

The Briefly

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Rector's Message

Wow! Good heavens, all of you know how to throw a party. What a great introduction to the GSP family Jean and I received at the gigantic fiesta. I cannot think of a thing that could have been done any better. How in the world can you possibly beat fire dancers, a great mariachi band and an unbelievable spread of fantastic food? Best of all though, was the opportunity to meet so many of you in that festive atmosphere. It is an evening we will never forget. We cannot thank all of you enough for the effort you put into making it happen.

It also occurs to me that the great fiesta was not only rip roaring fun, but also a great metaphor for our upcoming lives together. The fire dancers graphically symbolized the dangers that we will most assuredly face as we work together to bring about the realm of God. The ring fire dance reminds us of the hoops we will need to jump through as we bring the wonder of Grace St. Paul's to others. The fire itself symbolizes the risks we must take in caring for and bringing dignity to those in need.

How about all of the unbelievable food? The abundance and quality of it represents how we will live out the Gospel together, refusing to ever live in scarcity. The Mariachi band symbolized the artistry and beauty of the Grace St. Paul's community, and how we will connect so many others to the beauty of our communal experience. Finally, the joy experienced by all of us is a great symbol of the fun and laughter we are going to share together in our future. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

On our first Sunday together, we talked much about how long you have waited for this moment. However, there has been much more than a sense of anticipation going on in Sunday worship. I detect an immense energy running through the congregation, an infectious surge of emotion that you cannot help but feel. There is an excitement in the air, a palpable sense that something wonderful is happening here. This energy has been felt not just by us, but by people visiting here for the first time. Linda Watt, the COO (Chief Operating Officer) of The Episcopal Church, was with us that first Sunday. She described to me the same feeling, a sense that something beyond words was happening in our midst.

I felt much of the same emotion during our Equinox service on Sept. 21. Approximately 65 people came together that evening to celebrate the return of Autumn

The fiesta continues as we celebrate God in our midst.



Read all about Kate Baird's mission to Kenya, on page 7.

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Rector's Message

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and to linger in God's majesty experienced through the changing of the seasons. It was a powerful evening and another sign that we are on the edge of something spectacular.

I believe that what we are feeling is not just about something new. It is also about a sense of possibility, an emotional response to what we are experiencing in our hearts about the potential in our future together. Over the next month, we have planned much to release those possibilities. The Blessing of the Animals, the new Season of Creation, the integration of children in our worship, a celebration of the Eve of All Hallows, an All Saints Day celebration and much more to follow.

The excitement is just beginning. If you liked the first fiesta, don't wander too far away. The fiesta continues as we celebrate God in our midst.

Steve+

Sunday evening Conversation & Dessert with Fr. Steve

There are three Sunday Evening Conversations remaining — your chance to meet with Fr. Steve & Jean in a more intimate setting.

These evenings will be hosted by GSP ministry groups. You will be able to sign up for an evening through the GSP office (327-6857) or at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings.

The meetings will be in the Bloom Room from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Dates and host groups are:

Oct. 10 — Adult Education

Oct. 17 — Children and Youth

Oct. 24 — Social Justice

Briefly Deadline

The next deadline for *The Briefly* is Tuesday, Oct. 19, for the November issue. Please send electronic articles to Martha P.L. Whitaker at: jartham@cox.net. Either MS Word or Word Perfect 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.

Remember that if you need to "talk" with me, please use my mplw@hwr.arizona.edu address, since I only check the jartham@cox.net address when I'm ready to edit.

Ministry Fair

Sunday, Oct. 10

9 & 11:30 a.m., throughout the church campus

Discover or reconnect with the many vital ministries coordinated by lay leaders at Grace St. Paul's. You may want to join one or more after discovering they fit your interests, skills, and/or abilities, and time schedule!

Coordinated by Catherine Williams and Linda Hutson.

Health Screening at the Ministry Fair

Sunday, Oct. 10

7:40 a.m.-12 noon, in front of the church

By *Lynne Albright*

CareMore Insurance Company will be parked in front of the church for the entire morning starting at 7:40 a.m. They will provide free blood pressure and glucose checks. If you have fasted you can substitute a cholesterol test for the glucose check. The staff will also be providing tips for staying healthy. It will only take a few minutes of your time before or after church, so feel free to stop in!

Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Covenant Group.



Many Thanks to Our Balloon Decorators!

By *Eleanor Kohloss*

The church was ablaze with transparent colorful orbs, looking as if even the stained glass windows had come inside for Fr. Steve and Jean Keplinger's first Sunday at Grace St. Paul's.

A rainbow of differences welcomed our new rector and the installation helpers were many: Kate Baird, Beth Banks, John Banks, Kathy Conway, Karen English, Lynn Marie Hunter, Sue O'Shea, Laura Pascoe, Lu Pipentacos, Wendy Pipentacos, James White, Steve Williams, Nanalee Raphael, and Eleanor Kohloss.

Notes from the Choir Stalls

*For, lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of the singing of birds is come,
And the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.*
Song of Solomon 2:11-12

The transition is over and gone and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; Fr. Steve and Jean are here at last. We are so happy to have them! The energy level in church is sizzling.

I was unclear on the concept of turtle voices as a child—I didn't realize the turtle in question was a bird (turtle dove). As with Santa Claus, the truth was disappointing; I wanted a regular turtle. However, short of getting a bunch of turtles together to sing in church, the next best thing is a choir, and we're on it, plus I don't think turtles can read music.

The choir is back from its summer break, with two new members, both freshmen at the University of Arizona: Valerie Dugie and Adrienne Gossard. They are both great musicians, and it's a delight to have them. It's fabulous to have the rest of the choir, too. Our commissioning was powerful. Good thing, as we're in the chancel until June 12—we can use that food for the journey.

Ann Stephens, the choral librarian, has been recovering from health problems, so I'm wrestling with the choir folders myself. Sometimes I win, but usually they pin me to the floor and smack me repeatedly with their little flapping covers. I'll be going along and realize that I haven't put a particular anthem in the last three notebooks, and they snicker.

We are deeply grateful that Ann is at least able to come sing, which didn't look possible for a while. We're also holding Barbara Bourne in our prayers, as she takes a leave to recover from her own health difficulties.

There are so many events to write about this month it's hard to know where to start. First, there's the Blessing of the Animals at 5 p.m. on Oct. 3 rather than at the 10 o'clock service. That seems much more sensible. The allergic can still come to church and the beasts will be cooler

and therefore happier. If kitty ain't happy, ain't nobody happy.

The choir will have a presence at the Ministry Fair on Oct. 10, of course. I'll try to come up with a new design for our booth. Perhaps I'll festoon it with our incredibly ratty choir robes. We look as though we've been dumpster diving for vestments. At some point this year, you can expect invitations to a fund raising event to help us look presentable. But perhaps playing up our elderly attire is not the best way to recruit new members or highlight our contributions to the spiritual life of the parish. Hmmm. I'll give it more thought.

The other big event on Oct. 10 is the start to the new Season of Creation, which is such a fantastic idea, one wonders why no one came up with it sooner. What a great way to split up Late Pentecost. We are breaking out the African drums to do *O Sifuni Mungu (All Creatures of Our God and King)*. Rick Hanson is still absent and away from us, so Homero Cerón from the Tucson Symphony will be doing the thumpage. He's bringing some extra drums, so if you are familiar with African drumming, come join in. Rehearsal is at 9:15 a.m. that morning.

Throughout the Season of Creation, at least one anthem per Sunday will be on the theme of God's abundance and the blessings of the created world around us. The kids will be busy this fall. On Oct. 17, we'll have a children's service. Kids will read and serve, and in place of the sequence hymn, Merin Thomas will play her violin. The St. Cecelia choir, led by Jane Click, will provide the offertory, "What if you came to my church," and we will all sing along. The adult choir will provide communion music. On Oct. 31, all children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to church. If you're really determined, I'll bet you could stretch the definition of "child" to cover pretty much all of us! The Lieto Ensemble will provide music for communion.

In keeping with the new energy percolating through our parish, we're having a jazzy All Saints' on Nov. 7. Literally. It's time for "When the Saints Go Marching In", with a Dixieland combo. I'm told this time the children will be dressed in saint costumes. That's costumes

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Liturgy & Music

Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Day Sunday, Oct. 3 5 p.m. on the Labyrinth

Bring your furry, scaly, feathered, invertebrate, or even stuffed animal companions to be blessed in celebration of St. Francis Day. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the spirituality of our animal companions! Remember to be sensitive to all animals' needs by keeping your dogs on leashes, cats in sturdy carriers (if they will tolerate coming at all), and other animals in appropriate enclosures.

Season of Creation

By Steve Keplinger+

The scary word was pantheism. When Christianity made its way to the land of the Celts in the fourth century, many church leaders were frightened by the theology of the people there. The religious ideas that the Roman church discovered there, were not unlike the theology found in many indigenous cultures, including here in America. The Celts and the Druids lived close to the land and their experiences of the divine happened in nature. They articulated this experience in the idea that we have come to call pantheism, the understanding that the earth is God.

It is easy to understand how a people living so closely with the natural world would come to that conclusion. How could you experience a rainbow and not believe that it was God? Who could watch a tree grow through the seasons of the year and not see God in it? It is also not difficult to understand why this concept challenged Christian orthodoxy. The Biblical concept of a transcendent God far beyond us permeates our sacred text. How then, could God be a mountain, if God is up there beyond the mountain? For understandable reasons, pantheism became verboten and was declared a heresy.

The problem, of course, is that anyone who has ever spent any appreciable time in nature, know that the Celts were on to something. Yes, people experience God's presence in churches on a regular basis. However, millions of people over thousands of years have also felt a divine presence while walking in the desert or sailing on the ocean. To suggest that all of these sensations are not valid experiences of God is far beyond close-minded.

Many of us grew up in a church where this conundrum always existed. The choice for us has been to believe in the transcendent God and pass off our experiences of God in nature as bad pizza, or to reject Christian orthodoxy. In our time, most have opted for the latter.

The problem in my mind is that the whole

thing is all a gigantic mistake. Yes, of course God is transcendent and beyond us. However, the entire basis of Christianity is founded in the experience of incarnation, the realization that God is with us in a real and personal way. The apostle Paul describes God as the one within whom we live and move and have our being. Hundreds of biblical references refer to God being experienced through nature.

It seems patently obvious that the Roman Christians were right, and so were the Celts. The problem is that they did not have language to imagine a God that was both immanent and transcendent at the same time. We do. In a single word, it is pantheism. That little "en" in the middle makes all the difference. It is the realization that God is indeed contained within nature but is also far beyond nature, simultaneously transcendent and immanent.

God is indeed contained within nature but is also far beyond nature, simultaneously transcendent and immanent.

I do not want to overplay this, but this concept seems potentially world-changing. If we can make it clear that there is no conflict between orthodox Christian thought and the realization that God is contained within nature, we can retrieve Christianity for those who abandoned the tradition because it did not match their own experience of God. We can also bring those Christians who have rejected their own natural experiences of God and validate them.

At the same time, if we can bring people to a place where they can accept this as orthodoxy, where it becomes clear that the world is contained within God, then the potential effect on our planet is enormous. If the world is contained within God, then the world is sacred, and if it is sacred, our call as Christians can only be to protect it.

It is with all this in mind that we will begin a new liturgical season at Grace St. Paul's on Oct. 10. We are calling it the Season of Creation and our goal in celebrating it will be to bridge the rift that occurred in this church so many years ago. At last year's General Convention, the idea of a Season of Creation was approved for study in the

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All Saints— An Episcopal Tradition

By Steve Keplinger+

It is a loaded concept for so many of us. If we have come from any number of Protestant backgrounds, the word itself is pejorative. It conjures up images of idol worship and “popish” practices. For those coming from Orthodox or Roman Catholic traditions, it suggests someone who is near perfect and can do things beyond human capacity. The word is “saint” and its history is so full of wildly differing understandings and emotional fervor that it evokes strong feelings in nearly all of us.

As Episcopalians who have come from all over the religious map, the concept of saint can be difficult for us. I think it is important for us to realize that all of us have different feelings around this word and what it represents. Speaking personally though, it is the Episcopal perspective of saint that has saved the entire concept for me.

Unlike some Evangelical traditions that have thrown the proverbial saint baby out with the bath water, we believe that the communion of saints remains integral to our tradition. However, we also reject the notion of a saint as understood in Roman Catholic tradition. Our saints are not necessarily people to put on pedestals and certainly not people that have performed miracles. How do we decide who should be a saint? The same way we do everything else. We vote on them. Anyone can be nominated to be recognized and after a period of trial use, we vote at General Convention to remember them on a permanent basis.

Our saints include people from the first days of the church, all the way up to present day. They are people of many faith traditions and in all fields of endeavor. Each person has a day of the calendar year set aside to recognize them.

That list of people grew tremendously at last year’s General Convention, when we approved a large list of potential new members. A Collect is written to remember each individual and it, as well as a brief biography of the person, is contained in a book that used to be called *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*. The strange title has thankfully been revised. The new book just released is called *Holy Women, Holy Men*.

You may have noticed that we have recently added to our Eucharistic prayer during Sunday worship to include the names of those folk recognized in *Holy Women, Holy Men* during that week. In the margin next to the names in the prayer is a very brief description of each individual. The idea is to recognize all of these individuals, as well as help familiarize all of us with our saints, real people who need to be remembered for the contribution they made to the world.

Of course, at the end of the month is Dia de los Muertos and Halloween (The Eve of All Hallows, All Saints.) This year Halloween falls on a Sunday, so we are going to have an opportunity to celebrate our saints twice. On Oct. 31, our children will be wearing their Halloween costumes to church and processing in to connect us once again with those who have gone before. The following week is All Saints Sunday and on that day the kids will dress up again as their favorite saint. Linking ourselves to those who have come before can be an inspiration for all of us. The fact that our saints are real people helps me to realize that it is up to all of us to bring about the realm of God. In addition, our remembrance of those who have come before links us to our past and reminds us that we are part an ancient tradition, a tradition that links you and me directly with Jesus and beyond.

Creation Season

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church. Grace St. Paul’s will be one of the few places where this new liturgical season can be experienced. It is our hope that many will follow.

I would appreciate all of your feedback on this season that begins with a grand celebration on Oct. 10. I think it can renew us the ancient knowledge that nature lovers and God lovers are all the same. Come celebrate God in creation and creation in God. I truly believe that this liturgy has the potential to change all of us and to save God’s world.

Notes from the Choir Stall

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two weeks in a row. So, kids, if your mom says something like, “I’m sorry, dear; you have to be a saint this Halloween. I’m not making you two costumes,” don’t despair. You can choose to go as one of the gory, martyred ones: “Fine, I’ll be Blessed Agnes Takea. I can carry my head tucked underneath my arm.”

Whatever the children wear, it will be a bless-

ing to have them leading the parade of souls as they leave us behind in the past and head off into the future. God bless their world. May it have crisp, new choir robes and lots of Halloween candy.

Next month it will be time to talk about Advent. Where did the year go?

God’s Peace,

Christina Jarvis

Director of Music

Congregational Development

A Story of Stewardship

By *Patricia Galvin*

Stories are wonderful. We hear stories every Sunday that comfort us, challenge us and frequently disconcert us, but they always guide us. Our stories are how we came to be who we are today, individually and collectively as a congregation. Father Steve+ is asking us all to share our dreams for the future. I want to hear about your journey to Grace St Paul's today.

My story is probably a common one. I wandered into Grace St Paul's with my sister on Jan. 4, 2004. I hadn't been to church for about two years, but my sister was visiting and she wanted to go. It was the 8 a.m. service. Besides Paula and me, I think there were eight other people in the congregation. Elaine Breckenridge was preaching and Gordan McBride was the celebrant. I don't remember the sermon, but I remember feeling so welcomed and happy being here. Elaine and Gordon seemed genuinely happy we had come.

I started out showing up quietly in the congregation and adding money into the plate each week I was there. But I wanted to belong here, and showing up quietly wasn't going to cut it. It didn't take me long to start taking classes, mostly to meet people, as I was too shy to talk to people at coffee hour. The spirit moved in me quickly once I made a few friends, and for the first time in my life, I decided to make a commitment to a church. In May of 2004, I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church—part of the first group confirmed by Bishop Smith. Since then I've found both a family and a home here.

Over the past six years, I've participated in different ministries: ushering, Sunday hospitality, vestry, and now stewardship. I've cooked meals with Project Hospitality, helped with sheltering the homeless in the winter, and was fortunate to meet people with great stories that opened up my world view. I got to hammer nails and saw boards with Habitat for Humanity, which was great fun. This year, I went on my very first protest march and was proud to stand with others in this congregation.

What I've received from Grace St Paul's have

been gifts extraordinaire. Each ministry with which I've been involved has brought me closer in community and closer to God. I've made lasting friendships that I truly treasure. I can honestly say that I am happier with who I am and happier in life than I was six years ago. My experiences here have transformed my life. One of those transformative experiences has been a step up each year in how much I've contributed financially. I know it sounds canned, but it's true for me that the more I've shared financially, the more committed I've been to what goes on around here, which has led to my increased happiness. I guess it comes down to having a stake in the outcome and really feeling like I'm part of something.

We all choose how to spend our lives—what we do and what we support. This autumn you'll have an opportunity to choose how you want to be involved. On Oct. 10, we have the Ministry Fair. There are so many opportunities from which to choose! I hope you prayerfully consider where you can find your joy and make the choice to pursue it. Consecration Sunday is Nov. 14 this year. This is your time to choose how much financial support you feel called to provide for the ministries and mission of Grace St Paul's. Everyone is invited to the services at 8 and 10 a.m. and brunch at 9 and 11:30 a.m., regardless of whether you are able to complete a giving and receiving card. Please plan to join us!

In the meantime, I ask one thing of you. Please share your story. I want to hear from you and I want to share those stories with others. Please email me at pgalvin@cox.net with something you'd like to share. Thank you in advance for all the gifts you will share and for your participation in this Autumn's events.

Yours in service,
Tricia Galvin
Stewardship Chair

One Family, One Faith, One God

By *Kate Baird*+

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers and support. My mission trip to Kenya was everything I had hoped it would be and more! I found Kenya to be an astonishing mix of old/new, urban/agriculture and rich/poor. It is not unusual to see herds of cattle being driven along the edge of a busy four-lane highway. In the cities, slums with heartbreaking poverty lie less than a few kilometers away from huge, opulent homes. Modern skyscrapers dot Nairobi, yet most families still cook on open fire stoves. And forget showers! Running water—where it exists—is cold, yet TVs are common in most households.

I spent the bulk of my time in rural areas not often visited by white folks. As I walked down the road the children would call out *msunga, msunga* (white person, white person) and come running. The brave souls would come and touch my skin, giggle and run away. The adults didn't call out so obviously but were equally curious and there was always a chorus of waves and hellos in Swahili as I walked by. The first time I walked down the road in a collar it got a big response. They looked, looked again pointed at their necks and started yelling and clapping. I'll take that as an African for "Go Girl!"

Outside of the scattered cities, the Roman Catholic Church is the major infrastructure at least in western Kenya. Generally speaking, the Church runs the majority of schools, medical facilities and orphanages. I stayed at convents as I travelled, eating and worshiping with the Sisters of Saint Francis. I spent several days working

in an orphanage and witnessing what AIDs and poverty does to the family structure. Despite the somewhat harsh conditions, the children were genuinely happy, and given the alternatives they were indeed blessed. I also spent time at a number of hospitals praying with the dying. As Americans, we are truly blessed in our health care facilities.

Most of my time was devoted to speaking to groups of women ranging in age from ninth graders to elderly village woman. My workshop employs storytelling, songs, and sharing, facilitated by the use of religious icons to reveal the power of God in our everyday life. As women made in God's image, we celebrated our beauty and inner divinity. Our divinity, our shared stories of God's grace and love, serve as a source of strength and dignity in the world. I shared my story, sang and celebrated with over 450 women. The shared stories, the power of their songs, and the joy in their hearts are treasures I will carry with me forever.

Despite our cultural differences, our differences in appearances and spoken language, as children of God we form one family sharing in the language of love and worship. All of us are seeking to understand what it means to be Christian and how to live out our calling in this complex and ever-changing world. I learned much from this trip, and believe that they in return gained a piece of the love and spirit that is Grace St. Pual's. Through God and in God may we all continue to grow in unity and blessings.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Kate+



Social Justice & Outreach

Bridging Borders Field Trip to Hogar de Esperanza y Paz *By Paul Gohdes*

Tuesday, Oct. 12

9 a.m.-5 p.m., departing from Borderlinks

Nothing beats firsthand experience! Hogar de Esperanza y Paz means "Home of Hope and Peace." It was formerly called Casa Misericordia, and GSP continues to support the ministry! It is located in Nogales, Sonora, and was started by neighborhood volunteers to provide meals and childcare for parents working for \$50/week in the maquiladoras, which are foreign-owned assembly plants. These parents couldn't make ends meet, since living costs are not all that much different than on the U.S. side.

Grace St. Paul's Bridging Borders, through Borderlinks, is sponsoring a trip to visit Hogar, which has developed into a community resource center featuring meals, education (nutrition, language, and computer), and a Women's Cooperative. Scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 12, leaving at 9 a.m. from Borderlinks, and returning around 5 p.m., the cost is a very generous \$20 (normally \$100) which includes lunch. There is



Translator (now the Rev.) Debbie Noonan with a chef and a volunteer at Hogar de Esperanza y Paz.

a minimum of 10 people, and you must have a passport to re-enter the U.S.

Reservations and pre-payment are required (deadline: Thursday, Oct. 7) and can be made at the Information Table or by calling the Parish Office at 327-6857.

Questions: Deacon Nancy Meister: nancymeister@comcast.net or Paul Gohdes: p-dtucson@cox.net.



Dr. Claudia Svara

Expert Speaks on Intentional Ministry, Healing & Health

By Kay Bigglestone

Fifteen parishioners from three Tucson parishes heard Dr. Claudia Svara, Province 8 Diocesan Liaison for National Episcopal Health Ministry (NEHM), propose that each parish organize a Health Ministry Program, an intentional ministry focusing on both healing and health." Dr. Svara spoke on Saturday, Sept. 19, in the Bloom Room at Grace St. Paul's.

She noted that an important part of such a ministry should include health education. Some programs could be CPR training for staff and parents, respite care training, stress reduction workshops, and seminars on healing and spirituality, perhaps even exercise and yoga classes. She said that focusing on whole-person health promotes personal responsibility and integration of body, mind and spirit.

She also outlined the concept of a "Lucy desk," patterned after the Charles Schultz "Peanuts" comic strip, in which a trained parishioner sits at a table, maybe during coffee hour, and answers questions from parishioners about health resources in the community, such as senior or

assisted living facilities, Medicare changes, or acupuncturists or other practitioners. (We won't charge 5¢ per question as Lucy does, however!)

Another communication strategy, "Back Door Readings," features single-sheet pages on topics such as signs of strokes or tips for reducing stress. These pages are inserted in clear plastic page-protectors and are placed in restroom stalls each month. We can download them from an Internet site for free! Such a sheet on domestic violence already averted tragedy in her parish, she noted.

Dr. Svara said such simple measures were often more effective than a formal parish nurse program, partly because a parish nurse has to be licensed, which is both a lengthy procedure and expensive.

Community of Hope (COH) sponsored Dr. Svara's talk. Lynne Albright of COH offered an opening prayer, and Kay Bigglestone moderated the discussion and introduced members from St. Matthews and St. Michael's & All Angels parishes. For more information about joining Community of Hope's new training program beginning Oct. 2, contact Kay at wbigglestone@cox.net.

By *Harriet Claiborne*

As I watched the fire dancers at the fiesta for Father Steve and Jean this last week, I thought of the flames of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. I saw that adults and children were mesmerized at the burning torches, and filled with awe at the sight of the dancers moving so gracefully. I prayed that the visible fire of the torches would also be a sign of the invisible spirit that also burns brightly and is inherent at Grace St. Paul's. We begin a new program year with a new priest, new energy and lots of new adventures ahead!

Children/Youth Ministries is off to a good start, even as we are trying to organize our calendars and still be flexible. By the time you read this, our youth and their families will have enjoyed a day at Annie's Apple Orchard with their mentor, Wendy Pipentacos. Meanwhile, Madeleine Caldwell and a committee of loving grandmothers will be caring for our littlest ones in the Nursery. Christian formation really begins there! Nadine Cole, Emily Nickerson and Minda Dettman continue to listen to God with children from age 3 up through Kindergarten, with the help of the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* curriculum. For our older ones, *Seasons of the Spirit* is the curriculum that helps us move from season to season within the church year. Holly Shinn, Clif Click and Noah Dettman are using it with our 1st and 2nd graders. Nansi Naranjo and I are pinch hitting for Jim Kane in the 3rd and 4th grade, and it has been quite fun to introduce this lively group to the awesome library of books contained within the covers of the Holy Bible. We will also be participating in liturgical studies with Beth Miksa and Allison Towner, for the Bible comes alive in the liturgy: one without the other loses its power. Alicia and Rogelio Lara are taking on the 5th and 6th graders, who are hard at work writing Prayers of the People for the Children's Sabbath on Oct. 17. They like to act—we may see a play from them this year!

Things to put on your calendar, but keep flexible, are these: bring a stuffed animal to church in the morning of **Sunday, Oct. 3**. We will be singing "All Things Bright and Beautiful," and all will be blessed. Come back in the evening with live animals and they will be blessed on the labyrinth.

Oct. 17 is the celebration of the Children's Sabbath and we plan an intergenerational service, with children and youth leading the adults in the service. This is also our evening to host dessert and conversation with Father Steve and Jean.

Oct. 31 is All Hallows Eve and a chance for all the children—and those who are children in spirit!—to dress up as a favorite saint. We haven't done that in awhile!

Nov. 7—Check-in Meeting with teachers, parents and mentors at 11:30 a.m. Come and let us know how you think things are going.

Blessings to all and remember that "A little child shall lead them." You are welcome to call Harriet at 299-6123 or email her at ChildrenYouth@grace-stpauls.org.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Come, enjoy, and learn through our class offerings to let go of our transition and say hello to the new season. These classes are timely for the new creation season, your development of interfaith awareness, and deepening your journey in Spirituality.

Animals and Spirituality

Sunday, Oct. 3

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

Animals and Spirituality is now an official ministry at Grace St. Paul's. We'll spend time discussing the ministry of animals and what we at Grace St. Paul's can do to support this ministry. We will explore St. Francis' role in this vital ministry and how our respect for animals and nature fits in with God's creation.

Facilitated by the Rev. Nadine Martin, n/TSSF and Chris Ledyard, TSSF. Both are members of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis (TSSF), a religious community in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. Both are committed animal lovers.

Can You Believe What You See?

Sunday, Oct. 3

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mc Bride Hall

An interactive activity featuring cartoon images of immigrants throughout history and how the media and culture inform our perceptions and our attitudes. A light lunch of soup and salad will be provided for a small fee.

Facilitated by the Bridging Borders Committee.

Good Grief Group:

A Journey through Grief

Mondays, Oct. 4-Nov. 15

4:30-6:30 p.m., Bloom Education Center

This is a seven-week, process-oriented, closed group for people who have lost a loved one. It is based on Alan Wolfelt's needs of mourning: acknowledging the reality of the death, embracing the pain and loss, remembering the person who died, developing a new self identity, searching for meaning, receiving ongoing support from others. The group will include sharing, meditation and prayer, and simple assignments. The group will conclude with a Labyrinth Walk or Eucharist.

Facilitated by Deacon Nancy Meister and Virginia Zuelow. Nancy Meister was ordained a deacon in January 2010 and is a licensed clinical social worker. She recently retired as an oncology social worker at the Arizona Cancer Center. Virginia Zuelow is a financial planner. They have both been through Mourner's Path training through the diocese and have facilitated grief groups at the church in the past.

Contemplative Prayer/ Meditation Practice

Sunday, Oct. 17

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

The terms contemplation and meditation are often used interchangeably. In this class we will discuss how some people differentiate between these two terms and will give examples of different "techniques" for each. In the busy and fast-paced life of our modern world, it is like an oasis in the desert to step into this ancient practice, even for a brief time. The goal of all meditation or contemplation is learning to listen to God instead of giving a monologue. Attentive listening can keep us in tune with the Spirit of God. There will be an opportunity to experience one type of contemplation called Centering Prayer. A list of resources will be provided for those interested in more experiences of centering prayer or other types of contemplation. We will also discuss the possible formation of a meditation/contemplation group at GSP that will meet on a weekly basis.

Facilitated by Linda Hutson and David Clements.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Standing in Line

Sunday, Oct. 17

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., McBride Hall

Participants will understand some of the many hurdles encountered by anyone desiring to come to the United States legally through this experiential presentation using role-plays. A light lunch of soup and salad will be provided for a small fee.

Facilitated by Borderlinks and the Bridging Borders Ministry.

Crossan at GSP Revisited

Two Sundays, Oct. 31 & Nov. 7

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

We will view and discuss clips of the lectures on "Literalism and Fundamentalism" given by Dominic Crossan when he spoke at Grace St. Paul's in 2003. How do Crossan's concepts of Progressive Christianity match or differ from yours?

Facilitated by Steve Williams, co-chair of GSP's Social Justice Covenant Group.

Islam—An Introduction

Two Sundays, Oct. 31 & Nov. 7

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Bloom Education Center

This is an introductory survey of the religious and cultural foundations of Islam. Our main approach centers on the religious doctrines and teachings of Islam. First, we will cover Islamic doctrines, and ritual practices. Second, we will provide an overview of the Qur'an and the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. Third, we will focus on the intellectual diversity within Islam and cover the differences between Sunni and Shi'i Islam as well as the mystical practices of Sufism. Fourth, we will discuss some of the modern interpretations within Islam and their variations across the Muslim World. Finally, we will look at Islamic practices and Muslims in America, and Europe.

Samy Ayoub is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona in the Near Eastern Studies Department. Currently, he is studying at the James E. Rogers College of Law. He was trained in Islamic Studies in Egypt and United Kingdom. Samy is teaching a course on the Religion of Islam and Arabic at the University of Arizona.

Community of Hope Training

Saturday, Nov. 6,

9:30-11:30 a.m., Weeks Room

This will be a discussion of "Listening Skills for Pastoral Care." \$5 fee for materials. This training is designed especially for those interested in becoming a lay chaplain through Community of Hope. Open to all.

Presenter to be announced.

Adult Education & Spiritual Formation Meeting (open to all)

Tuesday, Nov. 9

7-8:30 p.m., Weeks Room

Have you ever wondered about a special topic in your spiritual life? Alternatively, have you read a book that you think would help others grow in their spirituality? Ever wanted to facilitate a class or small group? If so, come to the Adult Education planning meeting. Topics and class facilitators for the 2011 Spring Schedule are wanted and needed. The more the merrier! If you need a class proposal form, or have any immediate questions, contact Chris LaBour or Chris Ledyard, TSSF, Co-Chairpersons of the Adult Spiritual Formation and Education Covenant Group, through the church office at 327-6857.



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What's Happening at GSP in October

2nd 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café
 9:30 a.m., *Pastoral Care Training*

3rd **St. Francis Day**
 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Child Care
 9 a.m., *Animals & Spirituality*
 10 a.m., Sunday School
 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour
 11:30 a.m., *Can You Believe What You See?*
 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp
6 p.m., Blessing of the Animals on the Labyrinth

4th 4:30 p.m., *Good Grief Group: A Journey Through Grief*
 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

5th 7 p.m., *Emneagrams: A Tool for Spiritual Development*

6th 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)
 6 p.m., Global Chant
 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)

7th 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
 6 p.m., M3M

9th 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café
 9 a.m., *Anamcara Circle*—registrants only
 9:30 a.m., *Pastoral Care Training*

10th 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Child Care
9 a.m., GSP Ministry Fair
 10 a.m., Sunday School
 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist
11:15 a.m., GSP Ministry Fair
 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp
 6:30 p.m., Conversation & Dessert w/Fr. Steve & Jean

11th **Columbus Day**
 4:30 p.m., *Good Grief Group*
 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

12th **TBA, Bridging Borders Trip to Esperanza y Paz, Nogales, Sonora**
 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 11 group

13th 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)
 6 p.m., Global Chant
 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)

14th 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
 6 p.m., M3M

15th **Diocesan Convention in PHX**

16th **Diocesan Convention in PHX**
 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café
 9:30 a.m., *Pastoral Care Training*

17th 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Child Care
 9 a.m., *Contemplative Prayer*
 10 a.m., Sunday School
 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 11:30 a.m., *Standing in Line*
 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp
 6:30 p.m., Conversation & Dessert w/Fr. Steve & Jean

18th 4:30 p.m., *Good Grief Group*
 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

19th 7 p.m., *Emneagrams: A Tool for Spiritual Development*

20th 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)
 6 p.m., Global Chant
 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)

21st 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
 6 p.m., M3M & 3rd Thursday potluck

23rd 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café

24th **Food Ministries Sunday**
 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Child Care
 9 a.m., *Parish Wellness Update*
 10 a.m., Sunday School
 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 11:30 a.m., *Parish Wellness Update*
 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp
 6:30 p.m., Conversation & Dessert w/Fr. Steve & Jean

25th 4:30 p.m., *Good Grief Group*
 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

26th 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 11 group

27th 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)
 6 p.m., Global Chant
 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)

28th 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
 6 p.m., M3M

30th 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café

31st 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Child Care
 9 a.m., *Crossan at GSP Revisited*
 10 a.m., Sunday School
 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 11:30 a.m., *Islam: An Introduction*

11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp

Looking forward to November

1st 4:30 p.m., Good Grief Group
 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

2nd **5 a.m.-8:30 p.m., General Election**

3rd 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)
 6 p.m., Global Chant
 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)

4th 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
 6 p.m., M3M

6th 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café
 9:30 a.m., *Pastoral Care Training—Community of Hope*

7th 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Child Care
 9 a.m., *Crossan at GSP Revisited*
 10 a.m., Sunday School
 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 11:30 a.m., *Islam: An Introduction*
 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp

8th 4:30 p.m., *Good Grief Group*
 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

9th 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 11 group
 7 p.m., *Adult Education & Spiritual Formation Meeting* (open to all)

10th 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)
 6 p.m., Global Chant
 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)

11th 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
 6 p.m., M3M

13th 8:30 a.m., Coffee at Epic Café
 9 a.m., *Anamcara Circle*
 9:30 a.m., *Pastoral Care Training*

14th **Stewardship Sunday**
 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Child Care
 9 a.m., Stewardship Sunday Brunch
 10 a.m., Sunday School
 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 11:30 a.m., *Stewardship Sunday Brunch*
 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp

15th 4:30 p.m., *Good Grief Group*
 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

17th 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist
 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)