.

Happy waiting,
Steve+

Advent & Christmas Services

By The Rev. Steve Keplinger+

As the community of Grace St. Paul's, we are not here to wall ourselves off from society, but to be active participants in it. However, we are also called to be prophets, to stand up and change things when the culture drifts away. Advent is the time when we are called to be a corrective to society. While the world is running around in a frenzy, we are here to profess that it is Advent and time to be quiet and wait. When Dec. 25 does arrive, we will celebrate not just for one day, but all twelve days of Christmas, *beginning* on Dec. 25 and ending on Epiphany. Our services this month are designed to do just that.

You will notice a significant change in rhythm as we begin the season of Advent on **Nov. 28**. Our Sunday liturgies will be reflective and anticipatory. Advent is also the perfect time to try our new **Evening Prayer** service every **Tuesday evening at 6 p.m.** Evening Prayer occurs in the Chapel. Also on Tuesday evenings, the spirit of Advent is captured in our **meditation** experience at **7 p.m.** in the church Chancel.

On **Advent Two, Dec. 5**, we will have a visit from St. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra. During our 8 and 10 a.m. services, the Bishop will tell us his real story, slightly different than the legend that grew into Santa Claus. He will also gather with the children during the 10 a.m. service, where each will receive a small gift from the Bishop, as well as participate in a service project in the spirit of the fourth century Bishop. Kids of all ages are encouraged to hang around after the service and get your picture taken with St. Nick in McBride Hall.

Theology Behind the Liturgy: Be What You See?

By The Rev. Steve Keplinger+

Each month we are looking at an aspect of the liturgy and talking about the theology behind what we are doing or saying. This month, I wanted to address a phrase that we are using as an invitation to communion. Some of you have asked about one of the sentences that I have added after the phrase, "The Gifts of God for the people of God." The words are, "Be what you see, receive what you are."

No, it is not a New Age aphorism taken from a Wiccan ceremony. It is, in fact, a quotation from Augustine of Hippo. Yes, that Augustine, the one who also gave us the dogma of inher-

Grace St. Paul's is also well known for our annual **Blue Christmas** service. This service was created to respond to the deep need of those who find this season so emotionally difficult. This year it is **Dec. 19 (Advent Four) at 6 p.m.**

The **Winter Solstice** and the longest night of the year arrives on **Dec. 21**. That evening at **6 p.m.**, we will gather for a meditative service in the church Chancel marking the turning point of the season and connecting us to God through this important night.

On the **Eve of the Nativity**, we will have our intergenerational service, including Children's Pageant at **6 p.m.** Later that evening, we will have what many consider our most beautiful service of the year. Thirty minutes of Christmas carols will precede the candlelight service that you will not want to miss. It all begins at **10:30 p.m.**

Christmas Day, a more intimate service will be held at **10 a.m.** **Christmas One** is the next day, as our celebration continues at **8 and 10 a.m.**

Finally on **New Year's Eve**, we will have an alternative way to ring in the New Year. Kristopher Lindquist will be with us for an evening of beautiful music and readings. Come celebrate the New Year in joy and hope, beginning at **7 p.m.**

But wait, there's more. It does not end until The Three Kings arrive on **Epiphany**. We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany three times, on **Sunday, Jan. 2** at our regular 8 and 10 a.m. services and then again on **Jan. 6 at 6 p.m.** in McBride Hall.

ited original sin and double predestination. As Episcopalians, especially Grace St. Paul's Episcopalians, these ideas of Augustine are ones from which we have separated ourselves. For some of us, they are the basis for the layers of guilt Western Christianity has laid upon us since the fourth century.

But Augustine also wrote thousands of pages, and much of what he said continues to influence us in positive ways today. It is his understanding of communion that I believe is a major corrective to where the church would later go.

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Liturgy & Music

Notes from the Choir Stalls



The Season of Creation is now behind us for another year, although every day is creation made new. My cats have rewritten “Circle the table,” the table chant we’ve been using throughout the season: “Circle the table, scratch at the door, snuffle a stranger, pee on the floor...” I’m not suggesting this for use in the 10 o’clock service, however. We hope you enjoyed the Missa Gaia excerpts as much as we enjoyed doing them. Special thanks to Jane Click,

Rhonda Whatley, Kathy Creath, and Bruce Anderson for sharing their instrumental talents, as well as Wendy Pipentacos for her solo chops. We need to do things like that more often. And we will, with the rest of the Lieto Ensemble, on Advent One.

So Advent is here! A lot of things are coming up before Christmas. There will be no service for Thanksgiving this year. We thought we’d just keep you in church an extra hour the First Sunday in Advent to make up for it. Just kidding, of course. We do that anyway.

The choir is rehearsing on Tuesday night of that week, because I learned the hard way that if you schedule a rehearsal the night before Thanksgiving, funnily enough, half the choir is missing. I understand how important cooking prep is before the big holiday, but I also remember the Wednesday night a few years ago when I sliced off the tip of my left thumb scoring raw chestnuts to roast for the stuffing. If we’d been in rehearsal, that wouldn’t have happened. Just saying. Not to make any of you choir people feel guilty or anything. Surgical glue is pretty cool, by the way. Speaking of things to give thanks for, we are really grateful that some of our winter visitors have returned—Tom Ham and Liz Durham are both back in the choir stalls. We look forward to having more returnees soon. And we give a huge shout-out for the folks who are here, edge to edge, for the choral season.

Among the events we are preparing for is Kate Baird’s ordination on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 2:30 p.m. The choir will provide suitable an-

them for this momentous occasion in Kate’s life. On Sunday, Dec. 5, we celebrate St. Nicholas, as opposed to Santa Claus, who isn’t allowed on the premises during Advent. It will be a big service for the children, with lots of participation from the junior dude set. We will not have a formal choir for Blue Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 19, this year, but there will be a few singers to help lead the congregational singing.

All of this leads up to Christmas Eve, as I’m sure more than a few children will tell you. As in previous years, we will have a 6 p.m. service with the children’s pageant and the carol service and festival Eucharist at 10:30 and 11 p.m., respectively. We will, in fact, have a brass quintet for the later service, as we did last year. The music will include traditional English and Spanish works, with more arrangements of Carols for Choirs with the brass. The offertory and communion anthems at the 11 p.m. service will be excerpts from the Christmas Cantata by Daniel Pinkham. Then we will all repair to McBride Hall for refreshments of the liquid and foodly variety to see us home. I doubt I’ll even see the bed coming. Then up for the 10 a.m. service Christmas morning, with a few hardy souls willing to challenge the shreds of vocal cord, not to mention neurons, they have left.

The choir takes a break for the next two Sundays—Ron Clayton is soloing on Dec. 26 and the Lieto Ensemble will play on Jan. 2. We’ll be back in the chancel for Epiphany and a brand new year.

Wishing you all the best of the Advent and Christmas seasons and a happy and healthy New Year!

Peace on earth, and good will to both houses of Congress,

Christina Jarvis
Director of Music

Christmas Eve Music Fund

Got some extra brass? We’re looking for a few good donors to make up the difference between the current balance in the Special Music fund and what we need to pay the Christmas Eve brass quintet. About \$600 should do it. As it says in the Good Book: “The tuba is worthy of his hire.” I’m sure it says that somewhere. Those generous souls wishing to donate to this cause should make the check out to “Grace St. Paul’s Episcopal Church” and write “Special Music” on the memo line.

Thanks!

Christina Jarvis
Director of Music

Invitation to Blue Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m.

Christmas is the time of year during which we are bombarded by the media with images of the Ozzie-and-Harriet-type families getting together and celebrating with joy, or for watching the movie "It's a Wonderful Life," a perennial favorite. Yet for many people, it's not a wonderful life, and their image of Christmas contrasts sharply with the ones we see on television. The darkness we feel in our hearts overshadows the bright lights of the season, and the season is one to endure rather than enjoy. The reasons for the holiday "blues" vary from loss, illness, or loneliness to the feeling that the true meaning of Christmas, which is to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, has been overlooked among the trappings of commercialism. The Blue Christmas service is designed to help us acknowledge our sadness at Christmas, offer those feelings to God in a safe environment, and celebrate the birth of Jesus. People are invited to participate at whatever level is comfortable for them. The service includes music, laying-on of hands, and anointing, and concludes with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

For further information, call the church office at (520) 327-6857.

—The Rev. Nadine Martin

St. Francis & the Christmas Crèche

By The Rev. Nadine Martin

As we enter the season of Advent, we bring out and dust off many beloved Christmas traditions. Some of these traditions are secular, such as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and the many TV commercials urging you to buy more. Other traditions are spiritual and embody the essence of the celebration of the birth of Jesus, such as our Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is the Christmas crèche—sometimes referred to as a nativity scene—in which the baby Jesus, Joseph, and Mary are displayed surrounded by angels and a host of animals celebrating with joy the birth of the Christ child.

How did the Christmas crèche come to be? St. Francis of Assisi is credited with having created the first nativity scene in 1223 in the town of Greccio, Italy, for the purpose of emphasizing the worship of Christ rather than secular consumerism. St. Francis had been visiting Greccio, and he was looking for a suitable place to celebrate Midnight Mass. He found a cave in a hillside and, with the permission of the sovereign Pontiff, obtained permission to celebrate Mass there. To create authenticity, St. Francis created a manger scene, complete with hay, an ox and

an ass. Many people from the countryside joined the friars and led the procession to the altar in an overhanging niche where St. Francis intoned the Gospel and preached a sermon about Jesus who had been born 1200 years earlier in similar surroundings. It is said that many sick people were healed on that night and that even domestic animals that had eaten a few stalks of hay from the crib were healed.

St. Francis did not conceive the idea of the manger scene with the thought of starting a tradition: it was his unabashed love for God and his desire to experience the sights, smells, and sounds of the scene so that he could more vividly experience the real significance of the birth of Jesus. He was especially moved by the simplicity, humility, and poverty of the scene, which made real to him the ultimate act of God's love, the birth of a baby in a humble manger surrounded by Joseph and Mary and animals.

May we, like St. Francis, experience the love of God revealed to us this season. And may we, like St. Francis, experience God's love each day through the wonders of creation and the love and companionship of our beloved animal companions.

Theology Behind the Liturgy: Be What You See?

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When he said, "Be what you see," he asked us to remember that the elements before us are The Body of Christ. When he said, "receive what you are", we are reminded that we too are The Body of Christ. Be what you see, be the Body of Christ for the world. Receive what you are, take into yourself that same essence of Christ.

Unlike the ridiculous discussions that would occur in the Middle Ages about transubstantiation and what may chemically be occurring in the act of the Eucharist, Augustine reminds us of

the real reality of what we are undertaking and the gigantic magnitude of what happens when we eat together. No one has a problem understanding that we are Christ's body in the world. Augustine reminds us that the same symbol applies to the bread and wine. We are eating what we are. We are then called to go feed the world, both literally and spiritually, making them the Body of Christ and bringing them to full life.

What better way to understand the power of our central sacramental act and what happens to us in the midst of the community.



Social Justice & Outreach



DREAM Act

*By Dolores and Paul Gohdes,
Co-chairs, Bridging Borders*

A young man stands forlornly on the Mexican side of the border. Brought to the United States by his parents at age 5, he grew up here, went to school here, had friends here, spoke English, and had a job. One day he jaywalked, as did many others in that area in Phoenix. He was confronted by the police and arrested when he could not produce any documents. He was then turned over to immigration authorities and deported. No friends, no job, no money, no Mexican ID, and no knowledge of the culture.

Do we (at this time, in this country) punish young people for the acts of their parents? Unfortunately, the answer is “Yes.” The story of the young man actually happened recently.

However, the U.S. Senate has the opportunity to give almost a million young people a new start by passing the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (“DREAM Act”)! The DREAM Act would provide a path to citizenship for immigrant students who have grown up in the U.S., if they attend college or

serve in the U.S. military. It has strict criteria and caps on who is eligible, and would provide almost a million young people a chance to come out of the shadows and live a full life in the only nation they call home.

Both House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid have promised to introduce the DREAM Act before the end of the year, and bring it to a vote. Last time it was introduced, the Senate passed it but the House of Representatives did not.

We urge you to contact Arizona’s Senators and Representatives, asking them to support the bill: www.contactingthecongress.org/cgi-bin/newseek.cgi?site=ctc&state=az

Congregational Development

Vestry Nomination Process for 2011

*By Vivian May,
Nominating
Chairperson*

This time of year GSP seeks out members to become official candidates for election to the vestry. The rector-appointed nominating committee (Henry Dirtadian, Father Steve Keplinger, Chris Ledyard, Vivian May, Dan Misenhimer, Nanalee Raphael, and Catherine Williams), will be discerning the nominees for 2011. To be elected are Junior Warden as well as four term-ending vestry positions, with each position to serve for three years. In addition, a newly-created vestry member designation reserved for youth shall be elected. The overall vestry nomination procedure parallels the format of last year.

Membership on the vestry requires a significant amount of personal time, including attendance at monthly vestry meetings (at a minimum). Vestry meetings have a major focus on building and grounds preservation as well as other financial and organizational concerns linked to parish administration. Potential candidates must have a track record of involvement with GSP; a commitment to additional vigorous participation in the parish; a willingness to be

present and active in the administration of GSP business, and meet Canonical requirements (i.e., be a communicant in good standing and giver of record for at least six months).

The nomination committee will announce the slate of candidates on the GSP website and in the Sunday bulletin on Dec. 12. The nominating chairperson or the rector may then accept additional, open nominations from Dec. 12 through Jan. 2.

As is our tradition, there will be an opportunity to meet the candidates during an open forum on Jan. 16, 2011, following both 8 and 10 a.m. worship services. Please come to this "meet and greet" event, which also serves to strengthen our community bonding! Candidates will introduce themselves to parishioners and be available to answer questions concerning their outlook and experience. The actual voting and parish approval process will take place during our annual meeting on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011.

For more information, please contact Vivian May, nominating chairperson, at maygoplay@gmail.com.

Calling All Parish Organizations: Annual Report Deadline!

By David Wachter

The Annual Meeting of Grace St. Paul's is coming: Sunday, Jan. 23, after the 10 a.m. Eucharist. And that means it's time for the Annual Report! Let us know your group's people, accomplishments, milestones, dreams. We'd like to have reports from as many GSP organizations, covenant groups, and ministries as possible.

If you'd like to share photos of your group's activity, that would be wonderful! Either prints or digital photos are fine; if you're going to send digital photos, please send photos taken at the highest resolution your camera provides, without any editing or resizing, in TIFF or JPEG format. Please e-mail your reports (in Word or WordPerfect format) to David Wachter, at annualreport@grace-stpauls.org, **no later than Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011**. Thank you!

Housemate sought

Share a home on the desert close to Saguaro National Park East. Bedroom suite includes private bath with shower, 13' x 15' bedroom, walk-in closet. Garage, DirecTV, plus kitchen & laundry privileges. \$550/mo. Al Whitehurst, 647-3630.

Congregational Development

**Conversations
with
Fr. Steve & Jean**
By Chris LaBour

We have completed the series of Conversations with Fr. Steve and Jean, and are delighted that so many people participated. It was wonderful to hear the ideas and enthusiasm about moving into a new vision, while remembering the traditions that have kept us strong. All of the comments have been recorded and will be used as we move forward. It was amazing how many themes were consistent and seem to be important to many of us.

Some of the traditions that we want to keep or bring back include the use of the labyrinth, M3M services, Blue Christmas, Easter vigil, Kristopher Lindquist chants, uplifting music, Healing Touch ministry, Programs for Seniors, Setting Our Hearts, Pastoral Care Team, Adult Spiritual Formation classes and speakers, Wednesday Eucharist, and radical inclusivity. Some of the current activities that people like include the Creation Liturgy, variations in the liturgy, Prayers of the People, action-oriented sermons, social justice emphasis, Gospel read in Spanish, open Communion rail, Fr. Steve greeting people outside before the services, liturgical

art, and use of a Tibetan bell to signal meditation. Things we would like to work on are length of the services, length of the Peace, announcements, ways to involve more people in the Social Justice Outreach ministries such as Bread from the Pantry and Joseph's Pantry, and the mosquito problem in the stairwell.

When speaking of the future, people expressed wonderful, creative ideas. Every group hoped for an even more vital Greeting Ministry, for more involvement of children in the services, and development of more programs for our children and youth. Suggestions were made on ways to grow the Social Justice ministries, to develop interfaith connections, to provide more Healing Services and to market ourselves. Several people expressed interest in redesigning the sanctuary to make it even more inclusive and participatory.

A clear picture emerged from these sessions of who we are and where we want to go. Thank you to everyone who joined the discussions and a special thank you to all of the ministry leaders who coordinated the refreshments for each gathering.

Meet the Vestry Nominees

Sunday, Jan. 16

9-9:45 a.m., McBride Hall

Meet your vestry and Junior Warden candidates for the 2010-2013 terms. There will be a question- and-answer format, so bring your questions for the slate of nominees! You will have the opportunity to select new vestry members at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 24.

For more information, please contact Vivian May, nominating chairperson, at maygo-play@gmail.com.

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 23

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., McBride Hall

Come, vote for Junior Warden, vestry members and your Diocesan Convention delegates. The agenda will also include appointment of the new Senior Warden, the budget for 2011, and updates on parish ministries. Lunch will be provided.

For additional information, phone the parish office at (520) 327-6857.

Parish Life

Trinity Institute's
41st National
Theological
Conference,
Jan. 20-21, 2011

How Do We Read Scripture?

By *Lynne Albright*

Join us for Trinity Institute's 41st National Theological Conference where, led by an international panel of distinguished speakers, we will explore the theory and practice of Bible study that is authentic and transformative. Speakers will address topics including: What concerns do scholars have when reading scriptures? What does an ordinary reader bring? How does our culture influence what truths we may find in scripture? How do we read scripture together?

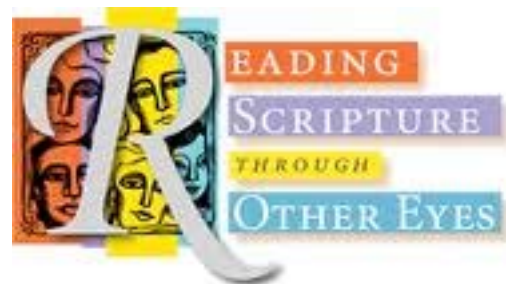
This year's conference features five keynote speakers:

- Walter Brueggemann is widely regarded as one of the preeminent contemporary Bible scholars.
- Mary Gordon is one of the leading chroniclers of contemporary Catholic life in America
- Teresa Okure, SHCJ, is Professor of New Testament and Gender Hermeneutics at the Catholic Institute of West Africa, Nigeria.
- Gerald West is Professor in the School of Theology, University of Kwazulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.
- Steed V. Davidson is associate professor of Old Testament at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA.

Ann & Dan Misenhimer Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Please join Ann and Dan Misenhimer as they celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 6-8 p.m. in McBride Hall. The actual date of their anniversary was Nov. 16, but they scheduled the celebration in December so that all their children and their respective families could attend the celebration.

Ann & Dan extend the invitation to everyone in the Grace St Paul's family: all parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend.



For more information check trinitywallstreet.org/faith/institute/

How can we "attend" a conference in New York City?

The proceedings of this conference are Internet-streamed from Trinity Church to sites all around the country. We will project the video onto a large screen very visible for everyone. Some sessions will be time-delayed from New York, and some will be viewed live.

Specifics

- Thursday, Jan. 20, 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m., McBride Hall
- Friday, Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Bloom Education Center

The cost is \$20 for two days, \$15 for one day. Please register and pay by Jan. 16 by calling the church office (327-6857) to get a form, or sign up at the Welcome Table on Sunday.

Media Lending Library

By *Lynne Albright*

Are you interested in viewing videos of some previous speakers at GSP? Did you miss a special Sunday morning service? Copies of services and programs are available in the Weeks Room in the Media Library located on a revolving bookshelf on the west wall. Some older events are available on VCR—more recent are on DVD.

Available programs include Speakers Series with Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Nora Gallagher, John Philip Newell and oth-

ers. All the programs from the Authors' Series are available, including Richard Shelton and Nancy Mairs.

Available services include Gordon McBride's Memorial service and Steve Keplinger's first Sunday.

There are library cards in each item. With our new procedure you can place the card in the box on top of the revolving stand. Please replace the card in the video/dvd when you return the item and put it on the appropriate labeled shelf. Thanks to Jesse Thrall for making these items available for loan.

Adult Spiritual Formation

As we welcome the new Christmas season with Advent preparation, we hope you'll come, listen, and learn for your spiritual journey!

Be sure to look for our new series of Spiritual Formation Opportunities in our February-May 2011 series!

The Jesus of the Gospels: A Fresh Look

Three Sundays: Nov. 28, Dec. 5 & 12

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Bloom Education Center

In the spirit of Advent, we will prepare for the coming Christ with a look at Jesus' own words as we reflect on what it means to have the Christ present in our lives. Drawing from historical context and moving into deeper meaning, we'll examine parables and other canonical sayings of Jesus in terms of his primary earthly ministry of calling the Jews back to God. Using a contemplative approach, we will explore the mystical implications of this call to repentance as we encourage and facilitate inspired discussion.

Facilitated by **Rhonda Whatley** and **Jeanette Renouf**, Ph.D, D.Min. Both are interested in new ways of developing insights on Jesus.

Alternative Christmas Fair

Sunday, Dec. 5

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

Tired of the old commercialism and materialistic demands for this time of year? Come participate in the opportunity in gifting that benefits others and their organizations. Coordinated by **Tricia Galvin**, a GSP vestry member who is interested in developing and supporting locally-produced goods.

Keeping a Celtic Advent

Two Sundays: Dec. 12 & 19

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

It is possible for our celebration of the entire Advent Season to be a testimony to Christ and His love, for the Season of Advent stands with the true Season of Christmas over and against the secular "Xmas" season. The secular holiday is devoted to the celebration and observance of materialism and consumerism. Keeping a "Celtic Advent" is a way of preparing for a more spiritual observance of the true "Holy-day" of Christmas and the season of the Incarnation. This two-session class will examine the themes of Celtic Christian Spirituality, and how they may help us prepare for a sane and holy celebration of our most important festival. Facilitated by the **Rev. Frederick J. Masterman**.

New Religious America Book Discussion

Sunday, Jan. 9

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

As we end this series of classes with the emphasis on Interfaith discovery, come and discuss a book that can be used to self-examine your journey, as well as this country in becoming an Interfaith experiment and experience. As noted in Amazon.com, "Eck focuses here on the explosion of Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist communities in America, particularly since 1965. How has the growth of these religions changed the American landscape? And just as important, how are the religions themselves changing because of America?" Presented by **Peggy Scott**, who is a passionate reader and former EfM mentor.

Praying the Devil Back to Hell Video Discussion

Sunday, Jan. 30

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

This class will engage in a discussion related to the video of Christian and Muslim women who worked together to bring down the government of Charles Taylor in Libya. Facilitated by **Lynn Albright**, who is interested in the "power of ordinary women to make a difference in changing the world."

Episcopal 101 for Everyone

Six Sundays: Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 & March 6

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

All inquirers and current members wanting a "refresher" are invited to learn more of the joy and highlights of the Episcopal path and sharing your journey in the 21st Century. In this six-session introduction, we will discuss basic Episcopal liturgical practice, the idea of liturgy, and the *Book of Common Prayer*; offer a history of the Episcopal Church, its roots and sense of tradition—including where things stand in the church's most recent controversy; explain the structure and organization of the Episcopal Church; and ask what it means to be a member of Grace St. Paul's Church. In addition, we will answer such questions as: What do bishops do? What is Apostolic Succession? Why do we need priests? In what direction does authority flow? Bring your questions to all the sessions! We'll use the book *Jesus Was an Episcopalian: A Newcomers Guide to the Episcopal Church* by Chris Yaw, which will be available at the Rector's Bookshelf. Facilitated by **Fr. Steve Keplinger**, Rector of Grace St. Paul's.

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

**What's Happening at GSP
 in December 2010**

1st	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6 p.m., Global Chant 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)	15th	6:30 p.m., EfM Year 11 Group 7 p.m., Meditation Group 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6 p.m., Global Chant 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)	27th	11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., no eYouth13@gsp—Christmas break 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
2nd	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., M3M	16th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., M3M & 3rd Thursday potluck	28th	6 p.m., Evening Prayer 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 11 Group 7 p.m., Meditation Group
4th	8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café 2:30 p.m., The Rev. Kate Baird's Ordination to the Priesthood	17th	9:30 a.m., Qigong class	29th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6 p.m., Global Chant 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)
5th	Second Sunday of Advent 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Alternative Christmas Fair</i> 10 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m., <i>Alternative Christmas Fair</i> 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp 11:30 a.m., <i>Jesus of the Gospels</i>	18th	8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café 6 p.m., Misenhimer 50th Anniversary Celebration	30th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., M3M
6th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	19th	Fourth Sunday of Advent 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Keeping a Celtic Advent</i> 10 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp 6 p.m., Blue Christmas Service	31st	9:30 a.m., Qigong class 7 p.m., New Year's Eve Chants w/ Kristopher Lindquist
7th	6 p.m., Evening Prayer 7 p.m., Meditation Group	20th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	In January 2011	
8th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6 p.m., Global Chant 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)	21st	6 p.m., Winter Solstice Service 7 p.m., Meditation Group	1st	New Year's Day
9th	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., M3M	22nd	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6 p.m., Global Chant 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)	2nd	The Epiphany (transferred) 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Future of Faith</i> 10 a.m., no Sunday School – Christmas break 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:45 a.m., no eYouth13@gsp – Christmas break 11:30 a.m., <i>Gnostic Gospels—Gospel of Thomas</i>
10th	9:30 a.m., Qigong class	23rd	9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., M3M	3rd	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
11th	8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café 9 a.m., <i>Anamcara Circle</i>	24th	Christmas Eve 6 p.m., Christmas Eve Pageant & Eucharist 7:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Reception 10:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Music 11 p.m., Christmas Eve Eucharist	4th	7 p.m., Meditation group
12th	Third Sunday of Advent 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Keeping a Celtic Advent</i> 10 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp 11:30 a.m., <i>Jesus of the Gospels</i>	25th	Christmas Day 10 a.m., Christmas Day Eucharist w/ Carols	5th	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6 p.m., Global Chant 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)
13th	7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	26th	Food Ministries Sunday & 1st Sunday After Christmas Day 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 10 a.m., no Sunday School—Christmas break 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist	6th	The Epiphany of Jesus Christ 9 a.m., Conversational French Class 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., M3M
14th	6 p.m., Evening Prayer			7th	9:30 a.m., Qigong class
				8th	8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café 9:30 a.m., Joint Community of Hope's Circles of Care
				9th	8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care

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