



The Briefly

The newsletter for the parish community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2331 E. Adams • Tucson, AZ 85719
520-327-6857 • www.gsptucson.org



**December 2018/
January 2019**

**{ Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 27, 12:15 p.m.
McBride Hall }**

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From the Rector

ANTICIPATION. Anticipation is making me wait... is keeping me waiting. The Season of Carly Simon is upon us again, the season of Adventus, of waiting for the coming.

All of the activities of Advent, the increasing light of the wreath each week, the "not yet" readings, the Lessons and not Christmas Carols, the stories of two expectant mothers, are all symbols of the fact that someone is coming, but has not arrived. Advent is about a journey, the travels of a family who must trek across the desert during the mother's pregnancy, heading to a far off destination, with no idea where they will stay or how they will survive once they arrive. It sounds crazy to us and it is crazy, but their faith has called them to this journey, and they will not be dissuaded by practicalities or the ways of humans. When they finally do arrive, they are instructed that they must leave again, and travel back across the desert in another direction with their newborn baby. It is a ridiculous story, a fairy tale that no one could or should believe. Full-term mothers do not walk hundreds of miles through the desert. They also do not pick up their infants and do it all over again. It is just too dangerous.

**It is Advent, beloved,
and never has the
message of this season
been so clear before..."**

Yes, this story sounded as implausible as it gets. But this year, it is not so bizarre, is it? This year, Advent is not a crazy story or a symbol. We are not just retelling a 2000-year-old tale of an ancient family trying to survive against the odds. This year, Advent is as real as it gets. This Advent, thousands of holy families are doing just what sounds so

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The first meeting of GSP's new Young Adults group, held at the Tap & Bottle on Saturday, Nov. 10. Watch for future meeting times and places.

Submissions to **The Briefly**

Please submit articles
to *Barbara Morehouse*,
BrieflyEditor@grace-stpauls.org.

John Banks happily receives
photos, charts, and graphics at
jdbanks@gmail.com.

**The deadline for the
February 2019 issue will
be Tuesday, Jan. 8.**

Do you want to run for the Vestry?

The Grace-St. Paul's Vestry meets monthly to deliberate and decide on major issues facing our church community and physical plant. It's important that vestry members represent the variety of ministries and interests that make up GSP. New members of the Vestry will be elected during January's annual meeting.

The Nominations Committee, consisting of no fewer than five people, at least two of which must be Vestry members whose terms expire this year, will be appointed by the Rector and will prepare a slate of eligible candidates.

If you are interested in being considered as a candidate, please contact the rector through the church office or the senior warden through email (seniorwarden@grace-stpauls.org).

On **Sunday, Jan. 20**, Vestry candidates will introduce themselves and answer your questions at a special Candidate Forum in McBride Hall after both morning services. Please watch for more details.

—*Margie King*,
Senior Warden

From the Rector

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ridiculous. They are making their way across the open desert, fleeing impossibly perilous conditions in their homeland. Just like the original holy family, these families have no idea what will happen to them when they arrive. They only know they could not stay where they were. Also like that first holy family, they have a trust in God that somehow it will be okay.

As they walk in furtive hope and as I write this, the President of the United States is sending military troops to halt them in their tracks at gunpoint, to stop starving and desperate people who want nothing but to live in safety with their children, from entering Bethlehem.

We have all heard the cries of those who say we must secure our borders. We have heard the arguments that we cannot continue to take more people into our country, that we have to draw the line somewhere, and now is the time to draw that line before we are overwhelmed.

During my Advents as a child, I remember the nuns asking us if we had been there, would we have taken in the holy family? Would we let a homeless man and his pregnant wife cross our border and live in our house? Would we

give asylum to a couple in desperate need, or would we join with the world and say there is no room in our country or our inn.

Our country has decided that Mary needs to go back to Honduras, and if the kid is killed, so be it. Life in the big city. Survival of the fittest.

It is Advent beloved, and never has the message of this season been so clear before. But it is not the simple question it was when we were children, is it?

Will Christmas 2018 happen... or not?

They are coming beloved. But so is he. May all of us have the courage to wait this Advent season like we have never waited before. May all of us have the fortitude to welcome Mary and Joseph and Jesus, to get them safely across the border, to offer them protection, to shield them from all the Herods who will stalk them every step of the way.

If we can do that, I promise you this, Emmanuel, God with us. Let us wait with all those who journey, and let us celebrate their arrival in our lives when Christmas comes. Come, Jesus, come.



Help create a GSP Advent Calendar on Facebook!

By *Catherine Penn Williams*,

Communications Ministry

THIS ADVENT, the Communications Ministry invites you to participate in creating a beautiful, daily Advent Calendar for Grace St. Paul's on Facebook.

Here's how it works:

- 1) Beginning Sunday, December 2, meditate on the word assigned for that day (*see box, right*);
- 2) Pray with your camera or smartphone by taking a photo inspired by the word for the day; and
- 3) Post the photo to your Facebook page along with the hashtags: #gspadvent2018 and the word of the day (i.e. #Watch).

Then watch the Advent Calendar take form as we journey through this season of anticipation and preparation for the One who is coming.



You can go to www.adventword.org for more information.

Liturgy
Discussion of
the Month

Advent Lessons & Carols

By The Rev. Steve
Keplinger



combining our two regular Sunday morning services into one, reducing the possibility of Christmas annihilation by our staff.

Well, guess what? That Advent Four service was a gigantic hit, filling a need in our parish that we did not even know existed. It was so

IT IS THE DAY that careens clergy into retirement, and catapults Altar Guilds into mental institutions. It happens every seven years, the dreaded day when the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on... Christmas Eve.

Some of you may remember that this event happened last year. On Christmas Eve morning, we celebrated Advent Four, and then, as if by some Christmas miracle, the church transformed from stark Advent to glorious Christmas in a few hours, just in time for the 5 p.m. children's service. We continued with the 10 p.m. extravaganza, highest

service of the year Christmas celebration, and then came back the following morning for a beautiful Christmas day service. Five, count 'em, five very detailed, very important, very complicated, services in 24 hours.

To reduce the stress of that situation, our liturgy committee came up with a novel idea.

popular, that yes, you are way ahead of me here, *we are going to do it again this year*, even though we have a whole day between Advent Four and Christmas.

Lessons and Carols is an ancient tradition in the church, going back to the 15th and 16th centuries, when we actually started singing during worship. It is a beautiful service, as fine tuned and elegant as any service we ever do at GSP.

This year, our Lessons and Carols service will be at 9 a.m. on Dec. 23.

It will include all of the beautiful Advent Four readings about Mary and will take us right up to the moment of Christmas.

Come celebrate Lessons and Carols on Sunday, a perfect preparation for our children's service at 5 p.m. on the Eve of the Nativity, followed by our service of the year, our Candlelight beauty at 10 p.m. that night. Carols begin at 9:30 p.m.

Advent Season Services

The Advent season is upon us. The waiting has begun. Here are the events for which you will be patiently waiting:

- Sunday, Dec. 2:** First Sunday of Advent; Giving & Receiving pledge day
- Sunday, Dec. 9:** Second Sunday of Advent; A visit from St. Nicholas of Myra
- Saturday, Dec. 15:** Las Posadas, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 16:** Third Sunday of Advent; Blue Christmas service, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 20:** Winter Solstice Celebration, 6 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 23:** Fourth Sunday of Advent, Advent Lessons & Carols, 9 a.m.
- Monday, Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve
 - Family Service with Christmas Pageant, 5 p.m.
 - Christmas Carols, 9:30 p.m.
 - Candlelight Christmas Communion Service with Preaching, 10 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 25:** Christmas Day; Communion Service with Preaching, 10 a.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 30:** First Sunday of Christmas; services at 7:45 and 10 a.m.
- Monday, Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve; Chants for Unity & Compassion, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 6:** Epiphany; services at 7:45 and 10 a.m.

Instead of doing the regular Advent Four communion service with all of its intricacies, we decided to do an Advent Lessons and Carols service. We did that service once,

Current GSP Financials

Provided by Wil Harri, Parish Treasurer

October 2018

Donations & Other Revenue for Oct. 2018	\$29,830
Expenses Paid for Oct. 2018	\$57,468
Net Revenue over Expenses, for Oct. 2018	-\$27,638

Year To Date

Donations & Other Revenue, Jan. 1-Oct. 30	\$535,327
Expenses Paid, Jan 1.-Oct. 30	\$542,556
Net Revenue over Expenses, Year-to-Date	-\$7,228

Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



BLESSED ADVENT, the time of expectation: we expect to have our lives sorted out and Jesus-ready, our Christmas shopping done, our holiday events planned, and our music learned in a few short weeks. The bumper sticker slogan, “Jesus is coming, look busy!” doesn’t actually apply, because everyone is always busy. It’s a cultural curse. For some, however, in our own country and around the world, the challenge isn’t staying on top of holiday activities but staying alive. In the midst of our busyness, may we pause a moment to reach out with love and make life a little easier for someone having a rough time. We can do that with our pledges right here at Grace St. Paul’s; I’m always in awe of the dedication of our social services ministers. Episcopal Relief & Development is another good option.

We are in the final stretch of 2018 and into the new season of the church year. We have hope for better things in 2019. We are blessed to have such fine musicians and grand people in our choir, individually and severally. We are grateful for the beauty that cheers and reverberates through the dark nights of winter. The music program is a constant work in progress, taking into account the whirlpools and eddies of life. That’s what life is in humanville. If it isn’t what I say it is here, it will be something else, which will hopefully also be acceptable unto thee. Here follows music for Advent:

ADVENT 1:

Offertory: *A spotless rose* (Herbert Howells)—Howells (1892-1983) was an English composer much influenced by Vaughan Williams and Renaissance Anglican music styles.

Communion anthem: *E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come* (Paul Manz)—Manz (1919-1909) was an American Lutheran composer and organist; this Advent anthem has been sung in Cambridge by the choirs of St. John’s College and King’s College.

ADVENT 2:

Offertory: *And the glory of the Lord, Messiah* (G. F. Handel)—what is the season without a little Messiah? It’s fun to sing and fun to listen to. Only the organist has to suffer.

Communion anthem: *Comfort ye/Every valley, Messiah* (G. F. Handel)—Harlan Hokin, tenor

ADVENT 3:

Offertory: *Comfort, comfort ye my people* (arr. John Ferguson)—a cheerful arrangement of the hymn tune, which you will get to sing, yourself, at the recessional.

Communion anthem: *Ave Maria* (William Gomez)—Ann Stephens, mezzo-soprano—Gomez (1939-2000), composer and guitarist, was a citizen of Gibraltar, which has been a British overseas territory since it was captured from Spain in 1704, hence his Anglicized first name. This setting of the *Ave Maria* text in Spanish has been a huge hit in recent years.

ADVENT 4: *Lessons and Carols*

Last year’s lessons and carols service was a means of celebrating Advent 4 and Christmas Eve on the same Sunday. Some have asked for a similar experience this year, despite Advent 4 and Christmas Eve not falling on the same day. In order to rationalize between the timeslots of the two services, we will have only one service at 9 a.m. instead of the usual 7:45 & 10 a.m. services. Then, next year, it is hoped we will have an ecumenical Advent Lessons and Carols involving a number of other progressive churches on an evening early in the Advent season.

Christmas music this year will be as varied in style and content as you’ve come to expect. The main difference this year is that there will be no children’s ensemble to assist with the anthems for the 5 p.m. Family Service. Instead, we will do that good, old fashioned thing of singing carols for the offertory and communion. Jane Click will play piano for that service. Singing carols around the piano; what could be more family than that? How many of us did that in our childhoods? My hand is raised (thanks for your piano chops, Mom!)

For the 9:30 p.m. Carol Service, we’ll sing the ineffable “Salvation is created,” by Russian composer Pavel Chesnokoff, adapted by N. Lindsay Norden, and “O’yd, o’yd, una cosa,” by Spanish Renaissance composer Francisco Guerrero. Wendy Pipentacos and instrumental friends will do a more contemporary Christmas song; Wendy’s our official and awesome choir contempo voice. We’re kicking around ideas. I listened to the recent top 10 contemporary suggestions and was struck by how many of them have a retro mid-twentieth century sound. We promise no “Chipmunks Roasting on an Open Fire,” though. David will provide an organ voluntary suitable for the season. For the 10 p.m. service anthems we’re going for Baroque this year. Our offertory will be the setting of “Hodie Christus natus est” by Dutch composer, organist, and teacher Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621); it’s upbeat and uplifting. Sweelinck spent his entire life after age two in Amsterdam and his entire career as

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Choir Notes

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organist at the Oude Kerk there, but his music and influence spread throughout Europe. For communion, we will sing "Verbum caro factum est" by Hans Leo Hassler—it's one of my most favorite early Baroque Christmas pieces. Hassler (1564-1612) was a German composer, organist, and organ design specialist who studied with Andrea Gabrieli in Venice and incorporated aspects of the Venetian polychoral style into his own composition.

The choir traditionally takes the week off after Christmas, and this year is no exception. The following Sunday happens to be Epiphany itself, which is a happy thing. At the time of this writing, I'm working on different possibilities for the offertory. Jim Neeley is going to sing a solo for the offertory of the 7:45 service and the communion for 10—"Who are these eastern strangers?" with text by Cecily Taylor and music by Mike Daymond.

Other music in the **Epiphany season** will include a jolly setting of "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day" by John Gardner, a setting of Howard Thurman's poem "When the song of the angels is stilled" by Elizabeth Alexander, "I'm gonna sing 'til the Spirit moves in my heart," arranged by Moses Hogan, "Come, join in Cana's feast" by Sally Ann Morris, "Faith, hope and love" (Alexander Pelouquin), and "The Call" (Ralph Vaughan Williams). That will take us up through **Annual Meeting Sunday**, when we celebrate the continuing health and welcoming embrace of our parish home.

In the midst of your busyness, may you find quiet moments of contemplation. Try to ignore your cat as it climbs the Christmas tree. You didn't need those ornaments anyway. Have a merry holiday season, a blessed and Happy New Year, and a healthy and sane 2019!

Peace on earth & goodwill to all,

Christina

Children, Youth & Families

Children Youth & Family Report

Arise, shine out, for your light has come..." — Isaiah 60:1

Children's Formation

Let's keep Advent in our hearts through this holy season.

Advent marks the beginning of the church year... a new starting point, a new beginning. The word Advent comes from adventus, the Latin word for "coming." As we make preparations with much on our to-do lists, may the gentle reminder of Emmanuel, God with us, guide us through these holy days, opening our eyes to how Jesus the Christ is being born in our hearts and our world once again this year. We have wonderful offerings this month to help us keep Advent in our hearts.

Sunday School

Each Sunday of Advent we will begin Sunday School by singing Christmas carols with Jane Click. We continue with the Love

First project, creating an Advent calendar and reenacting the Nativity, continuing to learn how we are loved, and how we can share God's love with others. Through Jesus' example we show love to others thus giving the greatest gift to Jesus we can.

St. Nicolas Day

We will celebrate the feast day of Saint Nicolas, Bishop of Smyrna, Sunday, December 9. Saint Nicolas is known as Nicolas the Wonderworker and his habit of secret gift-giving. Children are invited to lay out their shoes in the narthex to receive a gift from St. Nicholas.

Las Posadas

Join us as we journey from place to place around the GSP campus looking for a room for Mary and Joseph to spend the night. Once the "innkeepers" of McBride Hall allow us to enter, we will have a party with food, Christmas carols, hopefully Mariachis, and the traditional piñata filled with treats and sweets! Date will be announced soon!

Christmas Eve Pageant

A pick-up pageant is planned this year, which hopes to be simple and fun for the children! Mistakes and confusion are expected so the intention is to put everyone at ease including the congregation. The family service begins Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.

May the God of hope, peace, joy and love be yours,

Pastor Kimberlee

Youth Group

We continue to meet periodically and hope more kids will get involved! Everyone is always welcome!

Talk to Pastor Kimberlee or Joe Stefani for details.



GSP youth people checked out Apple Annie's Corn Maze for some adventures in October.

Parish Focus

Pat Dickson: Academic, Artist, & Spiritual Director

By Ann Schlumberger

IN THE 1940s AND '50s, young Patricia Jane Dickson (née Stoup) would sit on the front steps of her house on her grandfather's farm in rural Pennsylvania and wonder what life was like beyond the beautiful countryside where

she was growing up. An only child, she played with her two male cousins who also lived on the farm—climbing trees, building a tree house, playing in the creek, and loving the farm's dogs, cats, and horses. She attended a small rural elementary school and later a small town high school, where she loved her classes, particularly Latin and Spanish. Her father had played the saxophone and clarinet in big bands before he settled down after marriage to work

in his brother's general store. Later he inherited his own farm and began raising Christmas trees and nursery stock. She imitated her dad by taking up the saxophone in elementary school and playing it in her high school band.

After high school, Pat attended Indiana State Teachers' College in Pennsylvania, with the goal of becoming a Spanish teacher. Her choice to minor in French (because her best friend had that major) was to be an important one, for in the 1960s and '70s, teaching jobs were hard to come by. Being able to teach both

French and Spanish kept her employed.

After finishing her bachelor's degree in education in 1961, her first job was at a junior high in a nice suburb of Pittsburgh. History teacher Charles Dickson, who was in his fourth year teaching there, helped her fit in.

In 1962 Pat was selected to participate in a National Defense Act summer program for language teachers at the University of Pittsburgh. She loved the French immersion curriculum and the opportunities for interactions with native French speakers. In 1963, she went to France to study for the summer and that fall began working part-time on her master's degree in French at the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1964, she and Chuck Dickson married. After finishing her master's degree in 1966, the couple moved to Columbus, Ohio, where Chuck earned his doctorate in history while working as a teaching assistant. Meanwhile, Pat taught junior high and took classes part-time towards her own doctorate in romance languages. In 1969, while Pat was finishing up her coursework, their daughter Melinda was born.

In 1970 Chuck secured a teaching job at Geneva College, a Reformed Presbyterian School in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. There, Pat did research for her dissertation and completed its first chapter by the time their daughter Stephanie was born in 1972. After Pat earned her doctorate, the family moved to Wise, Virginia, in the Appalachian Mountains. There, Pat taught Spanish and French from 1975 to 1979 as the family's full-time bread winner.

The family spent the next four years in North Dakota, 50 miles south of the Canadian Border, where Pat obtained a full-time position as a Spanish and French professor.

Finally, the couple ended up at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio, where Pat was a professor for 14 years. Chuck worked as an adjunct faculty in a couple schools for a while before securing a full-time position at Clark State College in Springfield, Ohio, an hour and a half away.

When the couple retired from teaching,

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Pat Dickson

Parish Focus

Continued from Page 6

they decided that they would like to investigate the Southwest as a permanent residence. Tucson beat out Santa Fe and San Diego as the place to spend their golden years.

After settling in Tucson, they quickly discovered that Grace St. Paul's, was a church where they could "feel comfortable, learn, and grow." Both believe that the Setting Our Hearts program helped them on their spiritual journey. Pat also completed the Education for Ministry (EFM) program. Chuck, a life-long Episcopalian, is appreciated for his contributions as a lay reader and for his GSP adult education classes. Pat is a founding member of GSP's Healing Touch ministry and is a certified Spiritual Director.

In addition to her GSP activities, Pat has developed her artistic talents. Her mother, who had won awards for flower arranging, shared that art form with Pat when she was 7 years old. In later years, Pat's mother took up painting, and Pat speculates that her mother's late-life pastime may have influenced Pat herself to begin painting. Starting in January 2001 with an art class at Pima Community College, Pat studied acrylic and water color techniques. She joined a local group of watercolorists and also took art classes at the Drawing Studio. She then began teaching art at nursing homes and is now teaching free watercolor classes for seniors through the Drawing Studio, at various branches of the Tucson Public Library.

The Dicksons' daughter Stephanie and her husband live in Tucson, allowing Pat and Chuck to enjoy their 8-year-old granddaughter. Violet carries on her grandmother's musical and linguistic traditions as a mariachi violinist at Davis Bilingual School. Moreover, Pat and her granddaughter take pleasure in drawing together at the Dickson kitchen table when the little one comes over to visit.



Monday, Dec. 31, 7-8:30 p.m., in the Chancel

New Year's Eve: Chants for Unity & Compassion

You shine within us when we remember...

Join us for a GSP tradition as we cross the threshold of the old year into the new one with hope in our hearts. This year we will gather together in the church to sing chants for unity and compassion — for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for the world. Accompanied by piano, the chants are simple and easy to learn,

and provide us a means for expressing our desire for "the peace of God which passeth all understanding" and for a world in which all beings may be happy and free from suffering. All are welcome.

Jane Click, longtime GSP pianist, will lead the group in singing the "contemporary, inclusive and ecumenical" chants composed by Kristopher Lindquist.

Faynberg's third improvisational recital

Saturday, Dec. 8, 5 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Join us for the third concert of the series! Anton Faynberg will present a recital of piano improvisation, using acoustic and electronic keyboards.

The concert is about 90 minutes long with a brief pause in the middle. Meditate and move to the music!

Please feel free to bring a yoga



mat and/or cushions and join the musician on stage. The atmosphere is casual and relaxed, with natural or low lighting. Murmur away....



Blue Christmas Service Sunday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.

THE BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE is a community-wide tradition that was started at Grace St Paul's by the Rev. Gordon McBride in 2001. It is a special quiet and meditative liturgy for those experiencing loss, pain or loneliness during the holiday season.

The music and prayers are designed to be comforting and to lift your spirits. It is open to all in the Tucson community who would like to be with others experiencing loss of a loved one, be it a child, parent, partner, spouse, friend, or pet. Some people come each year to remember their loved one even though their loss may have been many years ago. For some their loss may have been very recent. Pastor Kimberlee Law will be the homilist.

The service includes a candle lighting ritual where we remember those persons who have

been loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices. We may mourn loss of health, loss of a job, loss of a relationship, loss of a pet.

People may feel alienated from the culture around them because they are depressed and not joyful. And this year some may feel depressed about tragic losses due to gun shootings and wildfires. There are several opportunities for healing: lighting candles, writing a message, listening to music or just sitting quietly. As we express our grief, we may find reconciliation. We never get over our loss. But hope emerges. Pastoral care givers will be present to listen, offer support and provide resources.

Join us for hot cider and cookies after the service.

—By Deacon Nancy Meister

Post from the Pantry

By Andrew Gardner

ONE OF THE BEST winter holiday traditions is setting aside time to ponder all the things we have to be thankful for, and the Pantry has many this year. In the first eleven months of the year, we were able to distribute more than 2,515 boxes of food to more than 750 different families. Our daily hospitality served more than 5,800 cups of coffee and snacks. More than 1,400 showers were taken. We distributed more than 1,300 bags of pet food, a more than 50% increase over the amount we distributed in all of 2017. We've even logged a 25% increase in volunteer hours as more people spend time in the pantry.

None of this, of course, would be possible without the extraordinary support of this parish community. Your donations fuel the pantry. Your hospitality in opening the parish hall to the pantry makes everyone feel welcome and safe. Thank you.

Holiday Party

On **Friday, Dec. 14**, Joseph's Pantry will host our annual holiday party at **10 a.m. in the parish hall**. I am not particularly fond

of holiday festivities, but the pantry party is always a highlight of the holiday season for me.

When we fall on hard times (or when hard times fall on us), our first response is always to trim all of the luxuries and conveniences out of our lives. Many of the people in the pantry community do exactly that. The pantry party is a chance to ease the burdens of our neighbors in the most immediate of ways—to feed everyone a delicious meal, to fill the air with music, and to give people the chance to relax and enjoy themselves.

We spend our entire annual budget on food for the pantry, so the party would not be possible without a generous gift from a family in Texas; because of their generosity, we are able to lift the burdens of our neighbors, even if only for a short time, in a truly joyful way.

Contributions and volunteers at the party are always welcome. We will have gift bags to pack, a meal to prep and serve, and the joy of each other's company.



**Spirit
Players
wrap
2018 with
'Ballyhoo'
reading**



THE GRACE ST. PAUL'S Spirit Players' First Friday Play Readings will finish up 2018 on Friday, Dec. 7, with an appropriate holiday offering, "The Last Night of Ballyhoo," by Alfred Uhry.

The story takes place in December 1939, in Atlanta, Georgia, during the 1939 Hanukkah season. "Gone with the Wind" is having its world premiere, and Hitler is invading Poland. But Atlanta's posh German Jews are much more concerned with who is going to Ballyhoo, their annual lavish country club ball.

The Freitag family hopes that the party of the year will be the chance for their daughters to meet their future husbands—but when their uncle brings home his new employee, a handsome Eastern European bachelor from Brooklyn, everyone must confront their own prejudices, desires, and beliefs.

The playwright focuses on the prejudice of Jews of German descent against "the other kind," meaning Jews of Slavic descent. This infinitesimally subtle difference in ethnicity

represents a world of difference in Southern Jewish society. Events take several unexpected turns as the characters face where they come from and are forced to deal with who they really are.

Winner of the 1997 Tony Award for Best Play, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* is an achingly beautiful, comedic, and enthralling romance by the writer of *Driving Miss Daisy*.

For the experience of engaging in a very thoughtful play and a spirited discussion afterward, please join us on **Friday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m., in the Bloom Room.**

Attendees may read if they wish or participate as "audience;" scripts are provided. Sharon McKenzie and Nanalee Raphael, both long-time theatre aficionados, are the facilitators. This script is suitable for 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.

Attention Ministry Leaders: Annual Report Deadline!

The Annual Meeting of Grace St. Paul's is coming: **Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019**, after the 10 a.m. service. And that means it's time for the Annual Report!

Let us know your ministry's people, accomplishments, milestones, dreams. We'd like reports from as many GSP ministries as possible.

If you'd like to share photos of your ministry's activity, that would be wonderful! Either prints or digital photos are fine. If you're going to send digital photos, please send photos taken at the highest resolution your

camera provides, without any editing or resizing, in JPG/JPEG format.

Please e-mail your reports (in either Word or WordPerfect format, if possible) to David Wachter, at annualreport@grace-stpauls.org, no later than Monday, Jan. 7, 2019.

Again, that address is annualreport@grace-stpauls.org. This will help make sure that nothing goes astray!

Thank you!

**David Wachter,
Annual Report Editor**

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



Advent Practices: Drawing Near to God

Sunday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

Retail stores entice and urge us to “prepare for the holidays” as if a successful Christmas season depends on choosing the right decorations, the right gifts — right now. Fortunately, the Episcopal tradition resists this. In the Episcopal Church we are too busy engaging our children in Sunday school, creating outreach ministries, and, especially at this time of year, conducting annual giving campaigns. Now, the last of the Thanksgiving cooking pots have been scrubbed, so dry your hands, sit down, take a breath — and welcome Advent. Let’s talk about drawing near to God, as God draws near to us, and explore ways to experience a meaningful Advent.

Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams, a longtime presenter and small group leader for the adult spiritual programs at GSP. In the world she is a Jungian-oriented psychotherapist in private practice.

Assistance League of Tucson

Sunday, Dec. 2, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Room

The Assistance League of Tucson, currently celebrating its 60th anniversary, is a volunteer organization of more than 400 members who donate over 45,000 annually hours to philanthropic programs serving our community. AL is a nonpolitical, nonsectarian, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation dedicated to working together for Tucson. For example, last year AL provided new school clothing to over 4,000 underserved Title 1 students here in Tucson and distributed over 1,000 baskets of starting over articles to families in distress, and that’s just AL’s two larger programs. In this presentation we will learn about these and other programs, along with ways community members might wish to help the Assistance League carry its mission forward.

Presented by Johnny Williams of the Assistance League of Tucson.

Advent/Christmas Cards by Fra Angelico

Sunday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

Join us for a PowerPoint presentation featuring the artwork of Fra Angelico, the pioneering Italian 15th-century Renaissance painter. We will view the Annunciation, the Adoration by the Wise Men, and many Madonnas (Enthroned or Humble).

Presented by Chuck Dickson, a member of the adult spiritual formation ministry team. Chuck is a retired history teacher and a popular GSP presenter.

Out of Bethlehem

Sunday, Dec. 16, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

Because the U.S. media tends to portray Palestinians in a particular negative light, this talk will focus on the realities and struggles that Palestinians face on a daily basis living under occupation. But the occupation is not all there is to Palestinians’ lives, so we will also include topics such as their festive celebrations and customs and traditions. And while most Americans assume that all Palestinians are Muslims, this talk will highlight the lives of the, now small, Palestinian population living in Bethlehem and how they celebrate Christmas. If you want to know more about what it’s really like to live in Palestine, please join us for this talk!

Saed Rishmawi is a Palestinian Christian from the town

of Beit Sahour, which is next to the city of Bethlehem and not far from Jerusalem. Saed is a machinist and metal worker. He loves Eastern music, plays the Oud, and in his free time enjoys barbecuing, going to the beach, and traveling. Saed was born and raised in Palestine and came to the U.S. in July 2018 after receiving his long-awaited green card. He is now reunited with his wife Renee and daughter Carmen.

Renee Spellman is a graduate student at the University of Arizona, in the PhD program in the Middle Eastern Studies Department. Her major is Linguistics of Middle Eastern Languages. Her future doctoral research will include sociolinguistic and ethnographic work on the Palestinian dialect of youth in Bethlehem. She lived in Palestine for ten years, both studying (she received her M.A. there) and teaching English and Arabic as a second language.

NOTE: No Sunday classes on Dec. 23 & 30.



Epiphany: More Than the Magi?

Sunday, Jan. 6, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

Epiphany is the feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. But is it celebrated only on Jan. 6, acknowledging the visit of the Three Kings or Wise Men to the infant Jesus? The short answer is no; Epiphany varies from East to West and is observed with different customs, names, dates, and even the event(s) it celebrates. To learn more, come prepared with a piece of chalk and an open mind, and perhaps you’ll experience your own epiphany regarding Epiphany.

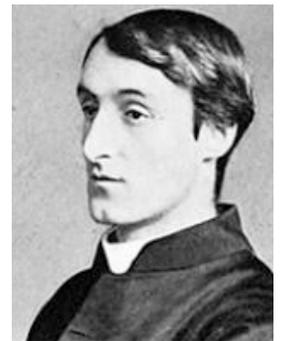
Presented by Victoria Stefani. She is a writer, artist, and scholar of literature, folklore, and mythology. She has taught literature, cultural studies, and writing at the University of Arizona and Humboldt State University.

GSP Poetry Series: Gerard Manley Hopkins

Sunday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m., Bloom Room

This next lecture in the GSP Poetry Series explores the life and work of Gerard Manley Hopkins (28 July 1844 – 8 June 1889). Hopkins was an English poet and Jesuit priest: “the most important Victorian poet,” according to renowned literary critic, Christopher Ricks. Hopkins’ poetic innovations, such as sprung rhyme and heavy alliteration influenced generations of Anglophone poets, including Dylan Thomas, T.S. Elliot, and Sylvia Plath. Hopkins wrote religious poetry, sermons, theological reflections, letters, and critical essays.

Presenter Anton Faynberg is an itinerant scholar, part-time philosopher, half-time musician, full-time jester. His interests include literature, poetry, music, and religion. He loves the warmth.

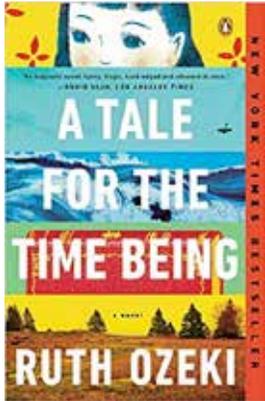


GSP READERS GROUP

'A Tale for the Time Being' by Ruth Ozeki

Friday, Dec. 14, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Room

Nao, a 16-year-old schoolgirl, is in a cafe in Tokyo, writing in her diary. She is, she declares, a "time being," with all the ambiguity that phrase implies. Many months later, after Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami, a



Japanese-American novelist named Ruth, living on an island off the coast of British Columbia, finds a barnacle-encrusted freezer bag washed up on the beach. It contains, it appears, a copy of Proust's "In Search of Lost Time" and a broken watch, along with some letters. But Proust's book is no more than a cover. Inside is Nao's diary, written in purple ink. Whenever the word "time" comes up — "wasting time," "about time," "in time" — the reader must stop and think about the many angles of approach to that subject in Ruth Ozeki's delightful yet sometimes harrowing new novel, "A Tale for the Time Being."... Many of the elements of Nao's story — schoolgirl bullying, unemployed suicidal "salarymen," kamikaze pilots — are among a Western reader's most familiar images of Japan, but in Nao's

telling, refracted through Ruth's musings, they become fresh and immediate, occasionally searingly painful. Ozeki takes on big themes in "A Tale for the Time Being" — not just the death of individuals but also the death of the planet. In doing so, she ranges widely, drawing in everything from quantum mechanics and the theory of infinite possibilities in an infinite number of universes to the

teachings of the 13th-century Zen master Dogen Zenji. There's even a crow with possibly magical powers. All are drawn into the stories of two "time beings," Ruth and Nao, whose own fates are inextricably bound. (New York Times)

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

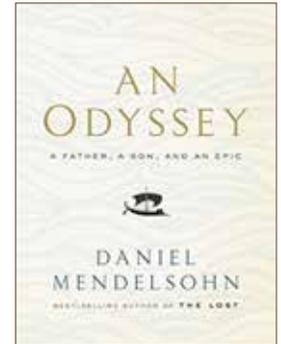
'An Odyssey' by Daniel Mendelsohn

Friday, Jan. 11, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Room

Just like the "Odyssey," which it consciously mimics, "An Odyssey" is an intricately constructed journey, conglomerating the stories of a son and his father and their travails through life and love. Like Homer, Mendelsohn weaves his basket with many wands: first, the story of the "Odyssey" itself, which patiently, book by book, he explicates with exemplary and generous clarity. Folded into that is the story of his own life, his distance from his father, his coming out as gay when a teenager, his falling in love with the ancient Greek texts as a place of precision and austerity in books whose pages were "as cool to the touch as sliced apples."

These many stories of a man's life, a family and a father-son relationship are themselves set within a frame of the undergraduate "Odyssey" seminar Mendelsohn teaches at Bard College, which, amazingly, Daniel's 81-year-old father, Jay Mendelsohn, decides to attend, as well as a 10-day "Retracing the 'Odyssey'" cruise that Daniel and Jay take together when the seminar is over.

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



GSP HOLIDAY FILM

The Lion in Winter (1968)

Friday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room

"Well, what family doesn't have its ups and downs?" —Eleanor of Aquitaine

It's Christmas Eve 1183, and King Henry II (Peter O'Toole) is planning to announce his successor to the throne. The jockeying for the crown, though, is complex. Henry has three sons and wants his boy Prince John (Nigel Terry) to take over. Henry's wife, Queen Eleanor (Academy Award-winner Katharine Hepburn), has other ideas. She believes their son Prince Richard (Anthony Hopkins) should be king. As the family and various schemers gather for the holiday, each tries to make the indecisive king choose their option.



Join us for this critically acclaimed tour de force of snappy dialogue, strong performances, and an evening with one of history's arguably most dysfunctional family gatherings!

A discussion of the movie's themes will follow the film (along with eggnog and cookies!).

Presented by Catherine and Steve Williams, film and history buffs.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: SMALL GROUPS @ GSP

Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys

Mondays, 10 a.m.-Noon, Bloom Room

(NOTE: No meeting Dec. 24 or 31)

How do we live our spirituality in the course of ordinary life? This long-running small group focuses on the many intersections between spirituality, religion, and contemporary culture. Our topics vary each meeting and expand our capacity to honor a spiritual dimension in every corner of our lives, from the healing music of Aretha Franklin to the joys of cloud watching and beyond — and there's always a lively discussion! Each session stands alone and all are welcome. No registration is necessary.

Co-facilitated by Jim Franks and Catherine Penn Williams.

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

Thursdays, 10 a.m., Bloom Room

Join Fr. Richard Mallory for a 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 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, Dec. 7 & 21 & Jan. 4 & 18, 10:30-

11:30 a.m., Bloom Room

Beginning on Dec. 7, the Friday Morning Bible Study (formerly "Bible Women") will refocus its attention to examination of the parables of Jesus. 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.

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

Saturday Java Jive: Coffee & Conversation

Saturdays, 9-11 a.m., Epic Café,

745 N. 4th Ave. (at University Blvd.)

Want to meet and get to know folks in a relaxed and friendly environment?

All are welcome to join this long-running motley crew that meets every Saturday morning for coffee and conversation. We never know who will show up, the topic is always up for grabs, and hilarity often ensues.

There is actually no one in charge of this group and it's been thriving for 10 years in spite of—or maybe because of—that fact. Come join us!





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
9:45 a.m., Child Care
10 a.m., Holy Communion
10 a.m., Sunday School
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Youth Group

MONDAYS

11:30 a.m., Spiritual Direction
4:30 p.m., Spirit Dojo
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
10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters
5 p.m., Children & Family Karate

THURSDAYS

10 a.m., Bridge Group
10:30 a.m., *Between the Lines*
12 noon, Centering Prayer
3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
6 p.m., Spirit Now—An Emerging Worship Experience
7 p.m., AZ Welcomes Refugees

SATURDAYS

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

What's Happening in December 2018...

2nd FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
9 a.m., *Advent Practices*
11:45 a.m., *Assistance League of Tucson*

3rd 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

5th 7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

6th 6 p.m., **SPIRIT SONG**

7th 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**
6:30 p.m., **Spirit Players Play-Reading**

8th 5 p.m., Faynberg Concert

9th SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
9 a.m., *Christmas with Fra Angelico*

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

12th 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

14th 9:30 a.m., **GSP Readers Group**
10 a.m., Joseph's Pantry Holiday Party
6:30 p.m., **GSP Holiday Film**

15th 11 a.m., SAAF Family Day

16th THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
9 a.m., *Out of Bethlehem*
7 p.m., **Blue Christmas Service**

17th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

20th 6 p.m., **Winter Solstice Celebration**

21st 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**

23rd FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
9 a.m., **Lessons & Carols**
1 p.m., Primavera cooking team

24th CHRISTMAS EVE
Parish Office closes at 12 noon
5 p.m., **Family Service with Pageant**
7:30 p.m., **Christmas Eve Reception**
9:30 p.m., **Carol Sing**
10 p.m., **Candlelight Service**

25th CHRISTMAS DAY
Parish Office, Social Services

Ministry, & Joseph's Pantry Closed
10 a.m., **Service with Carols**

26th *Parish Office & Social Services Ministry Closed*

30th FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation

31st 7 p.m., **New Year's Eve Chants**



...and in January 2019

1st NEW YEAR'S DAY
Parish Office, Social Services Ministry, & Joseph's Pantry Closed

2nd 7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**

3rd 6 p.m., **SPIRIT SONG**

4th 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**
6:30 p.m., **Spirit Players Play-Reading**

6th EPIPHANY SUNDAY
9 a.m., *Epiphany: More than the Magi?*

7th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

11th 9:30 a.m., **GSP Readers Group**

13th 9 a.m., *Poetry Series: Gerard Manley Hopkins*

14th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

15th 8:30 a.m., TiHAN Volunteer Orientation

16th 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

18th 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**

20th 9 a.m., *Coffee & Conversation*
12:15 p.m., **Vestry Candidate's Panel**

21st 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*

22nd 9 a.m., Primavera Meals Group
6:30 p.m., **Vestry Meeting**

26th 1 p.m., TiHAN Training

27th 9 a.m., *Coffee & Conversation*
12:15 p.m., **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**
1 p.m., Primavera cooking team

28th 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*