

The Briefly

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

The Art of Losing

IN 1989, I WROTE A BOOK called *The Comeback Kids*, a fan's retrospective and love affair with a baseball team. It was not the story of a dynastic New York Yankee franchise or about the end of a 71-year-old billy goat curse. It was the tale of a team who did not win a World Series, a pennant, or anything else.

That book was so popular that it sold out its two printings. But never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that, 30 years later, the city of Baltimore would once again celebrate that team that fell short of making the playoffs in the last series of the year.

On Aug. 9, 17 players from that team came back to remember, reminisce, and get cheered by a crowd of 19,407 fans. This, during a stupendously awful Oriole season. Baltimore is once again vying for the worst record in baseball. But perhaps inspired by the no-name players from that *Why Not?* season (the chant that filled Memorial Stadium in 1989) the baby Birds of 2019 played a very crisp game that night against what I believe is the best team in baseball right now, the Houston Astros. But like that 1989 team, they too lost, 3-2.

Baltimore is a lot of things, but it is certainly not a town in which no one wants to live..."

The following evening, my family, along with 21,894 others, returned for more. This night, our O's would suffer the second most humiliating loss in the team's history. Astroballs were flying off the bat so quickly that we should all have had neck braces on to track them. By the third inning, it was 9-1. That was the inning that Astros shortstop Carlos Correa hit a blast to deep left center field that cleared the fence, the Orioles bullpen, the Astros bullpen, and past all the statues in Legends Park, finally

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The blessing of a parish family's one-year-old daughter was one of the highlights of the Aug. 18 service.

Liturgy
Discussion of
the Month
By The Rev. Steve
Keplinger

MOST OF YOU HAVE probably noticed that during the dog days of summer, we have made a liturgical change. In an effort to streamline the service, we have generally reduced our readings by half. Rather than carry the full lectionary complement of Hebrew Bible Reading, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel, we have most often read only the Hebrew Bible reading and Gospel.

As we move toward the end of this time and into the Season of Creation in October, we would like to get your feedback on this experiment. Did you think it was appropriate to shorten the service in this way? Did you miss the Psalm or Epistle? Was the flow of the service disrupted or broken? Was it helpful to focus on only two readings? We would love your feedback.

Please share your thoughts with me or anyone on our liturgy committee: Karen Hanson, Christina Jarvis, The Rev. Steve Kelsey, The Rev. Kimberlee Law, Karen McVean, The Rev. Nancy Meister, Willie Schlentz, Jane Thrall, and Joyce Warfield.

While we are talking about biblical readings, a few of you have asked me why I do not use the terms Old and New Testament. This is in respect to our Jewish sisters and brothers. It seems to me the height of arrogance to call Jewish scripture “Old”, while referring to the Christian testament as the “New” and improved version. It is also theologically unhelpful to make any suggestion that the “Old” text has been superseded by a “New” version.

While traditionally we have referred to the Testaments in this fashion and most folks have no intention of it being pejorative, it is easy to see how someone could misinterpret it in this fashion. The anti-semitism that has been created by the Christian church due to poor biblical interpretation and phraseology, including the absurd notion that “the Jews” killed Jesus, has done irreparable harm to our Jewish siblings. It is incumbent upon all of us to bend over backwards to avoid any possibility of misunderstanding. Therefore, I simply refer to the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.



Social Media Sunday 2019,
Sept. 29

7 Ideas For Social Media Sunday

How tech savvy are you?

How tech savvy is GSP?

HOW SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY are you? What about our congregation and its leaders? On the last Sunday in September (the 29th, this year), churches around the world are invited to playfully explore these questions.

Social Media Sunday is an ecumenical effort to share the good news about building community online. This annual event gives faith communities an opportunity to consider how to reach out online, digitally welcome people, and share their story.

Social media continues to be an important area for churches to consider. First impressions online are so essential, yet so fleeting. Church websites and social media posts can convey so much vibrancy for active and engaged congregations. Quick glances make viewers think, “This is a place where I can be a part of something!”

Social Media Sunday can easily integrate into worship, fellowship time, or even beyond with faith formation opportunities. This designated Sunday, while important, should be the first of many times that you ask those in the pews to

interact with the church on social media.

Seven Ideas for Social Media Sunday

1. Preview the Sunday worship music on Facebook, or through email and newsletter.
2. Bless media devices as part of worship prayers.
3. Live-stream the worship service, if you have video cameras in your worship space or can set one up. Popular platforms for live-streaming are Facebook Live, Twitter Live, Periscope, or YouTube.
4. Provide a “Like” Station a table, or area, after the worship service where parishioners can “like” their church on the your church’s Facebook page or Instagram profile. This can be done via access to computers or tablets; it helps to have friendly helpers nearby, too.
5. Provide a Tech Help Desk. Set up a tech help desk during the coffee hour.
6. Create a Church Selfie. Set up a selfie photo booth!
7. BYOB Bibles. Encourage parishioners, via phone, tablet, or e-reader, to “Bring Your Own Bible.”



Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music

WELL! THAT FELT LIKE one of the fastest summers on record. Maybe climate change is speeding up time, too. Perhaps it's also because the choir didn't go on leave until the third week in June. Fast or not, summer's over, and we're back! Yay!

Thousands of thanks to the following musicians for providing music through the hot months of summer (in order of appearance): **Anton Faynberg**, piano; **The GSP Love First Summer Camp Kids**, with the **Pastor Kimberlee Law**, **Fr. Allen Breckenridge**, and **Harlan Hokin**; **Wesley Hunter**, viola; **Jim Beckwith**, piano; **Jim Neeley**, baritone; **Mark Jarvis**, baritone; **Wendy Pipentacos**, soprano; **Barbara Pritchard**, soprano; **Rosalie Cassiday**, piano; **Adam Conyne**, electronic music; **Michael Manning**, piano; **Dave Coatsworth**, tenor; **Terry Coatsworth Bagwell**, soprano; **Tom Urda**, piano; **Ann Stephens**, mezzo soprano; **Flutes for Vets**, **Kathryn Twinfeathers**, director; and **Catalina Drive**, **Don Lundy**, director. To show your approval, clap them firmly on the back and make them cough whilst pumping their hand and thanking them profusely. You might have to drive to Berkeley to get Anton.

For those of you interested in joining the choir, we meet on Thursdays from 7:30-9 p.m. (7-9 p.m. during Lent and Easter) in the chancel. We also rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. before the 10 o'clock service. Any and all voice parts are welcome (especially if you do more than one at a time) and you don't have to sight read or audition. You just have to be flexible enough to tap dance through a lot of music, because we do two anthems and a sung psalm most weeks. Don't tell me you're interested, because I'll just follow you around looking hopeful. Come to our first rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 5, and surprise us!

On Sunday, Sept. 1, however, the choir isn't back yet. Hence, Don Lundy and his Catalina Drive bluegrass ensemble will kick it up a few notches for the Labor Day weekend. It's a great way to start the month of September.

The choir is back in the stalls on Sunday, Sept. 8. The first anthems of the year are always tricky because we have just one rehearsal beforehand, so this year we commence with the Duruflé "Ubi caritas", which we know and love, for the offertory anthem. For communion, Susan

Marcus, Harlan Hokin, Spencer Hunter and I (guess I'd better let them know, huh) will sing the Purcell "Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts." Unless they change the readings on us.

For the offertory on Sunday, Sept. 15, we'll sing "Savior, like a shepherd lead us" by William Bradley Roberts, who used to be music director at St. Philip's in the Hills back in the day. The communion anthem will be an arrangement of the spiritual, "Steal away," by Carl Haywood.

On Sept. 22, our offertory will be "Be thou my vision," an arrangement of Slane by Heather Sorenson. Don't you just love being an Episcopalian? We speak in musical shorthand. Slane. Forest Green. Antioch. Our tunes have punchy little titles, usually place names far, far away from here. We have the scope to attach different words to them, as long as the meter is the same.

Oops, squirrel!

Back to a dry recitation of music for the month. For communion, the tenors and basses will sing a cool arrangement of "There is a balm in Gilead" by Larry L. Fleming, provided that we do the Jeremiah reading and that I can find the ten missing copies. Ten! That's half the music in the box. If Winifred Williams were around, she'd say, "I ate them; they were delicious."

For Sept. 29, for the offertory, we will sing "Poor man Lazarus" by Jester Hairston, an awfully cheerful take on the rich guy burning in hell, and there are a few I'd nominate, but I'm trying to be Christian here. For communion, we're singing "Peace like a river, Kum ba yah", arranged by Jean Anne Shafferman for counterbalance.

There, that's enough to keep you going. Next month I'll fill you in on plans for the Season of Creation. Until then, enjoy the end of summer, which will go on until at least Nov. 15. Wear your sunscreen and hydrate well.

Peace (like a river),

Christina

Children, Youth & Family Report

Sunday School

This fall we continue with *The Love First Project* for our Sunday School curriculum. It is a children's ministry framework designed by Colette Potts, a family therapist and author of *Love First: A Children's Ministry for the Whole Church*. She helps parishes reframe children's formation around the gifts that we are uniquely equipped to offer: diverse, intergenerational community and opportunities for service. She begins with this question, "What can the church offer to families that they can't get somewhere else?"

The Love First Project helps children develop a life of faith as they grow and teaches them how to apply their faith to their daily lives, thus helping parents raise loving children.

The curriculum has one basic commitment, and that is to make Sunday mornings meaningful to children and their families. It is an embodied approach rather than an intellectual one, as we teach children ways to think about God and their faith with practices or spiritual disciplines that can stay with them throughout their lives.

Love First incorporates bible stories, service, prayer, and the gifts of our community into an intergenerational, mission-focused program specifically tailored to each church. There is no replacement for real community building: if we trust that we are the people our children need, and trust that our children have gifts to

share with us, we can build a children's ministry through the blessings we already have in one another.

If you are interested in teaching in the fall/winter/spring please let me know. The goal is to have enough teachers so each person's commitment is once a month. Preparation includes reading the lesson plan ahead of time and arriving early to greet the children. All supplies are organized for you and can easily be picked up in the Resource Room. No experience is necessary.

Thank you to **Madeleine Caldwell** and **Jim Kane** for consistently teaching classes this summer!

Youth Group

We are still looking for volunteers. Please call Pastor Kimberlee if you would like to be part of this important ministry!

Dates for your calendars

Aug. 25 – The last Sunday School class for the summer curriculum, "Celebrating God's Creation."

Sept. 1 – No Sunday School

Sept. 8 – Sunday School kickoff with the Love First Project!

Peace be with you,

Pr. Kimberlee

love first™

Parish Focus

Jesse Thrall: GSP's Audio/Videographer

By Ann Schlumberger

ALTHOUGH HE NEVER took a course in audio engineering, Jesse Thrall has been engaged in the process of sound recording since he was young. He was born outside Columbus, Ohio, in 1940. As a teenager, he read the sound equipment trade magazines and listened to classical music records, which he checked out from the public library to play at home on the best equipment he could afford. In junior high school he became interested in choral

music and joined the school chorus. He has been singing ever since. During high school, he sang in the choir of his Methodist Church. It was there that he first used a reel-to-reel tape recorder to tape a church cantata.

Jesse attended Ohio State University, where he majored in

mathematics and sang in the university's student chorus. After earning his bachelor's degree, he spent the next year and a half taking undergraduate courses in the OSU School of Music. He never mastered a musical instrument, but he did have lessons on the cello and trumpet. In 1964 IBM interviewed on campus and hired Jesse; he spent the next 44 years with the company. Indeed, he jokes that IBM stands for "I'm Being Moved," for he lived in New York, Minnesota, and North Carolina before moving to Tucson in 1980. Wherever he lived, he always sang in a community chorus.

In Tucson, Jesse learned about the Arizona Repertory Singers (ARS) from GSP parishioner Cathy Wolfson, who was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church at the time. He joined ARS and in 1985 participated in the Europa Cantat, in Strassbourg, France, where he videotaped the Arizona chorus' performance. The following year the Singers performed at EXPO 86 in Vancouver,

where Jesse met soprano Jane Tucker. He and Jane were married in her childhood Episcopal parish in Vermont, and eventually the couple affiliated with St. Paul's in Tucson. Both were members of St. Paul's choir. There, he videotaped baby Wesley Hunter's baptism. To get the correct viewpoint, Jesse had to climb and ladder and perch on a ledge!

After the merger of Grace Church with St. Paul's, Jesse volunteered to meet GSP's audio-visual needs. His first step was to have a camera hung in the sanctuary and audio equipment installed in the priest's vesting room. Second, after the organ in the balcony was given away, Jesse moved up there to run a camera and handle the sound, for which an audio cable was run through the undercroft up to the balcony. Next he converted a cabinet headed for the trash into housing for the audio and video equipment. Two microphones were placed in the sanctuary rafters to record congregational singing in stereo.

Each Sunday during the 10 o'clock service, Jesse is in the balcony monitoring the audio and video recordings of the readings, the sermon, the choir and congregational singing. On the rare occasions that Jesse is not in attendance, John Banks or Bruce Anderson take his place in the balcony.

During the week Jesse spends 3 to 4 hours editing the input for CDs and DVDs. He prepares a DVD for the archives, and one for each celebrant and/or preacher. The archives hold DVDs from the past 15 years. Jesse also produces CDs for the choir director and the organist, plus extra CDs for any guest soloists. Since Sunday sermons are now posted online, there are almost no calls by home-bound parishioners for additional copies, which Jesse also prepares. When requested, Jesse also videotapes Celebrations of Life.

Jesse muses that, 20 years ago, studios were needed to produce the high-quality sound and images that he can create today using a personal computer. Now, with a recent sound system upgrade, sexton James White sits in the sanctuary and controls sanctuary sound using one tablet while Jesse controls the recorded sound using a second tablet in the balcony.

Due to his responsibilities as GSP's videographer, Jesse does not sing in the church

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Jesse Thrall; top, hard at work during a Sunday service



Spirit Now Autumnal Equinox Celebration

By Martha Whitaker

ON THURSDAY, Sept. 26, GSP will celebrate the Autumnal Equinox with a Celestial Celebration during the Spirit Now service. For those of us who live in the Northern Hemisphere, the date of the actual Autumnal Equinox is the Monday prior to Sept 26, but we will observe the event on Thursday Sept 26. The word comes from the Latin *aequus*, meaning “equal” and *nox*, meaning “night.” The equinox is therefore the time when night and day are of almost exactly equal length, because Earth’s rotational axis is neither tilted away from nor towards the Sun.

Please join us on the labyrinth in front of the church during our regular Spirit Now service, starting at 6 p.m. We will gather in the shade of the cloister for a short, informal, yet meaningful liturgy. While we welcome shortening days and the promise of cooler temperatures, it is likely to still be quite warm, so an ice water station will be set up to ensure

everyone remains hydrated. During the service, everyone will have the opportunity to place a lit candle in one half of a sand-filled ceramic bowl, which symbolizes the even split between night and day. The service also includes simple chants, and a walking meditation on the labyrinth. In the past we have been blessed with live piano, and sometimes Native American flute playing to accompany the labyrinth walk. It is truly a very special, beautiful experience designed to help us re-establish our relationship to God through creation and each other.

Invite your friends to join you, and take part in a service where we experience God through a celebration of the nature, creation, and the natural seasonal marker of the Autumnal Equinox.

Parish Focus

Continued from Page 6
choir. However, he has continued to sing. Over the 25 years he was a member of the Arizona Repertory Singers (ARS), and to this day, he has served the group as videographer. For the past nine years, six of which have been since he and his wife, Jane, retired from ARS, he has been the group’s treasurer as well. And, for the past six years, Jesse has lent his baritone/base voice to the Tucson Symphony Chorus.



Shawl photo by Joyce Henderson

The Shawl-Makers of Grace St. Paul’s

We gather in the office like stray leaves blown in; we hug and smile and weave a discourse on the science and necessity of hugs. My friend Sharon says, “Every shawl I make I think of as a portable hug.” I say, “That’s a line of a poem — ”

Every shawl I make
I think of as
a portable hug:
strands of connection, prayer,
torn-too-soon edges, threads
of care where reds, blues, greens,
golds commingle, wedding
hands and heartbeats to
rhythms and rhymes of color
one can wrap around
one’s shoulders and wear —
a portable hug —
God’s signature
woven into the web

—Karen Hanson



Animal Blessing Ceremony 2019

By The Rev. Chris Ledyard

OUR RELATIONSHIP TO animals is sacred and blessed. The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye-to-eye, a man/woman and his/her dog, cat, bird, lizard, hamster, etc. are two creatures of love. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the awareness and wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.

Grace St. Paul's celebrates and blesses our relationship to animals every year through the Blessing of Companion animals. From our service bulletin for the Blessing of the Animals Liturgy: "The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life. From the beginning animals have been an integral part of God's world and animals have been God's metaphor of life and love. Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah. A giant fish saved Jonah; ravens brought

bread to Elijah; animals were included in the repentance enjoined on humans. The metaphors of God as a mother hen and Jesus as the good shepherd confirm for us the sacred in the animal kingdom. Animals also share in Christ's redemption of all of God's creation. We therefore invoke the divine blessing on these animals, recalling Francis of Assisi. As we do so, let us praise the Creator and thank the Creator for giving humanity the special vocation of being caretakers of all of the world's animal population. May we always remember our great responsibility as caretakers of creation and seek always to walk in God's path."

To honor the special relationship between you and your pet(s), you are invited to be a part of the annual Blessing of Animals on **Sunday, Oct. 6, at 5 p.m.**, on the labyrinth. Everyone and all of their companion animals are welcome: lizards, horses, cats, dogs, hamsters, and all animals not listed. All are sacred! It's a fun time! Most animals willing accept these sacramental blessings with dignity. For your companion animals who have crossed over, bring your favorite picture. Cat and dog treats will abound!



Members of Flutes for Vets, including GSP's own James White (center photo), provided music during the service on Aug. 25. Flutes for Vets is open to veterans of active duty military. Rehearsals take place at GSP on the first and third Wednesdays of every month and elsewhere on the second and fourth Sundays. Visit flutesforvets.org for more information.



"NINGÚN SER HUMANO ES ILEGAL"



Migrant Ministry Report

By Margie King

IN RESPONSE TO the greater national visibility of migrant mistreatment, the Grace St. Paul's Migrant Ministry is becoming more visible. In August, Nancy and Margie were interviewed on KXCI's "Broad Perspectives." (It airs again Sept. 15 at 3 p.m.)

Watch for several fund-raisers, the first also on Sept. 15, to support Central American efforts to live safely in their home countries.

At the Diocesan Convention on Oct. 18-19, we will share exhibit space with our Green Church Ministry.

On Nov. 22-23, we are all invited to participate in the Episcopal Border Ministry at St. Philip's.

A series of four programs will be held during the 9 a.m. Adult Spiritual Formation class:

- **Sept. 15**—The Casa Alitas move to the former Juvenile Detention Center and the work of Methodist shelters. (*see page 10*)
- **Oct. 20**—GSP member Valarie James will discuss the exhibit of migrant children's

art, which she curated at the Ward 6 office.

- **Nov. 17**—Introduction to the History and Policies of the United States in Central America and to Liberation Theology through the writings of Miguel de la Torre, keynote speaker at the Border Conference.
- **Nov. 24**—The coordinator of the Casa Mariposa Visitation Program at the Eloy Detention Center will speak about the lifeline that visits and letters offer to people detained by ICE in this private detention center just 45 minutes from Tucson. Participants will have the opportunity to write Christmas cards to the detained migrants.

As always, our activism and education are framed by prayer. Each class will begin with a passage from Migration Spirituality. On first and third Mondays at 6 p.m. we continue to vigil in the chapel.



EXPLORING OUR FAITH: SUNDAYS @ 9 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 1 — No classes on Labor Day Weekend



Global Climate Change: A Hot Topic

Sunday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

Climate change is arguably the greatest issue within the Episcopal Church's important focus on Creation Care. In 2017, the average surface temperature on Earth reached 1.5° Celsius (equivalent to 2.67° F) above the pre-industrial mean temperature prior to 1850. The average temperature is now rising at approximately 0.25° C (0.45° F) per decade. Environmental changes are sensitive to atmospheric changes, including rising sea levels and pending changes in ocean currents, stronger and more destructive tropical storms and heat waves, greater stress on water resources, and impacts to significant ecosystems. Don Lundy's presentation will summarize what has been learned by the community of concerned scientists, with information from government publications and from my own investigations. It will include climate model projections of possible future conditions, with UN and 4th National Climate Assessment recommendations. Those include adapting to and mitigating pending global changes and impacts on future water resources in the SW and elsewhere. He will suggest what individuals might consider doing about this situation.

Don Lundy, Ph.D., is a Principal Hydrogeologist at Groundwater & Environmental Services, Inc., which is part

of the Environmental Informatics Group. He now works part-time, remotely, from Tucson, supporting projects with his outside clients, and gives support where needed on other GES projects originating in other offices.

Migrant Update:

Casa Alitas Move & Other Recent News

Sunday, Sept. 15, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

Migrant support update by Deacon Nancy and Margie King as well as representatives from GSP and several other shelters. Hear about the new "Welcome Center" to which Catholic Community services has moved. Please bring donations for the Methodist shelters. Learn how you can help even without knowing Spanish.

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

Sin in the Episcopal Church

Sundays, Sept. 22 & 29, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

The Book of Common Prayer has a lot to say about sin, but Episcopalians rarely mention it. After all, we are good people who try to do everything with taste. Our PowerPoint presentation on sin may encourage us to give sin a second thought.

Presented by Chuck Dickson, retired history teacher and frequent GSP presenter.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: SMALL GROUPS @ GSP

GSP Readers Group:

'The Book of Strange New Things' by Michel Faber

Friday, Sept. 13, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Room

A monumental, genre-defying novel over ten years in the making, Michel Faber's *The Book of Strange New Things* is a masterwork from a writer in full command of his many talents. It begins with Peter, a devoted man of faith, as he is called to the mission of a lifetime, one that takes him galaxies away from his wife, Bea. Peter becomes immersed in the mysteries of an astonishing new environment, overseen by an enigmatic corporation known only as USIC. His work introduces him to a seemingly friendly native population struggling with a dangerous illness and hungry for Peter's teachings—his Bible is their "book of strange new things." But Peter is rattled when Bea's letters from home become increasingly desperate: typhoons and earthquakes are devastating whole countries, and governments are crumbling. Bea's faith, once the guiding light of their lives, begins to falter. Suddenly, while Peter is reconciling the needs of his congregation with the desires of his strange employer, Bea is struggling for survival. Their trials lay bare a profound meditation on faith, love tested beyond endurance, and our responsibility to those closest to us.

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

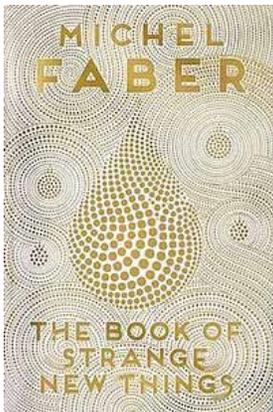
Third Friday Film: 'Across the Universe' (2007)

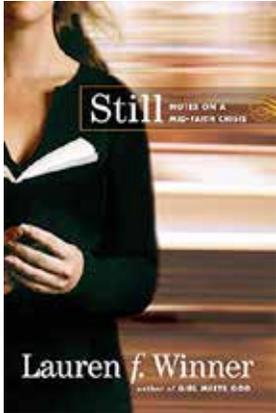
Friday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room

Beatles purists, beware and get over it. Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, and Yoko Ono praised the film after seeing it. Julie Taymor, the director of the film was interviewed about her screening with McCartney: "At the end of the screening I did the

classic thing. I asked him, 'Was there anything you didn't like?' He said, 'What's not to like?' Roger Ebert wrote: "I'm sure there were executives who thought it was suicidal to set a 'Beatles musical' in the 'Vietnam era.' But this is a movie that fires its songs like flowers at the way we live now. It's the kind of movie you watch again, like listening to a favorite album." Stephen Holden of the *New York Times* wrote: "From its first moments, when a solitary dreamer on a beach turns to the camera and sings, unaccompanied, the opening lines of the Beatles' song "Girl," Julie Taymor's '60s musical fantasia, *Across the Universe*, reveals its intention to use the Beatles' catalog to tell two stories at once, one personal, the other generational. That young man, Jude (Jim Sturgess), is a cheeky Liverpool dockworker with a twinkle in his eye. From here the movie only gets better. Somewhere around its midpoint, *Across the Universe* captured my heart, and I realized that falling in love with a movie is like falling in love with another person. Imperfections, however glaring, become endearing quirks once you've tumbled...." *Across the Universe* believes wholeheartedly in the quaint, communitarian spirit it exalts. You share the joy of its blissed-out hippies in the grass. You feel the deepening friendship between Jude and Max that is sealed in Max's incandescent performance of "Hey, Jude." And during the time it lasts, the intoxicating passion of Jude and Lucy, both innocents by today's standards, convinces, for a moment, that love is all you need. There will be space for dancing!

Hosted by Victoria and Joe Stefani.





**Reading with the Spirit:
'Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis' by Lauren F. Winner**
Saturday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m., Bloom Room

Lauren F. Winner has written an engrossing reflection of literary grace and spiritual wisdom with *Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis*. As she lives through a failed marriage and the loss of her mother, Winner finds her Christian faith slipping away. Witty, relatable, and fiercely honest, Winner lays bare her experience of what she calls the “middle stage” of the spiritual life. Elegantly written and profound, *Still* offers reflections on how murky and gray the spiritual life can be while, at the same time, shows us how to see the light we do encounter more clearly. “Compulsively readable, direct yet never indiscreet, Winner’s book shows intelligence and verve as it seriously addresses the spiritual crises around God’s apparent absence or silence, as faced by many. A must-have for Winner’s readers and fans of Anne Lamott.” (Library Journal)

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.

**Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys:
Cultivating Spiritual Literacy**

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

(NOTE: No meeting on Sept. 2, Labor Day)

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.



September play-reading is Hellman’s ‘Children’s Hour’

The Children’s Hour, the first play by well-known American author Lillian Hellman, is the centerpiece of the GSP Spirit Players First Friday Play Reading on Sept. 6.

It’s September and in Tucson students are well into the school year. However, in an all-girls school in New England things are not going well. Karen Wright and Martha Dobie have created and run the school. A petulant, spoiled student, Mary Tilford, runs away from the school and to avoid being sent back she tells her grandmother that the two headmistresses are having a lesbian affair. The unjust accusation proceeds to destroy the women’s careers, relationships and lives.

The Children’s Hour, first staged on Broadway in 1934. The play’s staging was fraught by decency laws and the illegality of mentioning homosexuality on the New York Stage—the themes of lesbianism were enough to get the play banned outright

**Between the Lines: Scholarship &
Depth Psychology Meet Sunday’s Lectionary**
Thursdays, 10 a.m., Bloom Room

(NOTE: This group is on hiatus until Sept. 19)

Between Sept. 19 and Oct. 10, this long running Thursday group will read and discuss John Shelby Spong’s *Unbelievable: Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today*. Fr. Richard Mallory will return to resume the usual 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.

Friday Morning Bible Study

Fridays, Sept. 6 & 20, 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, 9:30-11 a.m., Epic Cafe, 745 N. 4th Ave.
(at University Blvd.)

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

in Boston, Chicago, and London, and to have *The Children’s Hour* passed over for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in favor of *The Old Maid* by Zoë Akins, an adaptation of Edith Wharton’s 1924 novella. (In response to the slight, outraged critics founded the Drama Critics’ Circle Award.) The play was a critical and commercial hit, running for 691 performances.

Please join us on Friday, Sept. 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bloom Room to read this classic of the American theatre. All are welcome to read a part or to be part of the “audience”. No prior acting or theatre experience is necessary. Scripts will be provided. Sharon McKenzie and Nanalee Raphael are the facilitators, both long-time theatre aficionados. The script is suitable for mature teens and older persons.

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*
(no meetings until Sept. 19)
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 September 2019...

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| 1st | 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation | 12 noon, Communications Ministry |
| 2nd | LABOR DAY <i>Parish Office & Social Services closed</i> | 24th 9 a.m., Primavera Meals Group 12:30 p.m., TiHAN Volunteer Orientation 6:30 p.m., VESTRY MEETING |
| 3rd | 9 a.m., Gathering Artists | 29th 9 a.m., <i>Sin in the Episcopal Church</i> |
| 4th | 7 p.m., Green Church Committee | 30th 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Spiritual Journeys</i> |
| 6th | 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading | |
| 8th | 9 a.m., <i>Global Climate Change</i> | |
| 9th | 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Spiritual Journeys</i> | |
| 11th | 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry | |
| 13th | 9:30 a.m., GSP Readers Group 6:30 p.m., Southern Arizona Friends of Jung | |
| 15th | 9 a.m., <i>Migrant Update</i> | |
| 16th | 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Spiritual Journeys</i> | |
| 20th | 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 6:30 p.m., Third Friday Film | |
| 22nd | 9 a.m., <i>Sin in the Episcopal Church</i> 1 p.m., Primavera cooking team | |
| 23rd | 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Spiritual Journeys</i> | |



...and in October 2019

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| 1st | 6 p.m., Spanish Class | 18th 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 6:30 p.m., Third Friday Film |
| 2nd | 7 p.m., Green Church Committee | 19th 9 a.m., Southern Arizona Friends of Jung |
| 4th | 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading | 20th 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation |
| 5th | 1 p.m., TiHAN Care & Support Training | 21st 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Spiritual Journeys</i> 6 p.m., Flutes for Vets |
| 6th | 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 5 p.m., Blessing of the Animals | 22nd 9 a.m., Primavera Meals Group 6:30 p.m., VESTRY MEETING |
| 7th | 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Spiritual Journeys</i> 6 p.m., Flutes for Vets | 26th 10 a.m., Reading with the Spirit |
| 9th | 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry | 27th 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 1 p.m., Primavera Cooking Team |
| 11th | 9:30 a.m., GSP Readers Group | 28th 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Spiritual Journeys</i> 12 noon, Communications Ministry |
| 13th | 9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 1:30 p.m., True Concord | 31st HALLOWEEN 🎃 |
| 14th | 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Spiritual Journeys</i> | |