



The Briefly

February 2014

The monthly newsletter for the community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2331 E. Adams • Tucson, AZ 85719
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While Fr. Steve is recovering from surgery, and taking a hiatus from his regular *Briefly* column, we include this message from the outgoing Senior Warden, Martha Whitaker.

Senior Warden's Report to the Congregation

By Martha Whitaker, Senior Warden

Epiphany can only happen to us if we are willing to look, act, and feel different from the church around us and the world around us... The example of the wise men reminds us that the seven deadliest words in any organization, especially a church, are, "We have never done it that way."

—The Rev. Steve Keplinger

Friends, we are growing and changing, and it's a beautiful thing. During my three year tenure as Senior Warden, I have seen us move from a sometimes uncomfortably tentative "Maybe... but we've never done it that way" to a more comfortable and confident, "Well, we've never done it that way, so why not give it a try?!" While it is still important to acknowledge our roots in some traditions, we are more consistently interested in reaching outward, welcoming the stranger, caring for the disenfranchised—which includes not just people, but animal companions and the beautiful Earth in which we live.

Last summer, during our Sundaes Sunday fellowship reception in McBride Hall, one long-time parishioner observed the remarkable diversity of happy people in long lines as they awaited their ice cream, and with tears of pride exclaimed, "Look how much we've changed!" How else have we changed? Here are some highlights of GSP, including many innovations in 2013:

- During Lent we tried an experiment on Facebook (FB), the popular social media network. Inspired by our traditional Lenten Meditations booklet, members of the Communication Committee decided to post a daily Lenten Meditation meme, starting on Ash Wednesday. We quickly learned that FB memes are a powerful marketing tool. Many Lenten Meditation memes easily reached over 1,000 FB users, and one even reached over 6,200 FB users!
- Jewish friends from Congregation Or Chadash led GSP in

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Annual Meeting Highlights

(pg 3)

Shrove Tuesday

(pg 5)

Happening

(pg 6)

Film & Fellowship Fast Forward

(pg 9)

Episcopal 101

(pg 10)



This is a group of students in one of the classrooms at Pakachele School, one of the schools for orphans in Lusaka, Zambia. The students are wearing uniforms knitted by a machine donated by a couple at GSP, and the school gets regular support from several members of the congregation. See Page 5 for more.

Rector's Letter

Continued from Page 1

our 1st annual traditional Passover Seder on Wednesday, March 27. A fair number of kids (and adults) had never been to a Seder before; this was their first! It was a fun, instructional, and very meaningful evening for all.

- On April 13, members of St. Andrew's, Tucson, and St. Andrew's, Nogales, joined with us at GSP to joyously celebrate the ordination of Ernie Galaz to the position of Priest-in-Charge at St. Andrew's, Nogales.

- In early September, GSP continued to lead at the forefront of marriage equality with the blessed event of George and David Ruder's wedding. The occasion was full of ceremony, and in his sermon, Fr. Steve recognized the historic nature of the event in The Episcopal Church's life.

- In late September, we presented a two-day seminar, "Christianity 3.0: Reboot to the Radically Inclusive Original Church." Parishioners brought their friends, and thanks to massive amounts of publicity, many people in Tucson became aware that GSP is a welcoming alternative to evangelical/fundamentalist Christian thought.

- Also in late September, the Vestry approved a partnership with Epiphany on the Desert, Gila Bend. Our early partnership activities include plans to: continue to develop opportunities for GSP members who are in discernment for ordained ministry; share liturgies developed at GSP; share GSP's musical talents; and coordinate GSP Youth visits to Epiphany.

- Thanks to the Sunday Bulletin Archive on the GSP website, our creative, progressive liturgies are available to anyone who wants to download them. In November we were pleasantly surprised to learn that one of GSP's FB fans in Australia is interested in our liturgies, and asked to use the liturgy from our Blessing of the Animals service!

- On Nov. 22, GSP's Film and Fellowship Ministry hosted a screening of the award-winning documentary, *Blood Brother*. This is the first time GSP has had its own rights to a film screening, and it was an excellent opportunity to reach out to a variety of people in the Tucson community, especially the unchurched. GSP has been a venue for

other groundbreaking films thanks to our partnership with The Loft, but this was a major step forward because the Film and Fellowship ministry leaders actually secured the rights to the film, rather than just hosting a screening on behalf of The Loft.

- Deacons-in-formation Chris Ledyard and Linda Hutson began their six months of field education at St. Matthew's, Tucson, and Church of the Apostles, Oro Valley, respectively. They are scheduled to complete their field education in February 2014.

- GSP has now gone solar! Prior to Christmas, our solar panels went on line and are providing an estimated 70 percent of the electricity used at GSP. What a remarkable achievement by our Green Church Ministry!

- The Vision/Mission Statement Revision Committee has prayerfully considered the feedback they received from the congregation and has reached a consensus. At the Annual Meeting we will share GSP's updated Vision/Mission statements, and celebrate how they beautifully reflect the community we are, the growth we are experiencing, and who we wish to become.

Another exciting change for GSP is the naming of a new Senior Warden at this year's Annual Meeting. One of the many things I learned during my three-year tenure is that this congregation has a plethora of dedicated, loving, and multi-talented volunteers. It has been a pleasure, an honor, and a blessing to answer my call to serve with Fr. Steve, remarkable Vestry members, and countless ministry volunteers as GSP has grown. I will be stepping down as Senior Warden, but I will continue to serve as Chair of the Communication Committee. I am confident that whoever is named Senior Warden will lead with fresh talents, and bring new insights and energy to the position to help Fr. Steve lead GSP into a future full of epiphanies.

Submissions to *The Briefly*

Please submit articles to Joyce Henderson, BrieflyEditor@gracestpauls.org. Calendar items go to Wendy Pipentacos at wendypipe@yahoo.com. John Banks receives photos, charts, and graphics at jdbanks@gmail.com.

The deadline for the March 2014 issue will be Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Highlights from GSP's 23rd Annual Meeting

By Martha Whitaker



Roger Pierce (above) is the new Senior Warden. See his biographical statement on Page 11.

The 23rd Annual Meeting took place on Jan. 26, 2013 in McBride Hall. A “standing room only” crowd began the meeting by singing Lord, you give the great commission. The Rev. Rosanna Kazanjian offered an opening prayer. The minutes from the 2013 annual meeting were approved as printed. (Please refer to the *2014 Annual Meeting Report* for details of specific reports.)

Senior Warden Martha Whitaker announced changes in ministry leadership, and Fr. Steve Keplinger presented the leaders who have stepping down with a gift of appreciation for their years of dedicated service: **Lynne Albright**, Pastoral Care; **Al Whitehurst**, Congregational Development; **Joan Cooney** and **Chris LaBour**, Hospitality; **Sue Pierce**, Greeters; **Marilyn Abraham**, Ushers; and **Roger Pierce**, Adult Education and Spiritual Formation. The Mission/Vision Revision Team were thanked for developing new statements that reflect who GSP is, and who we strive to be. The outgoing vestry members were thanked

Kyle Devereux, Steve Mattix, Jean Smart, Angel Wang, and Bianca Lara (l-r, across the middle) are the new Vestry members.



for their service.

This year the annual meeting elections involved four open Vestry seats, an unopposed Youth position, an unopposed Junior Warden position, five delegates, and two alternates to the Diocesan Convention in October. The five candidates for the four Vestry vacancies were introduced. There were fourteen nominations for the delegates to the convention. Ballots were marked and collected.

The hymn, “We are all one in mission,” was sung before Tom Pitello presented the Financial Report and 2014 Budget. The 2013 budget was not only balanced, but positive,



Zara Larsen (below) will complete the Vestry term of Roger Pierce.

thanks to unanticipated bequests received by GSP. The 2014 vestry-approved budget was reported as \$626,763. If in 2014 our pledges and giving were to markedly increase the way they did in 2013, it would allow the Vestry to consider additional uses of that money, which could include funding for a much needed associate rector.

In the 2014 budget, staff salaries have been returned to 2012 levels. Members of the Parish Development Team were thanked for leading a successful Giving and Receiving campaign, and parishioners were thanked for their commitment and ongoing generosity in giving.

In clergy staff news, **The Rev. Steve Kelsey** has volunteered to lead GSP's Pastoral Care Ministry in a non-stipend capacity. Fr. Steve announced four recipients of the Fourth Annual Rector's Awards: **Angel Wang**, **Bruce Anderson**, **Brian Arthur**, and **Holly Shinn** were honored for their incredible service to GSP.

Election results were announced. The new Vestry members are **Kyle Devereux**, **Steve Mattix**, **Jean Smart**, **Angel Wang**, and **Bianca Lara**.

GSP delegates to the Diocesan Convention

are **Marilyn Abraham**, **Eric Carr**, **Kyle Devereux**, **Spencer Hunter**, and **Nanalee Raphael**. The alternates are **Chris Eastoe**, **Brian Fairbanks**, **Wendy Pipentacos**, **Lu Pipentacos**, and **Karen Hanson**.

Fr. Steve thanked **Martha Whitaker** for three years of service as Senior Warden, and announced **Roger Pierce** as the new Senior Warden. Roger's acceptance of the call to Senior Warden means that his vestry seat opened, and is now filled by **Zara Larsen**.

After the closing hymn, “Rise Up Rejoicing,” Martha Whitaker, as her last official act as Senior Warden, dismissed the meeting.

Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



Epiphany means “revelation” or “manifestation”. On Epiphany, Christ’s divinity is revealed to the Gentiles by the Magi, and during the season of Epiphany, his divinity is made manifest by his miracles. For the rest of us, an epiphany is a “duh moment” when some truth is suddenly made strikingly clear. It’s actually much easier to have painful realizations—the “oh [redacted] moment”—when the full horror of what we’re doing or not doing sinks in. This is when we realize we are far from divine and that Christ’s loving intercession in our lives is necessary for any moment that comes our way.

And that is where Lent comes in. Lent is forty days of thinking about all of it, the striking insights and the painful realizations, and preparing our minds and hearts for Easter. My first thought about Lent is usually a wish that I’d started preparing earlier, but then earlier was always full of something else. It is what it is. Part of Lent is dealing with the imperfection of it all.

One lesson I need to relearn frequently is to keep it simple, a good Lenten discipline. For some of us, if it isn’t complicated, we aren’t working hard enough. Giving the adult choir enough time to learn and internalize new music is a constant challenge, and the reverse is often true with the children and youth—they work on one or two pieces for weeks, which can be boring. A recent hair-raising exception was “Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me around”; the scores didn’t arrive until the week before we had to sing it. The St. Cecelia’s and Zombie ensembles are too recent a development at Grace St. Paul’s to allow for repeating music, especially as the program is designed to help them learn and grow as musicians, so we don’t want to be backtracking. For the adults, I judiciously repeat works, although I try not to repeat them too often.

Included in the works for Epiphany are a setting of the “Nunc dimittis” for Candlemas by Winifred Williams, composed when she was taking counterpoint from Pamela Decker; an arrangement of “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” by W. B. Olds; John

Tavener’s “The Lamb”; an interesting little piece I unearthed from our library called “The Heart Worships” by Gustav Holst; Duruflé’s “Ubi caritas”; a couple of 16th century Tudor anthems; a plainsong chant; and the C.V. Stanford “Te Deum”, a grand warhorse we haven’t sung in a few years. If that doesn’t cause you to burst into a chorus of “I am an Anglican”, I don’t know what will. On the last Sunday in Epiphany, the Zombies will present a trio of Alleluias from three traditions—one from Zimbabwe, one from Armenia, and one using the Southern Harmony tune *Kedron*.

For Ash Wednesday, I desperately wanted to do the Morales “Emendemus in melius”, but it is long and difficult, so in keeping with Lenten simplicity, we will do a couple of early English works—“The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit” by Maurice Green and “Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake” by Richard Farrant. On Lent 2, the St. Cecelia’s Children’s Choir will sing a piece with flute called “Purer in heart” by Naomi King Walker. The other offerings for Lents 1 through 4 include a couple of carols (no, really, it works), a *Kyrie* from “Missa de Beata Virgine” by Palestrina, Salmo 23—“Es Yahvé mi Pastor”—by Alfredo Morales, and a cool setting of the spiritual “I’ve just come from the fountain” by André J. Thomas.

Next time, we discuss Holy Week and Easter. Until then, have a blessedly simple Lent!
Peace,

Christina



Pancakes & Live Music on Shrove Tuesday!

March 4, 6 p.m.,
McBride Hall

Traditionally, people went to confession on Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The priest's act of absolving their sins was called shriving. Hence, Shrove Tuesday became Fat Tuesday... a time for eating all the fat and luxurious things one had to forego during Lent. Pancakes, sausages, and eggs have become the traditional feast. And the GSP tradition is that the men of the parish prepare the meal.

Please bring your signature dessert for everyone to enjoy, as well as any toppings you'd like for your pancakes. For example, berries, whipped cream, rich syrups, nuts, candies, or chocolate chips!

There will be music and room to dance, and children's arts and crafts are also planned.

And, because they have been such a hit for the past two years, we'll sell "indulgences" again.

At the end of the evening there will be a short ceremony to burn the palms from last year's Palm Sunday service to create the ashes used for this year's Ash Wednesday service.

Join us for an evening of celebration with an abundance of food, dessert and fellowship!

Please contact Kiki Fenik in the church office, 327-6857, to volunteer for preparing the meal or cleaning up after the party.

The Gifts of God for the People of God

By Eric K. Carr

In his new book, *The Orthodox Heretic*, Peter Rollins tells a short story called "Jesus and the Five Thousand (A First-World Translation)." The beginning of the story is just like the one from the Gospels, where a crowd of five thousand was hungry, but all Jesus had was five loaves and two fishes. Jesus then asks the disciples to go out and gather the provisions the crowds had brought to sustain them on their travels. Jesus looks up to heaven, blesses the mountain of food they've amassed, and he and his disciples miraculously eat everything themselves so that "there were not even enough crumbs left to fill a starving person's hand."

In the commentary, Rollins writes, "The initial shock of this story relates to the way that it inscribes selfish and inhuman actions onto Christ himself... Yet in the Bible we read that those who follow Christ are nothing less than the manifestation of his body in the world today... In very concrete terms, people learn of Christ through those who claim to live out the way of Christ. However, if Christ is proclaimed in the life of his followers, if the body of believers is thought to manifest the body of Christ in the world, then we must stop, draw breath, and ask ourselves whether the above tale reflects how Christ is presented to the

world today, at least in the minds of those who witness the lifestyle of Christians in the West."

That's not the witness I want the rest of the world to see in my life. In 2012 my family and I went to Zambia, which is where my partner, Richard, adopted our sons, Gideon and Elijah. While we were there we visited several orphanages and schools for orphans that have been affected by the AIDS crisis, and our lives of privilege and comfort became starkly evident.

While there, though, we discovered that all of the orphans were wearing warm uniforms knitted on machines donated by one generous couple at GSP. We then learned that hundreds of orphans were being served by this one couple's generosity, years after their gift. Also, they were able to train young adults in textiles and clothing manufacture using these machines, preparing some of them to work or even make their own clothing to sell. So the gift continues.

It was a great reminder of the impact we can have from so far away. Sometimes it is hard to think of how to practice the "promiscuous hospitality" Father Steve talks about beyond Tucson. There is so much need everywhere, and while we are doing a phenomenal job here, sometimes it is easy to forget that truly promiscuous hospitality reaches to every living thing. We are not just stewards of Tucson, but the kin of *all* creation, and together we really can make a bigger difference than we realize.

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

By Martha Whitaker

Every Sunday throughout the month of February you will have the opportunity to support the Girl Scouts during the 2014 Cookie Season!

Your local GSP Girl Scouts will have a booth set up outside McBride Hall between and after Sunday services. The cost is still only \$4 per box, and offering all the traditional, favorite flavors. Your support helps girls learn goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics—aspects essential to

leadership, to success, and to life. Plus, you get to enjoy delicious cookies! You may also donate cookies to Joseph's Pantry or have sent to U.S. troops overseas.

Thank you so much for your support of our girls!





Happening!

By Rosalind Garcia

For the first time in several decades a youth “Happening” event was offered in Southern Arizona, and Grace St. Paul’s hosted the event.

Thirty-five teens and volunteers gathered on GSP’s campus for the weekend of Jan. 10-12 for an event meant to focus each participant on spiritual and personal growth and understanding.

What happens at “Happening” is meant to stay at “Happening,” but in general, it can be described as a time when participants can remove the masks we all tend to wear to protect ourselves in a safe and supportive environment. “Happening” allows us to recognize how loved we are for who God made us to be. By recognizing that love, we can see God present in our lives.

It can be a deeply moving, even transformative experience for many teens and their leaders. Usually, “Happening” is led by teens for teens, however, since we had no teens who had experienced “Happening” for many years, our weekend was ably led by college students and youth leaders who had done similar retreats in their teens. They did a remarkable job and we are blessed to have these young adults in our midst.

One of the exercises during the weekend was asking the participants to write a Psalm together. The youth saw only the line written above theirs before they composed their own line. We thought the resulting psalm

was so lovely that we asked the teens to read it in Church on Sunday. It deserves a wider audience, so it is also printed below.

We look forward to many more successful “Happenings” in Southern Arizona and thank everyone at GSP, St. Philip’s and St. Alban’s for their help and support in making sure our youth had this amazing experience!

Psalm

by Happening 2014 Youth

The morning calls out to me and the stars sing out your praise, O God.
It fills me with joy to hear your praise as it rings throughout the world.
The mountains towering, colorful, sparkling after a summer storm.
The river flowing, crashing, so much life within.
And the sea rages to the call of your name.
The moon turns red and the sea turns to fire.
The stars glare down at those who have known pain...
 those hidden in their darkness, waiting for a miracle.
No matter what they go through, they will know the Lord is with them.
And he will never abandon them anytime soon.
All of God’s children are loved by Him.
Many look to God and praise Him!

Children & Youth





Solar Update

By Angel Wang

Since Dec. 20, 2013, Grace St. Paul's has been using electricity from the solar modules as its primary source at 82%-87% of our usage.

The parking lot solar structures shade eleven parking spaces while the parish hall rooftop area was recoated with solar reflective paint by a GSP and Joseph's Pantry volunteer crew in advance of the solar installation.

We look forward to a celebration and dedication of the solar panels early in the new year.

We are now also using coffee cups from recycled materials at the coffee hour and Green Church also hosted an Alternative Green Christmas table for gift giving.

We join the many Tucson congregations, and Arizona IPL, in living into a renewables role model of environmental leadership as we continue to explore energy efficiency, recycling, composting, rainwater reclamation and other initiatives as religious responses to climate change.

A few martial arts myths dispelled

By Fr. Allen Breckenridge

Students of The Spirit Dojo have been training at Grace St. Paul's for the past year and have had fun and learned a lot! Classes are in McBride Hall on Mondays at 4 p.m. and Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

We encourage everyone to stop by and try a class! If some common myths are the reason you haven't yet tried karate, let's make sure you have the facts.

Myth # 1: Church isn't a place to practice martial arts.

Truth: Church is a wonderful place to practice! Church is for the salvation, health, and well being of the total person in community. A dojo is a place that does the same. As part of their training, students reflect on their faith. The church and dojo are both rigorous training grounds for a well-rounded faith life.

Myth #2: Martial arts training is intense so only exceptional athletes can practice.

Truth: You don't have to be a fitness buff to get started. After consistent practice, though, you will be in better shape. Students start slowly and at their level of ability. You will be welcomed and accepted as you are *and* be challenged to improve your skills and fitness a little each session.

Myth #3: The martial arts are all about the individual.

Truth: Our training is a team effort that teaches each student to exceed limitations or expectations of what one can accomplish alone physically, mentally, or spiritually. We are a community of friends who support one another.

Myth #4: Practicing martial arts makes people bullies.

Truth: Loyalty, honesty, discipline, and respect are core values that are practiced in every class. Students learn self-defense skills and how to compete in healthy ways. Bullying, harassing, or abuse are never tolerated.

Myth #5: Martial arts are not for peacemakers or persons of faith.

Truth: Martial artists strive for peace and unity, and look for ways to defuse conflict, aggression, and violence. Students are asked to consider appropriate responses to different situations and what Jesus would ask them to do.

Myth #6: Exercise is tedious and boring; it's not fun.

Truth: We have lots of fun in karate class, and lessons learned during practice often carry over to our daily lives.

Myth #7: It will take forever to get my blackbelt so why bother?

Truth: Not everyone who practices martial arts has the goal of earning a blackbelt. But if that's your goal, then remember that all good training takes patience and time. And earning a blackbelt is only the start of another journey; it is not the final destination.

Now that we've dispelled some myths, come visit a class and join us! The first month is free so that you can take your time to train and learn how martial arts can improve your life. Please contact Fr. Allen if you have any questions. His number is 808-4073 and his email address is TheSpiritDojo@live.com.

In addition to the Spirit Dojo, The Rev. Allen Breckenridge is also the Director of The Center for Creative Spirituality. Students John & Sarah Wright and Debbie Keen contributed to this article.





Viewers at the GSP screening send a message of love to the orphans featured in *Blood Brother*.

Film & Fellowship Fast Forward: 2014 and Beyond

By Eric K. Carr

Last year was an incredible one for Film & Fellowship, with exclusive screenings, new relationships with distribution companies, co-hosting with the Loft and TIHAN, lots of new participants, and even a trip to Sundance for the ministry leaders, all on virtually no budget. This year is just as grand.

By the time you read this, we will have held our first F&F Tailgate Party, co-hosted by State Sen. Steve Farley, and Kitt Cordero, Richard Rhoads, and I will have attended Sundance again. We are hoping to secure rights for another exclusive screening at GSP. We are attending the premier of *The Overnighters*, a

documentary about a Lutheran pastor attacked by his community for transforming his church into a shelter for migrant workers lured to North Dakota for elusive jobs in the new “fracking” oil fields. If it is a good fit, we are going to do our best to get the film shown at GSP like we did with *Blood Brother* last year.

Speaking of *Blood Brother*, we were the only venue in all of Southern Arizona, and we raised almost \$1,000 through various means for TIHAN and the orphans featured in the film! The film will be available on DVD in February, so if you missed it, let Kitt or me know if you’d like us to organize another screening or borrow the DVD. (Or better yet, order a copy of your own! All proceeds support the orphans in India.)

And if that wasn’t enough, because of the relationship we’ve formed with with the filmmakers, we are already helping produce *Gennadiy*, their next documentary, and may host a screening in 2015 when the film is finished, possibly before it even hits theaters. This is very exciting to us!

We are also excited to announce that we once again earned the rights to host this year’s **Human Rights Watch Film Series**, and will be screening *The New Black* on Saturday, March 22. An award-winning documentary, *The New Black* explores homophobia in African-American churches, and details how right-wing Christian politicians exploit or encourage the issue. This is the third year we have worked with the Loft Cinema to bring social change through film.

Finally, we are set to host our weekly Lenten Film Series again this year. We plan to let the group as a whole decide on the theme and films for the series, like we did last year. We are very proud to have such a passionate group of supporters and participants both from within and without the GSP community, and love the films the group has been voting on so far.

We invite everyone to join in the fun and lend your voice to the group as well. Other than special events, Film & Fellowship meets every third Friday at 6:30 p.m.



Adult Spiritual Formation

Classes &
Courses,
February-
March 2014



ANIMATE: Bible

**Mondays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24, March 3, 10 & 17;
7-9 p.m., at the home of Catherine Penn Williams
(Tucson Blvd. & Grant)**

“I love coming to church, but I really don’t get the Bible.”
Sound familiar? Join us to encounter scripture in new ways with *Animate: Bible*. In each *Animate: Bible* session, the group will watch a video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spend time on personal reflection and journaling, and share ideas with the group. The curriculum is intended to help adults to have an engaging, positive relationship with the sacred texts of the Bible. We will spend time with some of the most exciting voices in the Emerging Church, covering these topics: the canon, history, testaments, gospels, genre, interpretation and grace.

There will be a fee of \$15 per participant. Advance registration is required and class size is limited. Call the church office on or before January 31st to pre-register.

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams, long-time contributor to Adult Ed at GSP, who is always seeking new entry points to the Bible for herself.

Painting the Stars:

Science, Religion & an Evolving Faith

**Wednesdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 7-9 p.m., & Saturday,
March 1, 9-noon, in the Bloom Education Center**

Celebrating the communion of science and faith, *Painting the Stars* explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. The video presentations feature a dozen leading theologians and progressive thinkers. Part of the series was offered in the summer and fall of 2013. Due to its popularity, we are offering the entire series this spring.

Facilitated by Peggy Scott, GSP member and Co-Chairperson of the Adult Education ministry.

Spirit Players: A Play Reading Experience

**Fridays, Feb. 7, & March 7, 6:30 p.m., Bloom
Education Center**

If you love the theatre, this experience is for you! Join us as a reader or an observer as we give voice to comedies, dramas, social commentaries, and more. Scripts are available at these unrehearsed readings on the first Friday of every month. Readings are open to everyone.

Coordinated by Nanalee Raphael and Halsy Taylor, career professionals in theatre design, direction, and performance who love to introduce others to a variety of scripts.

History of Monasticism in the Western Church

Sunday, Feb. 9, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Learn about the origins and history of the monastic movement from the Desert Fathers through the Middle Ages.

Offered by Brother Chuck Hannan, OSF. Anglican Franciscan Friar, student of monastic orders with six years of Franciscan formation and study.

Our Minds on God

**Sundays, Feb. 16 & 23, 9 a.m., Bloom Education
Center**

A very quick view of a two-thousand-year-old topic using an intellectual history approach for something that goes beyond intellect.

Facilitated by Dr. Chuck Dickson, a professional historian, teacher and long time parishioner.

Episcopal 101—for Everyone

**Sundays, Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 11:45 a.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 to the Episcopal Church, we’ll 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; and explain the structure and organization of the Episcopal Church; and what does it mean to be a member of Grace St. Paul’s Church? What do bishops do? What is Apostolic Succession? Why do we need priests? 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 Kiplinger, Rector of Grace St. Paul’s.

Trial of Jesus

Sunday, Feb. 23, 6-8 p.m., McBride Hall

Jesus on trial: What would a modern jury do? The trial of Jesus provides a brief, intense and challenging experience. It is not a scripted play, but rather a participatory experience. Mark Osler, professor of law at the University of St. Thomas Law School in Minnesota and a former prosecutor, and Jeanne Bishop, a public defender in Cook County, Illinois, act as trial lawyers, calling a variety of witnesses. After an hour of presentation of evidence and arguments, the audience is divided into groups of 12, who then deliberate as juries to a verdict.

Adult Spiritual Formation



'Come Down, O Love Divine'

—Cultivating a Lenten Spiritual Practice

Sunday, March 2, 9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Is Lent just a time of doom, denial and abstinence? This class will offer a different lens for creating a meaningful Lenten spiritual practice. Using multimedia we'll draw on the work of mystics and other great spiritual writers to offer ways to be open to God's "own ardor glowing" during this liturgical season.

Presented by Catherine Penn Williams, a frequent facilitator of Adult Ed at GSP.

The Last Week—What Really Happened!

Sundays, March 9, 16, 23 & 30 & April 6, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Insights from Marcus Borg and Dom Crossan about the events in the last week of Jesus' life.

Scripture study and discussion led by Roger Pierce.

ANIMATE: Faith Development for Progressive Christians

Wednesdays, March 12, 19 & 26 & April 2 & 9, 7-9 p.m., McBride Hall

"I love GSP but am I really comfortable calling myself a Christian?" Every Wednesday evening in Lent we will gather as a community to explore some central topics of Christianity (God, religion, Jesus, salvation, the cross, the Bible, and church) and how they speak to 21st century people of faith.

In each session, the group will watch a short video from Animate: Faith featuring a leading voice from the emerging church movement, spend time on personal reflection/journaling, and share ideas in a small group. Video presenters include: Lillian Daniel, Bruce Reyes-Chow, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Lauren Winner, Shane Hipps, Mark Scandrette and Brian McLaren.

A simple soup/salad dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., prior to the beginning of each class.

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams and Linda Hutson, both experienced small group and retreat leaders. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

And the New Senior Warden is... Roger Pierce!

I am very pleased to accept the role of Senior Warden in this wonderful church. It is an honor to be asked to provide leadership into what, I'm sure, will be years of great opportunity and remarkable possibilities for the parish.

Sue and I came to GSP almost four years ago and found immediately a warm, welcoming community that expressed a vitality and energy that I have rarely seen in other congregations.

I have served the Body of Christ in several capacities over the years—as an ordained pastor and parish minister, a U.S. Navy chaplain for twenty years, a vice president at the national headquarters of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and as a hospice chaplain here in Tucson. Each has afforded me an opportunity to experience the church from different perspectives for forty-five years of ministry. Perhaps some of that experience will be helpful as we move into a new phase of our parish life.

Upon reflection, it seems clear to me that God puts people in the right place for the right moment, even when we don't realize it. Former Senior Wardens illustrate the point. Catherine Penn Williams provided excellent leadership during a tense time of transition as the church searched for a new rector. Then Martha Whitaker brought wonderful skills, energy, and enthusiasm to her time as Senior Warden as the church embraced Fr. Steve Keplinger and his ministry began.

Now we begin to look long-range and begin to take steps into a future that will both bless us and challenge us. I think we are all deeply grateful for the blessings and very willing to accept the challenges because in the mix of blessing and challenge, we will experience the remarkable power of God's Spirit. It is in that Spirit, to whom we are awake and alert, that we will find our future. I am very happy and very honored to be part of that journey.



Grace St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

What's Happening in February 2014

WEEKLY SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Sundays

- 8 a.m., [Holy Communion](#)
- 8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation
- 9:45 a.m., Child Care
- 10 a.m., [Holy Communion](#)
- 10 a.m., Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour
- 11:30 a.m., Youth Groups

Mondays

- 11:30 a.m., Spiritual Direction
- 4 p.m., Spirit Dojo Karate
- 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

Tuesdays

- 9 a.m., Spiritual Book Discussion
- 6 p.m., [Evening Prayer & Communion](#)
- 7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation

Wednesdays

- 7 a.m., [Holy Communion](#)
- 10 a.m., Quilting Ministry

Thursdays

- 5:30 p.m., [Spirit Now—An Inclusive Communion](#)

3rd 7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)
7 p.m., *Animate: Bible*

5th 12 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion & an Evolving Faith*

6th 6 p.m., Tucson Adoption Reunion Support

8th 9 a.m., Community of Hope Training

9th 9 a.m., *History of Monasticism*
12 p.m., Lay Minister Training—Ushers

6 p.m., [Taizé Service](#)

10th 7 p.m., Joseph's Pantry Meeting
7 p.m., *Animate: Bible*

12th 7 p.m., *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion & an Evolving Faith*

14th 6:30 p.m., *Spirit Players—A Play Reading Experience*

16th 9 a.m., *Our Minds on God*

17th 7 p.m., *Animate: Bible*

19th 12 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion & an Evolving Faith*

20th 12:30 p.m., Cleric Luncheon

21st 6:30 p.m., Film & Fellowship

23rd 9 a.m., *Our Minds on God*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*
6 p.m., *Trial of Jesus*

24th 12:30 p.m., Comm. Team
7 p.m., *Animate: Bible*

25th 6:30 p.m., [Vestry Meeting](#)

26th 7 p.m., *Painting the Stars: Science,*

Religion & an Evolving Faith
7 p.m., Sonora Winds Concert

Looking Ahead in March

1st 9 a.m., *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion & an Evolving Faith*

2nd 9 a.m., *Come Down O Love Divine*
11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

3rd 7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)
7 p.m., *Animate: Bible*

4th [SHROVE TUESDAY](#)

5th [ASH WEDNESDAY](#)

12 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry
6th 6 p.m., Tucson Adoption Reunion Support

7th 6:30 p.m., *Spirit Players*

8th 9 a.m., Community of Hope Training

9th [First Sunday in Lent](#)

9 a.m., *The Last Week*

11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

12 p.m., Lay Minister Training—Ushers

6 p.m., [Taizé Service](#)

10th 7 p.m., Joseph's Pantry Meeting

7 p.m., *Animate: Bible*

11th 5:30 p.m., Family Caregiver Support Group

6:30 p.m., EfM Year 13 Group

9 a.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., *Animate: Faith*

15th 9 a.m., Altar Guild

16th [Second Sunday in Lent](#)

9 a.m., *The Last Week*

11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

17th 7 p.m., *Animate: Bible*

18th 6 p.m., Healing Touch Practice Session

19th 9 a.m., EfM Class

12 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry

7 p.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., *Animate: Faith*

Development for Progressive

Christians

21st 9:30 a.m., Community of Hope

6:30 p.m., Film & Fellowship

22nd 9 a.m., Community of Hope Training

9 a.m., Altar Guild

7 p.m., [Loft Cinema Human Rights Watch Festival Movie](#)

23rd [Third Sunday in Lent](#)

11:45 a.m., *Episcopal 101*

1 p.m., Mother's Kitchen (Primavera Cooking Team)

25th 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks! Fourth Tuesday Primavera Meals Group

6:30 p.m., Vestry Meeting

26th 9 a.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., EfM Class

7 p.m., *Animate: Faith*

Development for Progressive

Christians