

The Briefly

The newsletter for the parish community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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From the Rector

WE MADE IT. Finally, our favorite time of year has arrived at GSP. The weather has broken, the leaves in the higher elevations have turned, the Season of Creation is in full swing, our ministries are all going strong, it is time once again for our Welcoming Dinner for those new to our community, and our snowbirds have returned from hither and yon so that we are all together once again.

These are all great rationales for loving this time of year. But the real reason we think it is so great is that this is the time that you get to hear us talk about our favorite subject at GSP, money! Rather than actually working to bring justice to our migrant community, to provide safe haven for refugees, to lift up the suffering and dispossessed, and to lead the charge to protect and defend the natural world, we instead get to talk about how we are going to fund those ministries. Rather than celebrating our love for the world and for each other, we get to do budgets and come up with new and innovative ways to squeeze dollars out of pennies.

The reason we live in abundance is because we never have and never will respond to God in fear..”

This year's task is even more exciting than usual. Though all of you continue to come up with the most creative ways to make abundance out of what others see as scarcity, though you continue to be beyond generous in your giving of yourself and your money to fulfill our baptismal covenant to bring about justice, peace and dignity to all people, we still are falling way short of our budgetary needs. There are two main reasons for this. Number one, success is wonderful, but it also creates more costs. Our staff is putting in herculean hours but we still can't keep up with the demand. Second, that little cash cow we fell into during the construction at Banner Hospital is long gone; \$48,000 is a lot of money to just go out and find in the streets.

We have hashed and rehashed the budget. There's nothing left to cut. In discussing all of this, your Executive

Continued on Page 2



Pastor Kimberlee and Deacon Chris blessing animals during the Creation Sunday festivities on Oct. 6. *More photos from that day on Pages 7-9!*

Submissions to **The Briefly**

Please submit articles
to Barbara Morehouse,
BrieflyEditor@grace-stpauls.org.
Send photos, charts, and
graphics to jdbanks@gmail.com.

**The deadline for the
Dec. 2019/Jan. 2020 issue
will be Tuesday, Nov. 12.**

From the Rector

Continued from Page 1

Committee and Vestry astutely realized that we needed to resort to drastic measures if we are to have any hope of approaching our potential deficit.

“Well, how does everyone else do it?” we asked. How do those other church organizations raise so much money they don’t know what to do with it all? You know the ones. Like maybe, Liberty University, the Lynchburg, Virginia, college that seems to be just rolling in the dough. Jerry Falwell, Jr. obviously learned something from his father about making money. Here is how one senior university official described how they do it. “We’re not a school; we’re a real estate hedge fund. We’re not educating; we’re buying real estate every year and taking students’ money to do it.” Then of course, there is the Liberty University employee who was hired by Michael Cohen to manipulate polls in the 2016 Presidential election. *Cha-ching!*

Perhaps, maybe, that cannot be our approach. So after carefully considering all the options, we have turned to our new plan, the Tithe or be Damned campaign. Though your Rector and the entire Vestry reject such theology as disgusting, crass, abhorrent and the opposite of the way we understand our relationship with God, we have decided that the only way we can possibly make budget this year is to convince you that you will be spending eternity burning in the unquenchable fires of hell if you do not triple your pledge.

So as you prayerfully consider how you can best bring about the kingdom of God by offering Grace St. Paul’s your time, talent and treasure, we would like to add one more motivating factor in

your decision. *Fear!* Pay up now or prepare to pay God later...for all eternity!

Or... or perhaps as you fill out your pledge sheet this year, you would be better served to consider how thankful you are to belong to a church where all of what you have just read could only be said with my tongue planted firmly in my cheek.

“When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’”

Beloved, we will not be trapped into living into scarcity. And the reason we will always live in abundance is because we have never and will never respond to God in fear. Instead, what has always motivated this congregation is love. And it is that love and your devotion to change the world that will be on our minds as we fill out our pledge sheet this year. There is no question in my mind that all of you will do the same.

“When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink...”

If ever Luke’s Gospel has come to fruition in today’s world, it is right here in the midst of all of you. Thank you for continuing to sink our boats. And see **Page 3** for the *real Giving & Receiving* campaign in the capable hands of this year’s leaders, John Banks and Kim Braun.

Shalom,



Susan Erickson: Deacon Intern

THE DIACONATE is a later-in-life vocation for me. I’m a retired lawyer. Most of my professional life was spent in Madison, Wisc., but before I became a lawyer, I taught German language and literature at Bryn Mawr College outside of Philadelphia.

My husband, Jim Dannenberg, and I moved to Tucson part-time in 2012. In 2014, we switched from dividing our time between Tucson and Madison, to dividing time between Tucson (about seven months a year) and Jackson, Wyo. (about five).

Because I live in two places and therefore

participate in the life of two parishes, I have a chance to compare life in a smaller community and an urban one, as well as two different liturgical styles.

I am a lover of desert and mountain landscapes, and I feel as if the desert, in particular, is the landscape in which I feel most at home spiritually. I am passionate about the power of ideas, arts, and language; about conservation and the environment; about the right of everyone to eat and enjoy healthy food and to gather around a table in community; and about the urgency of the Gospel in today’s culture.

Susan will intern with Grace St. Paul’s for six months.

Liturgy
Discussion of
the Month
By The Rev. Steve
Keplinger

The Season of Creation Liturgies

IN THE VERY early days of The Season of Creation in mainline churches, I often felt very alone. There were no liturgical resources out there to connect us to God through nature, because no one else was doing it. Or so I thought. What I later discovered is that there were a handful of us out there writing our own liturgies during this Season, all of us thinking that we were the only such people in the liturgical world.

When we started to discover one another, we shared what we were doing, always searching for new and better ideas. That is how the Eucharistic Prayer I wrote, the one you heard on Creation Sunday and will hear again at the end of the season, came to be used at churches all over the country. It was never easy to find prayers with both creation imagery and good theology. When we found them, it was always a big discovery.

So, when I went to my first General Convention in 2009, we sought each other out. By the time we left Anaheim, not only had we decided to share our stuff with one another, but we were tasked by the church to share it with everyone. The Season of Creation subcommittee was formed. That first group split into two parts. Half of the group worked on prayers and services for companion animals, and the rest of

us wrote Collects and a Prayer of Confession to be presented at the 2012 Convention.

It is never easy writing prayers by committee, especially when that committee is spread across the globe. But we did it, and I think all of us were pleased with the results. The Confession we use for each week during this Season is the one we wrote together. Those individual Collects for each week of the Season of Creation are also the ones we continue to use here at GSP. Our committee's proposed season is the same one we continue to use at Grace St. Paul's.

And the prayers and services that were written for Companion Animals? Those are also the ones we use here.

As you read and listen to those Collects each week, I urge you to think about the theology behind the words, and how you feel about what we are saying. It was radical stuff when we wrote it, and it still is today. I believe that behind those words rests the key in reconnecting humanity with all of God's creation. Words can change us, and words can save us. My hope is that one day every church everywhere will be saying those words, so important to me.



Giving & Receiving

Planting Seeds and Scripture

GIVE, AND IT will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38

Sunday, Nov. 3, is the day we will begin our annual **Giving & Receiving** campaign to raise the funds to cover our 2020 missions and operations. The theme of this year's campaign is **Planting Seeds**.

The Bible includes numerous references to the sowing of seeds and the reaping of the harvest and many of Jesus' parables involved stories that made sense to an agrarian society. Today, those verses and stories are easily applied to our actions through the understanding that every time we choose an action, we also choose the consequences of that action.

So it is with our understanding of giving and receiving and with our relationship with money.

The general rule is, the more seeds planted, the more fruit harvested. The Bible applies this law to our giving. Those who show generosity will receive generosity in kind. This principle applies no matter the amount of the gift—what matters is the spirit in which it is given:

Each one must give as they have decided in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Corinthians 2:7

The Episcopal Church sees tithing as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity. Please give prayerful consideration of this perspective as you decide on your pledge amount this November.

**John Banks & Kim Braun, Co-Chairs
2020 Giving & Receiving Committee**

Treasurer's Report

Based upon the congregation-approved budget for 2019, through Sept. 30 we have budgeted \$468,750 from pledges and plate contributions. We actually received \$397,236 for that period, which leaves us with a \$71,514 shortfall.

Nearly 93% of our budgeted income must come from pledges and plate offerings during the year. Your continuing financial support is needed to sustain our mission and programs.

Thank you.

Wil Harri, Treasurer



Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music

MAY THE BALMY breezes of our temperate autumn gladden your hearts and make you thankful for God's many blessings as the Season of Creation wanes. As I write these words, it isn't chilly enough to say summer is over and gone, but the sun sets earlier each day and comes up later each morning. Colder days are coming soon.

While you're finishing off your leftover Halloween candy (which if yours is like our UA-area household, means pretty much all of it) and thinking good thoughts about Thanksgiving, I'll fill you in on music for November. I'm continuing to mix more contemporary styles into the usual offerings. It's always a balancing act—we want music that the choir likes to sing and that you want to hear; it should be accessible in the amount of time we have to rehearse but not so easy as to bore the singers; it must match the lectionary and yet resonate with the Season of Creation; dissonance must be balanced with consonance; and the theology must bear a passing resemblance to that which we espouse at Grace St. Paul's.

Now that Kari McBride is redacting the hymns, there is less pressure for the anthems to perfectly conform, and Fr. Steve has told me that male pronouns are okay as long as female ones are included also. God is all genders. Thomas Cranmer may come back to haunt us, though.

Here followeth the usual disclaimer that anthems may change once we smack into the glass pane of reality and slither down. I'm hopeful that we can carry on with these potential anthems, but stuff happeneth.

There will be baptisms on Nov. 3, All Saints' Sunday, so as we acknowledge the saints who have gone before us; it will be with joy. The offertory is "I thank you god for most this amazing day," a setting of the e. e. cummings poem by Cristine Temple-Evans, a music teacher in Chandler, Ariz. For communion, we will sing "O quam gloriosum est" by Tomás Luis de Victoria. We apparently haven't sung it since 2003, and I'm really not sure why. It's gorgeous.

On Nov. 10, our offertory will be "Song of Praise," a setting of Psalm 148 by Norwegian composer Knut Nystedt, who studied composition with Aaron Copeland, among others, and was greatly influenced by early music styles, including chant and 16th century

polyphony. For communion, we will sing a piece we haven't sung since Fr. Gordon McBride's final Sunday service—"A Blessing" by James Chepponis. The text is the traditional Irish prayer that begins, "May the road rise up to meet you..."

For Nov. 17, I'm attempting to get a new piece by Cynthia Hilts, the choir director at St. Francis in the Foothills on the theme of peace and justice. We shall see if that works out. If we don't do that one, we'll do something else. I can always swap in the communion anthem, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth" by Carl Schalk; it's generally easier to find simple communion anthems. They're mellow.

On the last Sunday in the Season of Creation (that always sounds so alarming), the plan is to complete the set entitled *Where the Earth Meets the Sky* by Z. Randall Stroope. We did the first piece in the set, "In Time of Silver Rain," on the first Sunday in the Season of Creation. The final piece in the set is called "Song of the Earth" and is arranged for SATB choir, flute and piano. For the communion anthem, I found in the dusty boxes a setting of Psalm 96, "O Sing unto the Lord" by G. F. Handel, arranged and edited by Richard Peek. Barbara Pritchard will provide the solo, with violin by Wesley Hunter. It will be a rocking day. The perfect way to sail into Advent as we digest our Thanksgiving turkey or the non-meat substitute of your choice.

Peace,

Christina



November Children, Youth & Family Report By Pastor Kimberlee Law

Sunday School

“Love First: A Children’s Ministry for the Whole Church”

HOW DO WE make Sunday School a Love First gathering each Sunday? Every week leaders are invited to consider these questions in preparation...

- To whom will we show love?
- Who will we invite into our spaces?
- What will we make to give to someone who can no longer come to church?
- What did we learn about someone else in the parish?
- For whom will we pray?

This year’s heartbeat for the Love Self unit is the call of Moses, one of the central narratives of the Hebrew Bible (Exodus 3:1-12). Children are invited to contemplate God’s choice to call Moses. As the children learn about Moses and try to understand how he is thinking and feeling and how others treated him, they in turn, get to know themselves as well as learn more about each other.

Just as Moses did not think himself worthy, the children are invited to see that everyone is

worthy of God’s love even those who don’t feel like they deserve it. Children are invited to see themselves and others as how God might see them, knowing that God’s love for us is much stronger and bigger than anything we can understand.

For Creation Sunday the children learned about planet earth and made a special “Love Earth” banner (above). One of our young students, Nathan, made a banner all on his own, of animals, such the polar bears pictured below. Check these out in person as you enter McBride Hall!

As we move into November we will be focusing on the spiritual practice of counting our blessings and gratitude and what it means to put our gratitude into action!

We love seeing children and families whenever they can get to church. If you haven’t been here for a while, stop in some Sunday and help us Love First!

Youth

Youth Group leaders are needed!

If you have an interest in helping once a month with youth group, please talk to Pastor Kimberlee. Plans are being made to have a youth group gathering every Sunday at 10 a.m., as well as a monthly fun activity, but we need additional leaders.

We are considering using the curriculum called “The Teen Compass: Faith & Wellness,” which includes topics such as: spirituality, stress resilience, relationships, rest and play, handling emotions, organization, school and work, and care for the body.

Parents, if you have any input for us, please don’t hesitate to reach out!

And we ask for your prayers as we seek to get this program up and running again.



Parish Focus

Pam Spears: Redeemed

By Ann Schlumberger

I'VE BEEN WHERE you are and look where I am today." Parish Administrator Pam Spears shared these simple words with a distressed woman seeking help from GSP. With her excellent managerial skills, her life experiences, and her warm heart, Pam is the ideal person to work in this parish, with its emphasis on respecting the dignity of the poor as well as providing them aid.



Pam Spears

Pam was born in Denver in 1954 but spent most of her childhood in Arkansas during the civil rights struggles there. Her parents were active opponents of segregation—to the point that the family were put under FBI protection. Pam, a sixth grader at the time, was instructed not to answer the phone or the door due to threats. Her family and church were also active in the anti-war movement. Her father, a contractor, was forced into bankruptcy because of his stand on civil rights. He ended up working as a civilian

contractor in Vietnam for five years while the local Presbyterian church helped support the family until he returned in 1972.

Pam graduated from high school that year, married building contractor John Abner in 1973, and moved to Florida. The couple spent 1976-78 in Taif, Saudi Arabia, where John worked. Pam returned to Florida with a deep appreciation for the freedoms, running water, and reliable electricity present in the United States. The couple eventually divorced because of John's physical abuse of Pam, breaking her back.

In Florida, Pam worked as loan processor for a finance company for four years. She married Larry Gordon and had a son, Larry Gordon IV. When the baby was a year old, she obtained a divorce from her second husband because he also was physically abusive.

Pam began drinking and drugging heavily. When her son was eight, she was the cause of a car accident due to her drinking. The crash resulted

in the death of her child and two other people. She was imprisoned for manslaughter, but during her incarceration, she received no help for her alcoholism. The upshot was that she was arrested again on Jan. 14, 1997, for violating her parole. She terms this second arrest as "an eye opener."

While in jail for four months awaiting trial, Pam "allowed God into her heart." She realized it was her choices that had gotten her where she was. She attended a 12-step program and believed that she could change into the person she wanted to be. Her judge, who had a reputation for strict sentencing, read her 16-page letter pleading for help for her addiction and decided to give her a chance to receive treatment outside of prison. Recovery helped her to face her past demons (including sexual abuse as a child by her grandfather) and enabled her to forgive herself. After her trial, Pam wrote the judge annually until he died to thank him for his clemency and to report on her progress. She found comfort in her father being "able to see her clean" before he died in 1999.

In that year, the church Pam was attending asked her if she would fill in for the administrator who had suddenly left. That was the beginning of her calling to be a church administrator. In 2003 she moved to Tucson because her mother lived here. In 2005, through her job as a half-way house case manager, she met her current husband, Tony Spears. She and her soulmate married in 2011. For six years she participated in Humane Borders, leaving water in the desert for those seeking to enter the U.S., but had to stop because of her back issues. She worked as a Project Administrator at M3 Engineering and then was the Office Administrator at Immanuel Presbyterian Church for four years.

Pam and Tony were members of Rincon Congregational church for seven years, where they enjoyed being Sunday school teachers. In March 2017 Pam joined the staff of GSP and notes that she "couldn't be happier to be part of GSP and all we do for those less fortunate." A part of forgiving the self is helping others, she emphasizes, and GSP has been a perfect place for her to work. "I live life each day to honor my son so his death won't be in vain." Recently, in hopes of finding a church home where she will feel more comfortable, she has been visiting other places of worship.

Migrant Ministry Report, November 2019

By Marjorie King & Nancy Meister

Second Annual Border Summit

THE SECOND ANNUAL Border Summit will be held at St. Philips in the Hills on Nov. 21-23.

The event begins on Thursday morning with a pre-conference option to share in Eucharist at the Nogales wall with our Bishop, Jennifer Reddall, and Episcopal bishops from Central America and Mexico. In the evening, the keynote speaker will be Miguel A. de la Torre, from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver.

The Border Summit offers a unique opportunity to gain insight into activities along our southern border. The event is sponsored by our diocese and its border ministry, Cruzando Fronteras, and the ELCA and UCC denominations.

Rev. Steve Keplinger will be talking about Tucson's New Sanctuary Coalition experience. Artist Valarie James will be sharing her new "Bordando Esperanza" (Embroidering

Hope) ministry to women in shelters waiting to cross at the port of entry. Others from Texas, New Mexico and California, as well as Arizona, will also be sharing their ministries. The Central American and Mexican bishops will give presentations on migration from their viewpoints.

To prepare for and encourage interest among GSP parishioners attending the conference, Marjorie King and Deacon Nancy Meister will give a talk about liberation theology and review Prof. de la Torre's latest book, *The U.S. Immigration Crisis*. In it he discusses how religion affects race, class and gender oppression. He captures cross border perspectives from humanitarian groups and explores border issues from an "ethics of place" analysis.

The presentation, the fourth in a series on migrant ministry, will take place on Nov. 17, the Sunday before the Border Conference, as part of the 9 a.m. Adult Spiritual Formation class.



Animal Ministry Update

By Chris Ledyard

THE ANIMAL MINISTRY, which works to create and sustain awareness of the importance of animals in our world, was especially blessed this month by the generosity of our GSP congregation. At our recent dog/cat food collection, members donated more than 925 pounds of food to help make sure that our cats and dogs will not go hungry.

During the Care of Creation event held Oct. 6, we provided information on animal farming, CPR for pets, a suggested reading list, and biblical references concerning animals. In addition, animal blessings were provided

to 50 animals. There were 75 people present, including some participants who were more than congregants.

At the end of October, we held our annual Celebration of Life/Memorial Service/Burial. The Celebration provides folks with an opportunity to have the cremains of their beloved, departed pets buried in the Animal Memorial Garden. They also memorialize their pets by installing plaques on the wall during the ceremony. Currently, more than 40 animals are buried there.

The Animal Ministry also enjoyed another recent opportunity to express the importance of animals in our world—sharing a table at the Arizona Diocesan Convention.



GSP Interfaith Creation Festival

By Angel Wang,
Green Church
Ministry

GRACE ST. PAUL'S CELEBRATES Creation Season beginning with the Feast of St. Francis, on Oct. 4, and ending with the Feast of Christ the King, just before Advent. On Oct. 6, the first Sunday of Creation Season, the first GSP Interfaith Creation Festival attracted upwards of 200 Tucson area participants and featured invited lectures, national and regional exhibitors, local vendors, Creation-themed videos, and GSP musical talent.

Festival attendees appreciated the broad spread of topics displayed in our invited talks, illuminating completely different aspects of Creation Care within our southwest region, globally, and throughout human existence. They remarked positively on our line-up of speakers, what they learned, the thoughts that they carried away to consider further, and the new information from exhibitors they encountered for the first time.

Our spoken program began with a Welcome and Invocation by Fr. Steve, introducing our theme of Creation Care. Katie Hirschboeck,

Catholic Climate Ambassador, from University of Arizona's Tree Ring Laboratory (retired) and parishioner of Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church spoke on "Matter, Spirit, and Us: Everything's Connected." Glenn Schrader, UA Dept of Chemical and Environmental Engineering (retired), and member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church spoke on "Lutherans and the Environment: Local, Regional, and National". Jane Conlin (GSP) Citizen's Climate Lobby co-lead of the Greater Tucson chapter, impressed on us the importance of a Carbon Tax to convince fossil fuel companies to transition away from extracted carbon-based energy sources. Dan Ferguson from the UA Institute of the Environment described his work with indigenous communities to increase resilience in the face of climate impacts: "Building Resilience by Building Collective Knowledge." Roger Carrillo from Sierra Club Borderlands spoke on attendant environmental problems with the Border Wall in "No Al Muro." James Riley, UA Dept of Hydrology (retired) and



member of St. Pius X Catholic Church recounted anecdotes from many years directing agricultural and water-related projects around the world in “The Voice of the Farmer.” Angel Wang, GSP Green Church Ministry, spoke about the critical importance of ecosystems and biological diversity in the balance of our planet in “Caring for Creation by Caring for Biodiversity”.

GSP musical performances punctuated breaks between the featured talks. Karen Hanson’s Native Flute set a contemplative introduction at the beginning. Singer/songwriter Sinead Jackson’s musical intermission marked a transition from religious topics to Earth-centered ones. Ordinary People’s closing performance with Rod Warfield, Phil Johnson, Don Lundy, and Lisa Gustafson set the tone for visiting exhibitors, vendors and Syrian, Somali, and Mexican sweets purveyors.

Exhibitors included well-known local, regional, and national organizations such as Sierra Club-Borderlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Saguaro National Park, Community

Gardens of Tucson, Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, Humane Society of Southern Arizona, Southern Arizona Golden Retriever Rescue, Sustainable Tucson, Watershed Management Group, Tucson Wildlife Center, Tucson Electric Vehicle Association, and others. Bordando Esperanza, representing work by women embroiderers waiting in migrant shelters, debuted at the festival in partnership with GSP’s Migration Ministry. ELFA (Syrian and Somali Sweets), Maria’s Mexican Sweets, Spice of the Desert, Episcopalian Peace Network, GSP Animal Spirituality and Green Church ministries, GSP artists and T-shirts, and Donna West Up-cycled Purses were also present.

Creation-minded attendees from Rincon UCC, Southside Presbyterian, St Francis in the Foothills, St Philip in the Hills and St Michaels and All Angels Episcopal Churches connected, like our ELCA partners, hoping to share the valuable Creation-related work already going on within our individual southern Arizonan congregations.



On Sept. 20, GSP parishioners attended both climate strikes in Tucson: the “true” strike with students actually skipping school at 11 a.m. in front of TEP headquarters, and the later and larger afternoon protest at downtown Anza Park. Participating at the earlier event was Pastor Kimberley with her Greta Thunberg sign, “Once we begin to take action, hope is everywhere.” Also at that strike was Laura Angeley-Devereux, who was interviewed with daughter Thea by TV station KGUN-9. Laura expressed a desire for a livable world for her daughter to grow up in.

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



Holiday Food Traditions

Sunday, Nov. 10, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

You are what you eat, so what do you eat, especially on holidays? Once again, we'll gather to share and discuss various important questions relating to food and ritual. Do you honor your New England roots with Indian pudding or celebrate the Southwest with turkey molé? Do you put marshmallows on your sweet potatoes or make green bean casserole? How about Susan Stamberg's mother-in-law's cranberry relish? Does baked mac-and-cheese have a place on your holiday table? And why do we serve the foods we do? If it's a family or ethnic tradition, do you know the origins of that tradition? There's a whole lot to talk about!

Joe and Victoria Stefani have attended Grace St. Paul's since 2013; they are currently members of the Adult Spiritual Formation team. Before retiring, both taught writing and literature at the University of Arizona.

Better Angels Documentary

Sunday, Nov. 10, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Room

For hope that Americans can bridge the political divide, watch the Better Angels documentary showing depolarization in process. Across the country this citizens' initiative holds workshops to bring people together and civility back to politics. The mission is to have Americans see each other as friends, not enemies, no matter where they sit on the political spectrum. An approximately hour-long documentary with highlights of a Better Angels Red/Blue Workshop held in Ohio shows conservative and liberal participants arriving suspicious and somewhat hostile toward the other side. They leave hugging each other. The Better Angels Red/Blue Workshops have an equal number of people leaning right and leaning left participating in carefully structured exercises, examining common stereotypes of each side of the political spectrum, listening, and looking for common ground. In



a safe environment, participants engage to understand and learn from each other, even if they still disagree.

In addition to her work with Better Angels, Andrea Molberg, Ph.D., is a consulting psychologist who has worked with Fortune 500 companies, health care organizations, non-profits, start-ups, governmental agencies, and educational institutions for over 35 years.

An Introduction to the Writings of Miguel de la Torre

Sunday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

Miguel A. De La Torre is a professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies at Iliff School of Theology, a scholar-activist, author, and an ordained Southern Baptist minister. De La Torre is considered to be the most published Latinx in the field of religious studies with over thirty books and hundreds of articles. This class will provide an overview of his work on Liberation Theology and on the history and policies of the United States in Central America.

Presented by Deacon Nancy Meister and Margie King, both long active in justice initiatives for immigrants along the border of Mexico and the U.S., most recently with the sheltering of migrants here in Tucson.

Christ the King Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 24, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

Why did this relatively recent addition to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar end up being observed by most mainstream American Protestant Churches? Why does GSP observe this day while at the same time trying to eliminate references to Christ as Lord? Join us for another of Chuck Dickson's illuminating presentations on the rich history of the Anglican tradition.

Presented by Chuck Dickson, a member of the Adult Spiritual Formation ministry team. Chuck is a retired history teacher and a popular GSP presenter.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: SMALL GROUPS @ GSP

GSP Readers Group: 'The Last Temptation of Christ' by Nikos Kazantzakis

Friday, Nov. 8, 9:30-11 a.m., Bloom Room

Hailed as a masterpiece by critics worldwide, *The Last Temptation of Christ* is a monumental reinterpretation of the Gospels that brilliantly fleshes out Christ's Passion. This literary rendering of Jesus has courted controversy since its publication by depicting a Christ far more human than the one in the Bible, a figure gloriously divine but earthy and human—subject to fear, doubt, and pain. Kazantzakis, one of the greats of modern literature, follows Jesus as he struggles to live out God's will for him, powerfully suggesting that it was Christ's ultimate triumph over his flawed humanity, when he gave up the temptation to run from the cross and willingly laid down his life for mankind, that truly made him the venerable redeemer of men.

For more information, please contact Victoria Stefani at 520-661-6772.

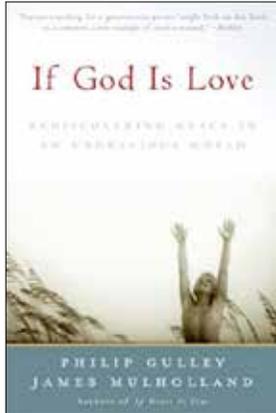


Third Friday Film Series: 'Paint Your Wagon' (1969)

Friday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room

In this musical based on the Broadway show, Ben Rumson (Lee Marvin) happens upon a wrecked wagon containing a dead man and his surviving brother, Pardner (Clint Eastwood), in the wilds of California during the Gold Rush. At the burial, they discover gold dust and stake a claim. Soon a mining camp dubbed "No Name City" emerges, rife with lonely men starved for female companionship. When a polygamist Mormon arrives looking to sell off a wife (Jean Seberg), a bidding war commences. But then "civilization" starts to infiltrate the camp... whether all the miners like it or not. It's a celebration of the mythology of the American West, with a lot of great music.

Hosted by Victoria and Joe Stefani.



Reading with the Spirit: 'If God Is Love: Rediscovering Grace in an Ungracious World' by Philip Gulley & James Mulholland

Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m., Bloom Room

If God is love, why are so many Christians fearful, and why do so many church leaders sound hateful? Two controversial pastors address issues the church won't face, calling us to restore grace as the center of the Christian life. Gulley and Mulholland argue that what we believe is crucial and dramatically affects the way we live and interact in the world. Beliefs have power. The authors present a new vision for our personal, religious, and corporate lives, exploring what our world would be like if we based our existence on the foundational truth that God loves every person. "Warm, gentle, profound, and moving..." —John Shelby Spong, author of *A New Christianity for a New World*

Join us for this book group that meets on the fourth Saturday of each month and focuses on reading that aims to stretch our spiritual and theological muscles. Bring your coffee. All are welcome!

Contact Catherine Penn Williams, spiritual pilgrim, psychotherapist, and longtime group leader at GSP, at 520-275-8478 for more information.



Cultivating Spiritual Literacy: Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys

Mondays, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Bloom Room

Can we see the world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wildflower? How do we cultivate spiritual literacy, the qualities of mind and heart that enable us to read the sacred in ordinary life? How do we expand our awareness of the presence of the spiritual within all aspects of existence where no moment, no thing, is to be excluded? Join us for this long running weekly small group discussion as we use multi-media to explore the intersections between our own spiritual journeys, religion, and culture. The topics vary each week and each session stands on its own. There's always a lively discussion and all are welcome. No registration is necessary.

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams.



Tony-Award winning Irish family drama is November's Spirit Players pick

THIS NOVEMBER, with thoughts of family dinners at the holidays! The Grace St. Paul's Spirit Players would like to have you join them at **6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1**, for the First Friday Play Reading of "The Ferryman" by Jez Butterworth.

Taking place in rural Northern Ireland in 1981, this play is not just an Irish family harvest celebration, a hearthside family portrait, but also a political tragedy with ghost stories that have a body count.

It is set during the height of the politically fraught period known as the Troubles: violence and vengeance—and hunger strikers—the ones that Margaret Thatcher let die.

It is a theatrical piece that is part Irish minstrel show with clogs and banshees and a multigenerational family saga, barroom ballads, and homey fairy tales. There are real babies and dead geese, bodies in bogs and unconsummated love affairs.

Characters range from a childlike handyman, to a broody

Between the Lines: Scholarship & Depth Psychology Meet Sunday's Lectionary

Thursdays, 10 a.m., Bloom Room

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

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

Centering Prayer

Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., Chancel

Are you interested in deepening your relationship with God through the silence of prayer? Would you like to "rest in God?" This group meets on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the chancel for twenty minutes of prayer followed by a reading from *Open Mind, Open Heart* by Thomas Keating. If this is your first time attending, please come at noon for a brief instruction.

Contact Pastor Kimberlee at 520-327-6857 if you have questions.

Friday Morning Bible Study

Fridays, Nov. 1 & 15, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Bloom Room

The Friday Morning Bible Study's current focus is on close examination of the parables of Jesus, both in their original context and as they apply to our lives today. This group is open to everyone, regardless of age, gender, or faith tradition. Please join us on the first and third Friday of each month in the Bloom Room.

For more information contact Victoria Stefani, 520-743-3978 or vstefani@email.arizona.edu.

Saturday Java Jive: Coffee & Conversation

Saturdays, 9-11 a.m., Epic Café, 745 N. 4th Ave.

(at University Blvd.)

Want to meet and get to know folks in a relaxed and friendly environment? All are welcome to join this long-running gathering that meets every Saturday morning for coffee and conversation. Come join us!

adolescent son, a craven priest, and the courtly, sinister Irish republican kingpin with his henchmen, and last, but not least, a misanthropic, staunchly Irish republican aunt and Virgil-quoting uncle, both of whom are called Pat. And those are only the supporting characters!

"The Ferryman" won four Tony Awards in 2018 and three Olivier Awards, the British equivalent of the Tony.

Everyone is welcome to this reading. You may participate as a reader—there are lots of parts in this script—or as members of the audience. Scripts are provided. This play is suitable for young adults and older.

Sharon McKenzie and Nanalee Raphael are the facilitators, both long-time theatre aficionados.

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



Grace St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

WEEKLY SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

7:45 a.m., Holy Communion
9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation
8:45 a.m., Child Care
10 a.m., Holy Communion
10 a.m., Sunday School
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour
11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Youth Group

MONDAYS

10 a.m., Spiritual Formation
7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

TUESDAYS

6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Communion
7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation

WEDNESDAYS

7 a.m., Holy Communion
5 p.m., Children & Family Karate

THURSDAYS

10:30 a.m., *Between the Lines*
12:30 p.m., Centering Prayer
6 p.m., Spirit Now—An Emerging Worship Experience. First Thursday of the month: **SPirit SONG**
7 p.m., AZ Welcomes Refugees (first Thursday only)

SATURDAYS

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

What's Happening in November 2019...

1st 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading

2nd 6 p.m., Helios Ensemble Concert

3rd 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation

4th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

6th 7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

7th 6 p.m., Flutes for Vets
6 p.m., **SPirit SONG**

8th 9:30 a.m., TiHAN
9:30 a.m., **GSP Readers Group**
7 p.m., Flutes for Vets

10th 9 a.m., *Holiday Food Traditions*
11:45 a.m., Better Angels Documentary

11th **VETERAN'S DAY** 🇺🇸
Parish Office & Social Services Closed

12th 12:30 p.m., TiHAN Volunteer Orientation

13th 12 Noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., Michael Manning concert

15th 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**
6:30 p.m., **Third Friday Film**

16th 9 a.m., Southern Arizona Friends of Jung

17th 9 a.m., *Introduction to the Writings of Miguel de la Torre*

18th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

20th 6:30 p.m., Prayer for Peace Service

21st 6 p.m., Flutes for Vets

23rd 10 a.m., **Reading with the Spirit**

24th 9 a.m., *Christ the King Sunday*

1 p.m., Primavera Cooking Team

25th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

26th 9 a.m., Primavera Meals Group
6:30 p.m., **VESTRY MEETING**

28th **THANKSGIVING** 🍂
Parish Office & Social Services Closed

29th *Parish Office & Social Services Closed*

...and in December 2019

1st **1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation

2nd 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

3rd 5 p.m., Ecumenical Lessons & Carols

4th 6 p.m., Flutes for Vets
7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

5th 6 p.m., **SPirit SONG**

6th 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading

7th 8 a.m., SAAF Holiday Family Day

8th **2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
Giving & Receiving In-gathering
9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation

9th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

11th 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

13th 9:30 a.m., **GSP Readers Group**

14th 4 p.m., *Las Posadas*

15th **3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation
6 p.m., **Blue Christmas**

16th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

18th 6 p.m., Flutes for Vets

20th 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**

6:30 p.m., **Third Friday Film**

22nd **4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation
1 p.m., Primavera cooking team

23rd 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**
Parish Office closes at 12 noon
9 a.m., Primavera Meals Group
6 p.m., Intergenerational Service
7:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Reception
10:30 p.m., Carols
11 p.m., Christmas Eve Eucharist

25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Parish Office, Social Service Ministry, & Joseph's Pantry Closed
10 a.m., Service with Carols

26th *Parish Office & Social Services Ministry Closed*

29th **1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**
9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation

30th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

31st **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
7 p.m., **New Year's Eve Chants**