

May 2010

The monthly newsletter for the community of

**Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

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# The Briefly

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New Verger Beth Miksa on Palm Sunday.

## **Good News from Imago Dei!**

**D**ear Friends in Christ,  
I was invited graciously by The Rev. Deborah Heathcock to share with you Good News about Imago Dei Middle School. On Pentecost Sunday Imago Dei will celebrate its first graduates. We are so very proud of their hard work and achievements. Eight of the nine have been accepted to the private high school of their choice, and the remaining one is waiting to hear about admission to an Episcopal boarding school and charter school in the state where her parents plan to live. By the grace of God, our children are beginning to live into their full potential through the incredible power of education to transform hearts and minds. It is the Spirit that was breathed on the world at Pentecost, and the same Spirit that sustains, redeems and gives all of us life.



The young people we teach and love have received a quality education through the generosity of over a thousand donors who are committed to education and who long to break cycles of poverty. They, too, have been moved by the Spirit for they give to children who are not even their own. Imago Dei is blessed by people who say, "I can help." They pay for our school home, teachers and staff; others give their time and God given talents by offering themselves as instruments of transformation. Some people give both. Imago Dei would simply not exist if it were not for you, and the Spirit of God that moves us beyond our wildest imaginations.

Two thousand years ago, who would have ever imagined that the followers of Jesus, a motley group at best, would give birth to what is today the Christian Church? The presence of the Spirit is real to all of us moved beyond imagination.

This was true for the faithful group who gathered on a warm summer night four years ago to decide whether to open Imago Dei with only five students and limited resources of support. Moved by the Spirit, they found the strength to begin a journey of faith, not knowing where we would be led or whether the school would survive. Today, Imago Dei has over 50 students, growing exponentially each year. When families gather, there are hundreds of children and adults; and when blessed by donors in attendance, even more. Our children have achieved national recognition, and we have the makings of a dream school that could serve our community by inspiring people young and old, offering hope.

The Spirit of God has blessed Imago Dei with a community from a multitude of places, speaking various native tongues, with the opportunity to know and experience the love of God in relationship with each other. All of this is possible, thanks be to God, because of you.

With gratitude and thanksgiving,  
***The Rev. Anne Sawyer***

# Transition News

## From the Senior Warden

**I** see skies of blue, and clouds of white  
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world.

These lyrics to perhaps the best-known song ever recorded by Louis Armstrong were running through my mind all day. This time of year we are certainly blessed with an abundance of “bright days.” The solemn days of Lent are over and Easter promises life where there was only death. The desert is in full bloom creating a beautiful palette of green growth mixed with the yellows and pinks of native wildflowers, and temperatures during the day are warming but the nights are still nice and cool. Tucson is truly lovely right now and we are blessed to experience her beauty.

The “dark, sacred night” is another matter, and not always welcome. I think of the anguish endured during a “dark night of the soul” in one’s spiritual journey. God is always present, but often not experienced at those times. Some of us may wonder where God is present in a world where decisions made by our leaders or elected representatives seem so contrary to our values or principles, so contrary to our understanding of the Gospel and our responsibilities as Christians. Perhaps these dark nights in our culture can be redeemed, can be made sacred, by the way we respond to them—with love and compassion towards those with whom we disagree, by speak-

ing the truth of the Gospel to those in power, by praying for the Spirit to move in the hearts and minds of our leaders, by continuing to welcome the stranger in our midst. I know that this will be the response of many in our parish community.

We also face both bright days and sacred, dark nights in our life as a parish in the next two months. The Search Committee has begun the process of interviewing an amazing group of applicants for the position of rector and plans to give the names of three well-qualified candidates to the Vestry on May 11. The Vestry will then invite those candidates and their partners to visit Tucson for an in depth interview. I can tell you that members of the Search Committee have been blown away by the creativity, wisdom, and energy of the applicants we have already spoken with. This is not going to be an easy choice. We are blessed with an abundance of those who could lead us well into our future as a community. The Search Committee and Vestry will need your prayers now more than ever for our journey through sacred darkness as we discern who is to be called to serve as our new rector.

Light and dark. The world contains both and, yet, is a wondrous place. God is with us, always. Let us rejoice and say, “Alleluia”!

Faithfully yours,

**Catherine Penn Williams**

### Briefly Deadline

The next deadline for *The Briefly* is Tuesday, May 18, for the June/July issue..

Please send electronic articles to Martha P.L. Whitaker at: [jartham@cox.net](mailto:jartham@cox.net). Either MS Word or WordPerfect format is acceptable, or you may simply paste the article into the body of your email.

If you do not have access to a computer, please call the parish office and ask if there is a volunteer who can help you type it into an electronic file.

Please send graphics and photos directly to John Banks [jdbanks@gmail.com](mailto:jdbanks@gmail.com).

### Search Committee

Well, it has been just about two years since Gordon McBride announced his retirement. The transition for GSP has been a long journey—longer than we initially anticipated. For many of us there have been ups and downs, a few stumbles and much good discussion with one another while we have worked our way through this process.

The Search Committee thanks you all for your support, patience (mostly), and your prayers as we have gone about our work. During the last two weeks in March we reviewed the 17 (which became 15 with two voluntary withdrawals) candidates provided to us by the Diocese on March 15. From that group we selected nine people to respond in writing to five open-ended questions. Those responses were returned by April 12, and the committee

met on April 14 to go over our impressions of each candidate. The committee then selected five applicants to interview by telephone and/or video conferencing.

Those interviews and subsequent reference checks will occur in late April and early May. The names of three qualified candidates will be submitted to the Vestry at a special executive session of the Vestry on May 11. The Vestry will then make arrangements for each candidate and their partner/spouse to visit Tucson and be interviewed in person. Spirit willing, the Vestry hopes to make a call by the end of June.

We ask for your continued prayers for the Search Committee, the candidates and the Vestry during these final steps in the Search.

Faithfully,

**Lynne Albright and Ernie Galaz,  
Co-Chairs, Search Committee**

# Social Justice & Outreach

## Bridging the Border: Migrant Packs

by Paul Gohdes

Until our country adopts comprehensive immigration reform, people are going to die trying to cross our desert in search of a better life for their families. They come, often having been told lies about the journey, as well as the availability of jobs. Unscrupulous “coyotes,” in it for the money, desert them and leave them in a state of dehydration and exhaustion, facing sure death in the broiling sun. Many of our fellow Christians, heeding Christ’s call to care for the destitute and hungry, walk the

desert looking for those in trouble.

In the past, Grace St. Paul’s has been extraordinarily generous in helping with the migrant packs which are given to those found crossing the desert, sometimes even in the custody of the Border Patrol. We will be receiving donations for the packs on Sundays, May 23 and July 18. Needed items are listed below. There will be deposit boxes at the church and parish hall entrances. Check the purchases to make sure the food is not expired and *watch for specials* on the items.

The following items are needed for the packs. No metal containers are al-

lowed and everything must be in their original containers. Please, *no* repackaging. Water is provided separately and is not needed.

- Meat or tuna in plastic pouches (No cans)
- Nuts, salted (individual packages)
- Applesauce cup or fruit cup
- Dried fruit and raisin packets
- Pudding cups
- Breakfast or granola bar
- Energy bar (Cliff bars, not really sweet ones)
- Cheese filled crackers packets
- Cookies in individual packages

## News from Joseph’s Pantry: The Flock Is Growing

by Holly Shinn, Co-Coordinator

The book of John tells us that Jesus instructed Peter to “feed my sheep.” I suppose I could sit here and ponder if he meant physically, spiritually, or both. But I’d rather just go out and do it. The Bible includes plenty of situations in which Jesus supported literally feeding people.

Behind Grace St. Paul’s, at Joseph’s Pantry, the flock is being fed five days a week. We hand out food boxes from the Community Food Bank (CFB). In Southern Arizona, more than 16.6

million pounds of food were distributed through the food bank system during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Approximately 22.6 million pounds were distributed in 2008-2009. Joseph’s Pantry had a hand in that.

In the past, recipients were eligible for two food boxes per month. The number of people requesting boxes has risen so much that the CFB now limits them to one box per month each. At Joseph’s Pantry, we are able to give out food to clients a second time by assembling our own bags of food. We use things that Grace St. Paul’s members bring in, items from other churches, and groceries we purchase

with monetary donations.

Unfortunately, as the community’s need has increased, the amount of money coming in has decreased. For example, in January, February, and March 2009 combined, food ministries at Grace St. Paul’s received \$2,537 in donations. In January, February, and March 2010, that total was only \$1,515. This has occurred at the same time prices in the store have gone up.

How can you help? When you are shopping, think of the “sheep” that are going through hard times. Pick up a few items to donate to the Pantry. We can always use canned tuna, chili,

*Continued on Page 11*

## Pima Council on Aging by The Rev. Nadine Martin

There’s an old saying that “getting old is not for sissies,” and that’s true. Growing older takes work, faith, acceptance of one’s limitation, and, yes, sometimes having to seek help from others. For those who are over age 60, many services are available through the PCOA (Pima Council on Aging), although some services have eligibility requirements.

First, what is the PCOA? The PCOA is the local education, information, re-

ferral, and advocacy program for seniors and those who assist them. It is part of the national network of organizations involved with age-related issues and authorized under the Older Americans Act passed in November 2000.

What services are available and how are they accessed? Services available include transportation, end-of-life issues, legal assistance, assistance with care giving or personal care, help with housekeeping, or home-delivered meals. These are just a few examples of the many services available.

News on matters concerning seniors (for example, a calendar of free events or public forums on age-related items) is also available through the PCOA’s free monthly newspaper *Never Too Late*, which can be picked up at the Welcome Table in McBride Hall. At Grace St. Paul’s, the PCOA representative is the Rev. Nadine Martin. For further information, contact Reverend Martin through the church office, by e-mail at [nadinemartin@q.com](mailto:nadinemartin@q.com), or by phone (977-3932). All inquiries are free, without obligation, and are confidential.

# Liturgy & Music

## Notes from the Choir Stalls

We have come through the dark valley of Holy Week into the bright sunlight of Easter, Hallelujah! The choir stepped up personfully to be sure there was a critical mass for each choral service. The Celtic flavor of Maundy Thursday seemed really appropriate, and it was a lovely meal as well as a service. We were challenged by not having the organ for Good Friday, but the service was evocatively austere.

I suffered from my own personal Good Friday curse this year. I wandered in to church, casually picked up a bulletin from one of the front seats, plopped myself down and began to wonder why Nanalee was practicing her reading so close to the start of the service. Then I realized, to my horror and consternation, that the service had already begun. Augh! I went out the next week and got my watch fixed.

Easter was great, though. Despite the fact that we put so much work into the Schein “Die mit tränen säen” in Lent, we still got enough practice time for the Easter music, which came off smoothly. Betsy Bright’s trumpet chops were terrific, and Rick Hanson stepped in practically off the plane from Vancouver and made great use of the tympani for the hymns, offertory, and postlude. Pamela Decker is always fabulous; her improvisations are masterful, and you possibly don’t realize how much we rely on that skill. We had some great choir soloists, including Wendy Pipentacos and Winifred Williams.

Now, we are moving through the Easter weeks to Pentecost. I’m bringing out some pieces we haven’t done in a while—John Rutter’s “The Lord is my Shepherd”—and pieces we do from time to time, like Elizabeth Poston’s “Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree.” On Rogation Sunday, we will be reviving an old English custom of “beating the bounds,” in which every landowner, including representatives of the parish church, had to walk the perimeter of their property to maintain ownership. Rogation Sunday (May 9) is also Mother’s Day this year. This brings to mind the image of God as Mother walking the perimeter of Grace St. Paul’s to maintain relationship with us, Her children. Kathy Creath has kindly agreed to provide a nice loud wind

instrument to lead the outdoor procession. I’m hoping, since I’ve asked nicely, that she’ll play it, too. There will also be thumpage, but it won’t be Rick Hanson—he’s off globetrotting for another five months, so we won’t see him again until Christmas. We send him off with blessings and hopes for a volcano-free travel experience.

For Pentecost this year, the clergy persons in our liturgy committee voted for gospel music. Gospel music has wonderful energy, and it’s really fun to sing, plus it’s a powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit in musical form. We will perform “Do you feel the Spirit of God” by Mark Hayes, composed in the style of a spiritual.

After Pentecost, the choir goes on summer break and we have guest artists—soloists from the choir and congregation, instrumentalists who have used the space for recitals, and other interested parties. Jane Click’s instrumental ensemble has offered to provide music for a Sunday or two, which will be a treat. You won’t have a chance to miss the choir, though, because they’ll be singing in the pews beside you. Brings to mind the country song, “How can I miss you if you won’t go away.” We trust you don’t feel that way, however.

We owe special thanks to Ann Stephens, the choral librarian, for keeping us organized and sane. She can never be thanked enough.

This summer I will be leading another class, this time on music from the first century church. I haven’t a thin clue what they were doing in the church in the first century; I’m guessing Jewish cantillations (chants), which were absorbed into the early Christian church and came out some centuries later as the kind of plainsong chants we now call Gregorian, because Pope Gregory the Whatever collected and codified them. Why break the habits of a lifetime—I’ll make something up and we’ll have a bit of fun. Thanks to Chris Squared (Chris Ledyard and Chris Labour) for asking me.

Blessings,  
*Christina Jarvis,*  
*Director of Music*



## Like the Music? Join the Choir!

By Christina Jarvis

For the sake of newcomers to GSP, I am ending with the following blurb about the music ministry. If you feel so moved, please join our stalwart band in the next few weeks or in the fall:

The Grace St. Paul's choir rehearses from 7:30 to 9:00 (7:00 to 9:00 during Advent and Lent) on Thursday nights and from 9:15 to 9:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the chancel. We sing for the 10:00 Sunday service; the 8:00 service is organ only.

The choir also provides music for other liturgies as needed. Although the choir is all volunteer, the musical standard is high, and the choir learns two anthems and a psalm for most choral services. The musical choices are eclectic, from medieval to gospel, with an emphasis on good musical quality, whatever the genre. The parish maintains a strong relationship with players within and without the parish, and in exchange for the use of the church for recitals, various instrumentalists contribute their musical gifts to Grace St. Paul's. We have a singing congregation and with the help of the Holy Spirit have been known to rattle the pigeons right off the roof!



## Liturgical Arts Ministry

by Eleanor Kobloss

**W**hat is the difference between a committee and a ministry?

I thought there would be no difference but soon learned this one: the anonymous donor, who has been funding the projects since 2008, was stepping aside. Fundraising would be required. The pocketbook may seem like a distinction without much distinction, but there is an important aspect to it. Liturgical art projects are fellowship activities in which we get to appreciate each other's presence and gifts. Guess what a fundraising project will do? Yes, the very same. Nanalee Raphael and I have some ideas to earn the approximately \$400 a project we have been spending. (More about this tin cup after Pentecost!)

As a ministry, liturgical art enhancing a message weighs a tad heavier for me. Before, it was mostly about the art, peripherally connected to the worship. The horse is now in front of the cart—I find pleasure in coming up with imagery that can be interpreted on many levels and will work with our individual ways knowing God can take.

Another difference is, people appeared with what was needed just when it was needed (besides James!). Okay, that got my attention.

Ministry or not, liturgical art projects always

need the rector's approval. I have participated in projects with three rectors and a priest associate having the last word. All four gave us their blessings. In case you are wondering who the fourth was, Fred Masterman had to rule on the white doves staying up (while we looked for Deborah Heathcock)... and that is my segue to Pentecost!

This year we are planning a Pentecost installation with less prior preparation than the last two years. It will give the group who contributed so much for Easter a break, be exciting for the eyes, and be VERY easy on the budget—there's that pocketbook, again!

In closing, I want to acknowledge and thank all the wonderful creators of the 2010 Easter Liturgical Art:

Chancel banners—Pamela Dunlap  
Flags—Ann Bates, Rich Bates, Eleanor Kobloss, Viv May, Laura Pascoe, Nanalee Raphael, Allison Sanders, Barb Toffolo, Catherine Williams

Conceptualizing, Cutting fabric, Lighting, Painting, Installation—John Banks, Linda Canfield, Gretchen Collins, Don Donovan, Karen English, Bob Hutson, Richard Shumway, Halsy Taylor, Steve Williams

In addition, a heartfelt acknowledgement from all of us to James White for going above and beyond. He built, found or did whatever we asked for.

# Adult Spiritual Formation

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Even though our lives seem to slow down a bit with the summer heat, our minds continue to think, question and wonder. These summer classes will provide opportunities to grow spiritually. Join us for Sunday morning classes, and movie nights. Learn, grow and enjoy with the GSP community!

## **First Friday Film Series:**

### **Art & Spirituality**

**Friday, June 4, July 2, & Aug. 6**

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

Let's explore the intersection between art and spirituality in three powerful documentaries featuring the poet David Whyte, artist Andy Goldsworthy, and singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen.

**June 4:** "David Whyte: Live in San Francisco" (2009)—One of the singular experiences of human beings is the ability to imagine what is pulling us toward a far horizon. Speaking in San Francisco's historic Herbst Theatre, David Whyte illustrates how the close reading of good poetry engages us in conversation with this imaginative vision: a fierce attention to the poet's voice leads us, in turn, to discern our own.

**July 2:** "Rivers and Tides" (2001)—Imagine art that cannot be put in a museum or purchased by a wealthy collector because it disintegrates over time, months, days, even hours. "Art for me is a form of nourishment," says Andy Goldsworthy. As an artist, Goldsworthy seeks the "energy that is running through, flowing through the landscape." Watching Goldsworthy work is like a 90-minute session with a Zen master showing the viewer how to "be here, now."

*Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams.*

## **Speaking Christianity:**

### **Redeeming Christian Language**

**June 6 and 13**

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

This class will examine the premise of Marcus Borg's forthcoming book, *Speaking Christianity*, which claims that religions are like languages and that to be part of a religion includes using, hearing and understanding that religion's language. The language of Christianity is unfamiliar to many and often misunderstood by even more. We will take a look at the history of the literalization of Christian language and try to understand Christianity's core message through such terms as salvation, sacrifice, mercy, repentance, redemption and faith. Borg's book will not be published until later in 2010 and will be available later this year at the Rector's Bookshelf.

*Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams and Linda Hutson who had the great pleasure of hearing Marcus Borg give a lecture on this topic in February and have his permission to shamelessly use his lecture notes for this class.*

## **Bridging Borders Film Series**

**June 11 & 25; July 9 & 23**

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

Bridging Borders is pleased to present entertaining and thought-provoking films addressing migration within and between countries from a variety of points of view. They range from a dreaming athlete to a lonely farmer to a desperate mother, and finally to an examination of our own situation in Tucson. A discussion after each film will focus on the issues raised in the film and what they mean for us as 21st Century people of faith.

**June 11:** "Sugar"—Fascinating story of a young Dominican Republic baseball player who encounters a clash between hope and reality as

# Adult Spiritual Formation



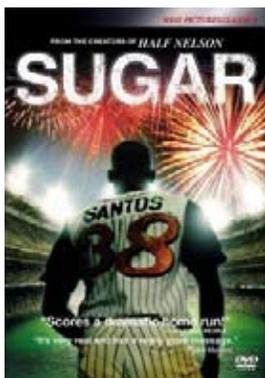
he pursues his dream after being recruited to play in Iowa.

**June 25:** “Sweet Land”—A German mail order bride encounters prejudice when she joins her husband-to-be in a Norwegian farming community in Minnesota.

**July 9:** “Amreeka”—A Palestinian mother brings her son to Illinois just after 9/11 to reinvent their lives amid the domestic repercussions of the attack.

**July 23:** “The 800 Mile Wall”—This movie illustrates, in great detail, the ineffective and deadly results of a failed border policy and offers some effective strategies to help resolve the current rights crisis.

*Moderating the films will be members of the Bridging Borders Committee including Lynne Albright, Kay Bigglestone, Joan Cooney, Dolores and Paul Gohdes, and Deacon Nancy Meister.*



## Catherine & Terry’s Summer Film Series: Life, Death and What Comes After

Friday, June 18, July 16, & Aug. 20

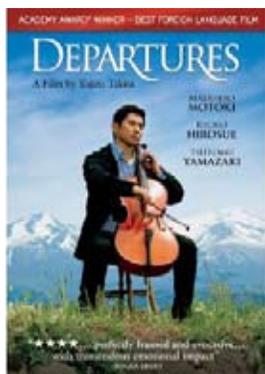
6:30-9 p.m., Bloom Education Center

Our series this summer deals with the dead, heaven and angels.

**June 18:** “Departures” (2008 Japanese)—A cellist reevaluates his career and inadvertently gets a job preparing bodies for burial and, in the process, finds his true calling in an ancient tradition.

**July 16:** “After Life” (1999 Japanese)—This film is set at a way station between heaven and earth. The dead sift through their memories to find one defining moment in their life. This moment will be recreated in heaven. This film reveals surprising and ambiguous consequences of human recollection.

*Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams and Terry Shreve, both of whom are avid film buffs.*



## Jesus and Buddha

June 20 & 27

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

It has been said, “If Jesus and Buddha were to meet, they would recognize one another as fellow prophets because they were teaching the same truths.” The often violent history of Christianity may lead us to forget that Jesus’ original teachings promoted peace and turning the other cheek, passive resistance rather than armed insurrection. This discussion will be derived from the book of the same title by Jack Kornfield, a well-known American Buddhist author and Marcus Borg, a Christian and Jesus scholar. Purchase of the book is not necessary, although will be offered for sale at the Rector’s Bookshelf.

*Facilitated by Ed Leigh, former Presbyterian Minister and longtime member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Phoenix.*

## First Light:

### Jesus & the Kingdom of God

July 4 & 11

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

July 4—“The Lake as the World”

July 11—“Parables as Lures”

During these two sessions, we will view short video presentations from the DVD series, First Light, featuring John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg, two of the world’s leading Jesus scholars. We will discuss parables and metaphors used by Jesus and explore ways to incorporate them into personal spiritual development.

*Facilitated by Chris LaBour and Chris Le-dyard, TSSF*

# Parish Life

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## A Meditation for Pentecost by Rhonda Whatley

*“Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me.”—John 14:11*

It is a crisp Tucson morning on a rare and beautiful overcast day. My dog lies by my side and my cat, at my feet. The pungent aroma of nature’s new life awakens my olfactory senses. The euphony of birdsong slowly swells to an enveloping crescendo as the morning steadily unfolds. My attention is harnessed as another cat darts across the yard in an attempt to exercise his hunter instinct as he toys with lizards and birds alike, sometimes proudly offering me his living gifts of sacrifice.

I stretch out on my lawn chair to take in all that is. I am surrounded by a sea of weeds, the seemingly only undesirable product of a very generous desert winter. But my cats enjoy them as one crouches in their midst to surprisingly leap on the other who has simply arrived to forage their fibrous flowers. As my two furry boys engage in their usual friendly game of wrestling, my gaze shifts to the tree branches above me. Not too long ago, the only green belonged to the mistletoe, which has now lost its luster in comparison to nature’s pregnant brilliant palette. But I’m sure the birds don’t mind.

The early afternoon sun now peeks through the clouds, and the bees and butterflies are awake. They each dance to a different tune as they respectively gather food and drink, perhaps even leaving nature better than what she was.

A gentle breeze arouses my tiny arm hairs to attention. Even the pinpoint spider crawling up my arm is green with approval. I am drawn inward. I know that even though I can’t see it, microscopic life forms and processes are working through me to enhance my own communion with Divine Presence. I reflect. Peace and harmony are fundamental themes that entwine the connectedness of nature. The bees gather food from the flowers, and the flowers thrive because of the bees. Even the hemi-parasitic tree mistletoe attracts biodiversity. My cats, I’m sure along with several insects, even enjoy the weeds. One of my cats suavely saunters home with sticktight fleas firmly plastered to his head, a flea that prefers the company of birds.

In this ordinary dichotomy of give-and-take, push-and-pull, or catch-and-release, a

sacred union takes place, deeply rooted in Holy Ground. The fullness of life dances to a dualistic rhythm at whose center is a movement to oneness. Nearly every thing in nature seems to get something from what might appear on the surface to be an antagonistic relationship if only looking at one part. But when backing up to look at the whole, to see all things in such a blessed communion, the Great Mystery loses its mysteriousness and reveals its heart: open, vulnerable, and pulsing two beats.

One heart, two beats. One beat relies on the other for its own existence. If one beat stops, the other is rendered useless and the heart dies. So long as there are two beats, the heart exuberates life in all its glorious abundance. Two beats, one heart.

The bee has in it a part of the flower, and the flower has in it a part of the bee. As I marvel at this, I am forever changed. I move as I am moved. The weight of my body presses down against the earth as the earth pulls down the full weight of my body. I breathe in the same air that is a part of everything and nothing. The air is momentarily mine. I release the breath into the open air and a part of me is absorbed into everything the air touches. The Spirit that dwells within us connects us. As we enter this season of Pentecost, let us be mindful of the many ways in which the unity of the Holy Spirit is manifest. Alleluia: We are in God, and God is in us!

**Meditation: How do you experience the sacred in your life?**

## From GSP's Seminararians

Greetings dear friends,

Here I am sitting at my desk in sunny Berkeley (I mention this because it's always touch and go here as far as sun). At any rate, some major milestones are coming up for me. This is, as we said in the South, if God is willing and the creek (pronounce "crik") don't rise, I will graduate on May 12, and be ordained on June 12 as a priest. The "criks" in this particular case would be: a) I actually have to finish my class work and Master's Project Thesis on time; and b) get word from the Bishop that I have actually passed my canonicals. So, the gist of it is, keep praying for me (if you have been), or please consider starting, if you haven't! Or, maybe you started praying as soon as you realized that I was rambling incoherently...

In all seriousness, friends, Gail and I appreciate your love and support more than you can know. We will be back in Tucson "officially" sometime in late June or July, and I am happy to say I will serve at St. Michael and All Angels until I can find a "paying" job. (I look forward to "sneaking over" to GSP as often as I can.)

In Christ's peace,

***The Rev. Angela Guida***

Dear GSP,

How fast have three years gone! I feel like I just arrived in New Haven wide-eyed, excited and nervous about beginning my studies at Berkeley and Yale Divinity Schools. Now I am going to my last classes and chapel services and finishing my final papers. I will graduate at the end of May, move back to Arizona in June and begin serving as the Assistant to the Dean at Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix. God willing, I will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Smith on Saturday, July 10, at 10 a.m.,

at the Cathedral. You all are invited!

My position at the Cathedral is a curacy (Episcopal-speak for a training position for a new priest). I will be supporting the life of the congregation in general, working with Young Adults and assisting with the Spanish service. I am so excited to be making this transition to full time ministry and to be coming back to Arizona. However, leaving this community that has been my home for the past few years is bittersweet. In these next few weeks I will say goodbye to friends, professors and to the congregation of St. James, the bi-lingual church in Hartford where I served last year as an intern and this year as a deacon.

Some highlights from this year: going to a community organizing training in October, finishing ordination exams in January, shoveling snow for the last time, classes this semester on the History of Religion and the American West and one on Congregational Song. In February I visited Canterbury Cathedral with my Berkeley colleagues. After studying so much about the Anglican Communion, it was great to pray in that holy place which has drawn pilgrims for centuries. Being there reminded me that even amidst all the conflicts in the church we are connected to all our brothers and sisters in faith throughout the world and to the saints who have gone before us.

As I reflect on the past few years, I am so thankful for all of you! Thank you for your prayers, visits and financial support. They have meant so much to me! Knowing that you all are praying for me every week, even people I have never met, has helped sustain me through some of the rough times in seminary. I am so thankful for each one of you and wish I had space to thank you all by name. Eternal gratitude to members of my discernment committee who have accompanied me on this journey these past five years: Chris Eastoe, Ernie

Galaz, Linda Hutson, Mary Ann Miya and Donna Shreve; to Catherine Penn Williams for her wisdom, the storage space in her garage and for making sure all the forms got in on time; to Chuck and Nan Hannon for their support; to all the clergy and deacons; to the Wednesday night EPF group, the Mark study group and the Border Working Group which were the small communities that nurtured me in my time at Grace St Paul's. One of the hardest parts of becoming a priest is having to leave the churches that we come from. I love you all dearly, you have taught me so much about what it is to be a community that practices radical hospitality. I will miss you all, but look forward to working with you as a part of the Diocese and the whole church, to proclaim the good news of Christ's healing and reconciliation.

May God bless you all!

***The Rev. Debbie Noonan***

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it has been three years and my time at seminary is almost over. I have enjoyed my time in the Bay Area and learned every so much. My class is particularly close and has formed deep bonds of friendship and love so graduation is bitter sweet for many of us. I moved into the CDSP community apartments last summer becoming even more embedded into the community. My apartment has become the favorite hangout for the young ones. There are times when I'm not sure if it is their place or mine. But I love every moment of it and wouldn't have it any other way.

For those who know me well, and many of you do, it should come as no surprise that I am still in discernment with God on my next move. Chaplaincy and working with terminally ill children still calls to my heart but the Spirit is

***Continued on Page 11***

# Children & Youth



Last Supper figures (below) painted by Ann Dean.  
Empty tomb figures (left) created by Nadine Cole.



## Do You Hear the Call of Jesus?

I was jolted, in the third week of Easter, by the change in direction of the daily readings as I had been savoring the resurrection stories, only to suddenly find us back in Matthew 3, with John the Baptist, calling: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” I didn’t really want to go there, being much happier imagining the JOY—and confusion—of the witnesses to Jesus’ death and then new life. Staying on the mountain of a happy occasion is so much easier than meeting life head on each new day, and yet, even in the resurrection stories, that is what Christ calls his disciples to do... and us, as well.

We are transitioning at Grace St. Paul’s into a new vision of what this parish will become with a new priest, new vestry, new hope in the future ... and that is exactly the point of the readings concerning John the Baptist. The writer for April 19th in *Forward Day by Day* says, “The call to repent is a doorway to hope. What God wants is that we should embrace the hope that Christ brings with each new day.”

I have HOPE in this wonderful parish and in the good people who give their time, talent and love to serve others in Jesus’ name. The JOY on Easter was very evident in the waving of the Alleluia banners, the hymns, the sermon, the baptism, and the fun fair complete with jumping

castle, hunting redeemable coins, face painting and crafts, not to mention the petting zoo, all organized by Holly Shinn. Thank you, Holly!

By the time you read this, our Sunday School children will have sung, read and ushered in the 10 a.m. service on May 2, mentored by Jane Click, Steve Black and Kurt Fischer. As you know, a child is selected each week to stand at the altar with the celebrant, to demonstrate our belief that the church is for all people of today and not just for tomorrow.

Regular Sunday School ends on Pentecost (May 23), giving us a break to clean our rooms and prepare for fall. A One Room Sunday school will begin June 6 and runs until July 25. We will be thinking about a very precious commodity in Arizona—water—and how Jesus referred to himself as Living Water. What is that call to us? We desperately need teachers for fall, especially with our 3rd/4th graders. Will you hear Christ’s call to share the Living Water He has shared with you? Any help is gratefully accepted; it only takes a minute to call Harriet Claiborne at 299-6123 or email at [ChildrenYouth@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:ChildrenYouth@grace-stpauls.org) to open your heart to Christ in a whole new way.

Blessings,

**Harriet Claiborne,**

**Director of Children’s Ministries**

## Cyber Changes

Beginning with the June/July issue of our newsletter, all members with email addresses will receive their *Briefly* via email. This will reduce our office costs for labor, paper, toner, postage, and machine maintenance.

The office staff and vestry would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and acceptance of this change.

If you would still prefer to get a hard-copy version via snail mail, please contact Kim McClain at 327-6857 or parishadmin@grace-stpauls.org and she will make the necessary arrangements.

Extra hardcopies of the *Briefly* will always be available at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings.



Smiling faces beneath bonnets on Easter Sunday.

## GSP Seminar

*Continued from Page 9*

being persistent in suggesting a different path. Despite my initial reluctance, I am told that I am a good preacher. Don't be surprised if you see my face back in Tucson at the end of the summer.

I am excited to report that I will spend a good portion of this summer in Africa. I received a grant to travel to Kenya where I will be leading a series of workshops/seminars on empowering women and the power of love. Never having been to Africa I am thrilled at the prospect of learning, sharing and worshiping in a different

culture. Alas, I am not "hooked in" so blogging or tweeting will not be part of my time there but look for photographs and stories when I return.

As graduation approaches and I reflect on my time at CDSP, I am deeply grateful for all of your support and prayers. I could not have done it without you. Despite all my learning, papers and exams God for me is still in the moments I share with real people. Peace and blessings to you all.

In Christ's love,  
**The Rev. Kate Baird**

## Joseph's Pantry

*Continued from Page 3*

soup with meat, and fruit. In addition, the CFB supplies peanut butter but no jelly, so jelly is truly appreciated. (As I write this, Family Dollar and Fry's are offering their generic brands for less than \$2 a jar.) Also, please remember Joseph's Pantry on Food Ministries Sunday; you can

contribute using the envelope in your bulletin. Monetary donations are accepted at any time though. Don't worry if you miss church on the designated Sunday, just write food ministries on the memo line of your check.

Perhaps each one of us will never be as influential as Peter. But together, we can make an impact on hunger in Tucson.

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**What's Happening in May**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>1st</b> 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Cafe</p> <p><b>2nd</b> 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         9 a.m., Child Care<br/>         9 a.m., Animals &amp; Spirituality<br/>         10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade)<br/>         10 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         11:15 a.m., Taste of India Fundraiser<br/>         11:30 a.m., Parish Wellness Update<br/>         11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp</p> <p><b>3rd</b> 10 a.m., EfM 6<br/>         7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic</p> <p><b>4th</b> 12 p.m., Social Justice &amp; Outreach Meeting</p> <p><b>5th</b> 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)<br/>         6 p.m., Global Chant<br/>         6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)</p> <p><b>6th</b> 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic<br/>         6 p.m., M3M</p> <p><b>8th</b> 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Cafe</p> <p><b>9th</b> <b>Mother's Day</b><br/>         8 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         9 a.m., Child Care<br/>         9 a.m., Animals &amp; Spirituality<br/>         10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade)<br/>         10 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour<br/>         11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp</p> <p><b>10th</b> 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic</p> <p><b>11th</b> 6:30 p.m., Vestry Meeting (Executive Session)</p> | <p><b>12th</b> 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         9 a.m., Paper Shredding<br/>         9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)<br/>         6 p.m., Global Chant<br/>         6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)</p> <p><b>13th</b> <b>Ascension Day</b><br/>         3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic<br/>         6 p.m., M3M<br/>         6:30 p.m., <i>Budgets: Planning for Now and Tomorrow</i></p> <p><b>15th</b> 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Cafe<br/>         9:30 a.m., Anamcara Circle</p> <p><b>16th</b> 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         9 a.m., Child Care<br/>         9 a.m., Animals &amp; Spirituality<br/>         10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade)<br/>         10 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour<br/>         11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp</p> <p><b>17th</b> 10 a.m., EfM6<br/>         7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic</p> <p><b>18th</b> 6:30 p.m., Vestry Meeting</p> <p><b>19th</b> 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)<br/>         6 p.m., Global Chant<br/>         6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)</p> <p><b>20th</b> 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic<br/>         6 p.m., M3M<br/>         6:30 p.m., <i>Budgets: Planning for Now and Tomorrow</i></p> <p><b>22nd</b> 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Cafe</p> | <p><b>23rd</b> <b>Food Ministries Sunday</b><br/> <b>Pentecost</b><br/>         8 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         9 a.m., Child Care<br/>         10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade)<br/>         10 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour<br/>         11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp</p> <p><b>24th</b> 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic</p> <p><b>25th</b> EfM Year 10 Group</p> <p><b>26th</b> 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)<br/>         6 p.m., Global Chant<br/>         6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)</p> <p><b>27th</b> 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic<br/>         6 p.m., M3M<br/>         6:30 p.m., <i>Budgets: Planning for Now and Tomorrow</i></p> <p><b>29th</b> 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Cafe</p> <p><b>30th</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b><br/>         8 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         9 a.m., Child Care<br/>         9 a.m., <i>Why do Priests Wear Dresses?</i><br/>         10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade)<br/>         10 a.m., Holy Eucharist<br/>         11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour<br/>         11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp</p> <p><b>31st</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>—Office &amp; Joseph's Pantry Closed<br/>         7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic</p> |
|---|---|--|