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# **Rector's Letter**

or much of Judeo/Christian/Muslim history, there has been a resonant theme of hierarchical division between humanity and the rest of the earth. Humans have been seen as a species above the rest of creation, who have been given a divine "right of kings" to do with the earth and its other inhabitants as they saw fit.

I believe this was partially the unfortunate result of an interpretation of the Torah that did not take into account the spiritual tradition from which it evolved. The compilers of the book of Genesis were surrounded by cultures where gods were seen in nature. Against this world view, Genesis sees a

more powerful God that rules over all nature, leading us down the path of a hierarchical universe, where humans are given "dominion over" all other creatures. We abandoned gods of nature for a God that was discontinuous with the universe. Despite what may have been the intention

A utilitarian relationship with the earth does not accurately represent our Biblical tradition...

of the Genesis editors, once God was cast above nature, God was interpreted as separate from nature.

This understanding of the separateness of God from nature is very noticeable when Christianity travels to Celtic regions. The church finds a culture supporting the notion of pantheism, the idea that God is contained within nature. To guard against these pagan notions, Christian leaders believed it was essential to eliminate pantheism, emphasizing in even stronger ways the transcendent God, the God who is up there somewhere and not linked with this world in any way.

The push to emphasize only the transcendent nature of God throughout the centuries within the church has had a profound impact on the natural world. Some theologians and religious leaders have begun to recognize

the disastrous effects of this interpretation, and the part that Christian tradition has played in the destruction of God's world. Their response has been to see humanity as having a different duty. That duty is most often described as stewardship. Within it, humans are seen as the ones given authority by God over the rest of the earth. But they also point out that the same book of Genesis says that God

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The kids had loads of fun and played lots of different games on Sept. 16 at the GSP Sunday School & Youth Program Registration Kick-off Event. See more, Page 5.

# Submissions to *The Briefly*

Please submit articles to Lizzy Gooden, **BrieflyEditor@ grace-stpauls.org**. Calendar items go to Wendy Pipentacos at **wendypipe@yahoo. com**. John Banks receives photos, charts, and graphics at **jdbanks@ gmail.com**.

## **Rector's Letter**

Continued from Page 1

continually refers to creation as "good." Since God sees creation as good, then it is humanity's responsibility to be careful stewards of the earth with which we have been entrusted.

The stewardship approach is a good corrective to the past. The problem with it, however, is that the earth and all of its inhabitants, other than humans, are seen as "resources" for us. We are told that we should take care of the earth's natural resources so that they will still be available to our children. Our relationship with the earth remains a utilitarian one. We see this theology embedded in our *Prayer Book*. For example, in Eucharistic Prayer C, the so-called Creation Great Thanksgiving, it states that God is the ruler of creation, continuing to foster this hierarchical understanding. In Form IV of the Prayers of the People we hear, "Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others..."

The time has come to see that a utilitarian relationship with the earth does not accurately represent our Biblical tradition. It forgets that the God of Christianity is first and foremost a God of immanence, a God who is with us and all creation in a very tangible way. It also does not honor Jesus who threw out the hierarchies and told us that it is our job to create a world of egalitarianism, where the rejected human is just as important as the leader of a nation, where the mountain lion has just as much right to the land as you or I.

This is the reason that we celebrate the

Season of Creation at Grace St. Paul's. What is going to save this planet is not convincing the world that we can economically justify preserving the environment. The only way we are going to prevent catastrophe and preserve the natural world is if we make the connection between God and creation. People need to realize at a visceral level what it really means when we say Christ is with us. We mean that the earth is part of God and as such, the earth is a sacred, living being. Only by recognizing the sacredness of creation, will we begin to see that when we damage the earth, we are damaging the very essence of God.

Perhaps more than any other vehicle, it is through evocative liturgy that people experience such a drastic change in worldview at the depths of their souls. If we are truly going to preserve the natural world, I believe it is up to us as the church to make it happen. That is why I encourage all of you to experience the season of Creation that we begin on October 4, the feast of Francis of Assisi. That evening, we will have a blessing of the animals at 5:30 PM to honor Francis and to help connect us with all of creation. Then on October 7, we will open the season of Creation with a stunningly beautiful liturgy. Not only do I believe it will change each of us, but through us, it will change the entire world.

Steve+

# Parish Wellness Meeting Oct. 14 Ry Martha P.L. Whitakar, Senior Warden

Plan to attend one of the Parish
Wellness Meetings after the 8 AM & 10 AM Sunday services on October
14. You'll learn about all the ministry news, the status of our Long-Term Strategic
Planning Committee, and take part in a discussion about the past summer's liturgical experiments. We will want your opinions on:

• The shorter announcements at the beginning of the service, followed by a time of quiet and darkness before the prelude, which contribute to creating a more meditative worship space;

- The longer time between meditation bells, which helps continue the meditative feel throughout the service;
- The change to our bulletin to add all of the hymns and make the bulletin easy-to-use for everyone, but especially newcomers;
- The Sunday Bulletin having been available for download to an electronic device;
- The availability of a QR code at the front door of the church for downloading the Sunday Bulletin as you enter; and
- The 8 a.m. Sunday worship experiment of utilizing a *Prayer Book* liturgy

I look forward to seeing you all there!

# Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund By Martha P.L. Whitaker,

Senior Warden

In August 2012, the Vestry voted to identify the second Sunday of each liturgical season as the day on which the loose plate offering is designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF).

Since Fr. Steve's arrival, 100 percent of the RDF has been used to support social service ministries, to assist those in need. That means that all of your donation goes to support this ministry.

Your next opportunity to donate to the RDF is Oct. 14, the day of the Parish Wellness Meeting.

Here is a handy cutand-save list of Sundays through 2013, designated for the RDF:

- Oct. 14, 2012
- Dec. 9, 2012
- Dec. 30, 2012
- Jan. 13, 2013Feb. 24, 2013
- April 7, 2013
- May 26, 2013
- Oct. 13, 2013
- Dec. 8, 2013
- Dec. 29, 2013 Feel free to post it on

your refrigerator!

# Liturgy Discussion of the Month

By The Rev. Steve Keplinger+

Thile many of us were excited by the fact that a same-sex blessing rite was approved at General Convention this summer, I was personally disappointed that a number of other liturgical resolutions never made it to the light of day. Specifically, I had high hopes that the work we did as the Season of Creation subcommittee would be considered. That included a possible new liturgy for the loss of a companion animal, as well as proposals for the entire church to consider adopting the Season of Creation. One of the liturgical pieces of the latter included a series of Collects that we had written for Sunday use during the season. These resolutions were not rejected. They were all just set aside for future consideration.

Obviously I am a bit biased, but I believe those Collects do a very nice job capturing the theology of creation that I spoke about in the *Rector's Letter*. Rather than understanding our relationship with nature as a utilitarian or hierarchical one, they very beautifully embrace an ethic of kinship with all of the created order. The theological language of interconnection and interdependence comes through well and highlights the sacredness of the created order. Of course, I don't like everything about them and I was voted down on a few concepts

I suggested. But I believe they are light years ahead of anything we presently have.

Since we are already celebrating the Season of Creation at Grace St. Paul's, it seems a nobrainer that we take advantage of the hard work the committee did in coming up with these Collects. Therefore, we will utilize them as our Collects of the Day throughout the Season of Creation at our 10 a.m. Sunday service. Since they have not yet been approved by Convention though, their use will be experimental. It would be a great help to the committee to know what a parish thinks of them. So while I am sure each of you will be immersed in all of what we do in our Creation liturgies, I would like you to pay particular attention to the Collects of the Day. Let us know what you think and I can report your observations and thoughts back to the chair of the committee. In this way, we will continue to have an impact on where the church as a whole goes with this in the future.

In the same way, we would appreciate your feedback about all aspects of our Creation liturgies. We are particularly interested in whether you experience them as helpful in understanding our relationship with the world in a new way. Perhaps even more importantly, do the liturgies emotionally move you? Are they as powerful as the liturgies in other liturgical seasons? Do they have the same impact on you as an Easter or Advent liturgy?

The Season of Creation begins on Oct. 7 and runs through Nov. 25.

# Diocesan Convention 2012: "Realizing God's Dream" By Martha P.L. Whitaker, Senior Warden

SP clergy, Wardens, delegates and alternates will attend the Diocesan Convention, "Realizing God's Dream" in Phoenix, Oct. 19-20. There are workshops on grant writing, stewardship, communication, and more. Our own Debbie Royals+ will be co-leading "The Doctrine of Discovery," which is about how this material changed the lives of many indigenous peoples worldwide. There will be a discussion of how this affected us, what happened, and how we are now beginning to deal with making the change after hundreds of years.

This year the Convention Business includes the election of a Secretary to the Convention, the election of members

for the Standing Committee, and election of members to the Diocesan Council. This year's Keynote Presenter is The Most Rev. Frank Griswold, retired Presiding Bishop. The title of his address is "Listening with the Ear of the Heart."

GSP clergy eligible to vote at convention are The Rev. Steve Keplinger, The Rev. Mary Delaney, The Rev. Joe Fitzgerald, The Rev. Nancy Meister, The Rev. Debbie Royals, and The Rev. Anne Sawyer. The Rev. Rosanna Kazanjian will attend as non-voting clergy.

Martha Whitaker (Senior Warden) and Mark Drew (Junior Warden) are eligible to vote, as are delegates elected to attend: Chris Eastoe, Beth Miksa, Steve Williams, Eric Carr, and Peggy Scott. Spencer Hunter and Ann Schlumberger are alternates.

Please keep all of us in your prayers.

# Liturgy & Music

# Notes from the Choir

By Christina Jarvis, **Director of Music** 



## **Musica Sonora**

St. Hildegard von Bingen: Reflections of Living Light By Christina Jarvis

lildegard von Bingen **I** (1098–1179) was one of the most influential women of her age. Abbess, visionary, author, composer, public preacher, and religious reformer, she was proclaimed a prophetess in her day and this year was made a saint.

Singers Cassandra Ewer and Karen Knudsen from the Phoenix Chorale join with Mireille Hofmann Jacquod, Christina Jarvis, and organist Jeffri Sanders to perform a program of her liturgical songs and an excerpt from the Ordo Virtutum, a music drama—the first morality play in music history.

Sunday, Oct. 14, 4 p.m., at GSP. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$5 for students. Available at the door.

For more information, call 628-8119 or visit musicasonora.org.

he season has turned and the days are shorter. The choir has returned to the chancel like the swallows to Mission San Juan Capistrano, although you'll be glad to know they aren't building mud nests in the rafters of the church. We are approaching the Season of Creation, which begins on Oct. 7, the Sunday after St. Francis' Day. We have special music planned for that day. The

> St. Cecelia's and St. Zeno's Zombie choirs will join the Adult Choir and the Hand Bell Choir in a beautiful version of "All Creatures of Our God and King," except we'll use the alternate word choices and make it "All Creatures of Our God Now Sing." Publishers are gradually getting the message that some churches prefer progressive language. Of course, at Zombie practice we all want to sing the old words, especially me. Change takes conscious

effort.

Some change is well past overdue. After years of fidgeting on the increasingly threadbare and wobbly chairs passed on to us by Trinity Cathedral, we are finally getting new chairs for the chancel. We are deeply grateful to Chuck and Nan Hannan for their generous donation for this purpose. What a blessing! The choir might be so comfortable they won't want to stand to sing.

Some things won't change, though. We're making good use of the old friends in our choral library. From time to time we drag out the Oxen—the *Oxford Easy Anthem Book* (the Easy Ox) and the Oxford Book of Tudor Anthems (the Hard Ox); we've been having a good wallow in Anglican music this September, with anthems by L. J. White ("A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester"—it replaced a Shaker piece on Sept. 16, but the change didn't make it into the bulletin, in case you were wondering why the communion anthem that Sunday didn't sound very Shaker), Tudor composer William Mundy, and Charles Villiers Stanford.

The Mundy piece, "O Lord, the Maker of All Thing," is set for a divided choir. In English chapel or cathedral choirs, such as King's College, Cambridge, the choir stalls are divided and face each other, with the Decani on the

side near the Dean and the Cantoris on the side near the cantor. We will try to achieve a similar effect. It will be truly spatial.

For American music, we sang a real Shaker tune, "Followers of the Lamb", in a rowdy arrangement by Philip Dietterich. The edition came out around the time of the U.S. Bicentennial, when people were digging around to find suitable American composers to promote. The men are also singing a threepart arrangement of "Sweet Hour of Prayer" by William B. Bradley. Some of you from Baptist or evangelical backgrounds will love it because it reminds you of the music of your childhood. Others will hate it for the same reason. And just when you've gotten over that one, we'll sing a Mark Hayes arrangement of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

After having been restrained for a while, I decided to order some new music this fall. mostly for the Season of Creation. First, I'm using some of the repertoire we sang on the Central American tour earlier this summer, including "Creo en mi corazón" by Panamanian composer Gonzalo Brenes. I've ordered a beautiful arrangement of the Carl Schalk hymn, "God of the sparrow, God of the whale." One of the Zombies wants us to do "All God's Creatures Have a Place in the Choir." It would make a terrific ending to the Season of Creation, so I'll see what I can figure out. We won't be channeling Celtic Thunder, though (theirs isn't my favorite version, anyway). Whatever you do, don't go listen to it on YouTube. It will rattle around your head for three days straight. My cats have grown tired of having their little paws clapped.

May you and all your creatures have a blessed Season of Creation, enjoying the marvels of God's handiwork. Bring your beasts to the Blessing of the Animals, and if you have a chance, stop by the choir table during the Ministry Fair on Oct. 7. Be careful if you're a tenor, though—I have duct tape and I know how to use it.

Peace, Christina

# Young People Everywhere!



Young people, parents, youth leaders, and teachers enjoyed a pot-luck banquet and great company after the Sunday School Registration Kick-off Event on Sept. 16.



# **Children and Youth Registration Day** *By Rosalind Garcia*

id you notice the children and youth? They were everywhere on Children, Youth and Family Registration Day at GSP! They were downstairs meeting their teachers and playing Bocce ball, lawn darts, ring toss and doing relay races with Goldfish crackers. Perhaps you saw the aftermath of the races on the carpets downstairs, easily fixed with a quick run of the vacuum cleaner. Maybe you noticed the children upstairs, coming to lunch, still damp from runs through the sprinklers. Surely you noticed all the young

people with their teachers crowding the three front pews for Communion. It was a wonderful day of reunion, fun, noise and mess and a great start to our 2012-13 program year.

We had six new families registering children as well as many of our well-established families. In all we had 30 registrations turned in on that Sunday alone. More registrations will come in the next several weeks.

Be sure to watch for the children and become involved by contacting Rosalind Garcia, **Rosalind.Garcia@grace-stpauls.org** or call the office at 327-6857.

## New, Returning Volunteers & Staff for Children, Youth and Family Ministry By Rosalind Garcia

ne sign of a growing ministry is an increase in volunteers and staff ready to roll up their sleeves and get involved, even if it means getting a little dirty in the process. I want to thank all our new and returning volunteers. I especially want to thank Jean Keplinger for running our Summer Sunday program this summer. We are all extremely grateful for her amazing creativity and strong organizational skills.

Sunday school meets at 10 a.m. in the undercroft. Youth Groups begin after the 10

a.m. service and go until 12:30 p.m. If you have not yet registered for children and youth programs for the 2012-13 program year, registration forms are available from your child's teacher or youth leader or Rosalind.

Finally, GSP's Music Ministry offers wonderful experiences for children and youth with the St. Cecilia's Children's Choir, directed by Joan Brundage, with pianist Jane Click, and the St. Zeno's Zombie Choir, directed by Christina Jarvis, with Assistant Director Michael Sugimoto. Young people 3rd Grade and older may join the Acolyte program with permission of the Acolyte Coordinator, Allison Towner.

## Volunteers for the 2012-13 program year

### **Nursery and Childcare**

Madeleine Caldwell Ellen Caldwell

## **Sunday School**

# Beginning (Preschool and Kindergarten)

Lou Ann Bieging Judy Gossard Holden Sanders Joan Zatorski

### **Primary (1st-3rd Grades)**

Clif Click Holly Shinn

### Intermediate (4th and 5th Grades)

David Christy Jim Kane Jean Keplinger Chris Labour

## **Youth Programs**

### Rite 13 (6th and 7th Grades)

Wendy Pipentacos Michael Sugimoto Kevin Wadlow

#### J2A (8th and 9th Grades)

Brian Fairbanks Alice Garcia

## GSP GPS (10th-12th Grades)

Brian Atkinson

#### **Substitutes**

Jill Clements Alicia Lara

# Other Children & Youth Volunteers

Eric Carr (Youth Border Experience) Kitt Cordero (Youth Border Experience) Jay Hornbacker (Youth Drama

Carrie Kube (Parish Fun Night)

# Children & Youth



# **Mission Trip Youth Report**

Painting walls, sleeping on the floor, helping people, and what? No cell phones!?

By Kelsea Cordero & Minda Dettman hat comes to mind when you hear South Los Angeles? Skid Row? Watts? Youth Group Mission Trip? All three would be correct.

In July, members of the Grace St. Paul's Youth Group traveled to California to participate in Sierra Service Project Urban Experience. Sierra Service Project coordinates service projects and hosts youth from all over the United States in mission projects from Mexico, to the urban experience in Los Angeles. Youth leaders Rosalind Garcia, Mariel Watt, Brian Fairbanks, and Alice Garcia,

took a group of four youth, Kelsea Cordero, Minda Dettman, Carolyn McKee, and David Christy to L.A. for a week of work, worship and community. They were hosted by Wesley United Methodist Church.

All of the youth felt this was a wonderful experience, and would definitely go again if the opportunity presented itself. As Minda describes her feelings on the mission, "I really enjoyed getting to meet the people of South Central Los Angles. Whether it was on some of the outings we did as a big group, or when we were working at our work sites, (I was painting walls on Central Avenue) and people would stop by to say thank you." Our youth were assigned to the painting crew and worked long hours painting, and cleaning a small local grocery store.

There were many rules on the mission. The youth were not allowed to have any type of electronic devices such as cell phones, and dress was to be modest at all times. At night, the youth and leaders all slept in a gym at Rakestraw Memorial Community Education Center, and showers were limited to 3 minutes each.

"We slept on the floor of a gym in a local community center. There were about 85 of us, including counselors, and we had a boy side and a girl side. We didn't know an air mattress would have been so nice, so all we had were sleeping bags on the hard gym floor. It was uncomfortable, but it was a reminder that people everywhere sleep without beds a lot."

In addition to the painting, on one afternoon, the teens visited areas around South *Continued on Page 7* 



# Children & Youth



Ethan's photograph

# A Youth-to-Youth Interview with Ethan

By Andrew

ndrew: How old are you?
Ethan: I'm 14, and I'm in 9th grade.
Andrew: You're into rock climbing, right?

**Ethan**: Yes. Well, it's very difficult. There are very small rocks that are hard to get a grip on. If you fall that's a problem. I climb at a place called The Rock.

**Andrew**: What are some other things you like to do?

**Ethan**: I shoot. I shoot a 20-gage shotgun in Ozark Shooters down in Missouri. I shoot trap, clay discs.

Andrew: Do you hunt? Ethan: No, I don't hunt.

**Andrew**: Do you play a musical instrument? **Ethan**: Yes, I play the drums. I play in a

percussion group at school. **Andrew**: Like symphonic band?

Ethan: That's right.

**Andrew**: Do you have a favorite movie? **Ethan**: *RED*. That stands for "Retired and Extremely Dangerous." It's hilarious. The woman shoots the RPG (Rocket-Propelled Grenade), the guy shoots the grenade in the air

with a bullet, and it blows up.

**Andrew**: How about a favorite book? **Ethan**: *In the Woods* is my favorite book, a detective murder case. A recent case takes the detective back to his childhood, and he's uncovering his past as well as the case.

Andrew: Favorite TV show?

Ethan: *Eureka*! An ex-U.S. Marshall gets promoted to sheriff in the town of Eureka, where all the world's smartest scientists are secretly working together. There's a lot of explosions and a lot of stuff happens.

Andrew: Favorite video game?

**Ethan**: *Skyrim*. You go around the world killing

dragons.

**Andrew**: Do you do any artwork? **Ethan**: Not exactly. I draw in 3-D on the AutoCAD in my engineering class, and I do photography in Photo One.

Andrew: I hope you'll send us a photo, then.

**Ethan**: I will. (See above.)

Andrew: You're new to Grace St. Paul's. What

do you like so far?

**Ethan**: The fact that it's so connected. People are connected to each other. You couldn't get half the stuff done in a big church that you get

done at Grace St. Paul's.

## Mission Trip Youth Report Continued from Page 7

L.A., with some going to Skid Row, some to Watts, and our youth went to a local social agency called Homeboy Industries. When Carolyn was asked what her favorite part of the mission was, she quickly replied, "Definitely visiting Homeboy Industries." At Homeboy Industries, a former gang member spoke to the group, detailing his life of joining a gang when he was 8, and going to prison for the first time at age 12. Now he actively participates in Homeboy Industries, traveling the country as a

motivational speaker to other youth.

David said he loved every part of the mission, and there was not an un-favorite part. When asked what the best part of the mission was, Kelsea replied, "The best part of the mission had to be seeing the people's reactions as we helped them fix up their neighborhood. Most people were really thankful that we cared enough to do this for them. A lot of them even looked surprised at times that 'people like us would help people like them."

# Parish Life



# Parish Pot Luck & Fun Night

Join us for our first monthly pot luck and fun night on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 4-7 p.m. in McBride Hall. This is meant to be an easy, casual, come-as-you-are evening.

Bring something to share, but it doesn't need to be fancy or expensive. There will be games for the kids and this first time, we will figure out how to keep this event fun and easy for everybody.

A second date, Saturday, Dec. 1, from 4-7 p.m., is scheduled for the busy November/ December time.

Come join us and get to know other families!

**A-J**: please bring a side dish to share with 10 or more

**K-S**: please bring a main course to share with 10 or more

**T-Z**: please bring a dessert

Drinks will be provided. Please contact
Carrie Kube at kubeandyandcarrie@yahoo.com to let her know how many will be coming and what dish you will bring. You can also contact her for more information.

# Human Rights Watch Film Festival at GSP By Kitt Cordero

alling all Film Buffs, and Human Rights
Activists! Once again, Grace St. Paul's
is partnering with the Loft Theater
and has been called on to be a venue for the
The Human Rights Watch Film Festival. This
festival brings to light human rights violations
and creates a forum for courageous individuals,
both filming and being filmed, to empower
audiences with the knowledge that personal
commitment can make a difference. The film
festival brings to life human rights abuses
through storytelling in a way that challenges
each individual to empathize and demand
justice for all people.

Grace St. Paul's will be hosting "Call Me Kuchu" on Tuesday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. The film is free, and includes a post film discussion facilitated by community leaders.

The documentary follows activist David Kato's labors to repeal Uganda's homophobic laws and liberate his fellow lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender men and women, or "kuchus." But David's formidable task



just became more difficult. A new "Anti-Homosexuality Bill" proposes the death penalty for HIV-positive gay men and prison for anyone who fails to turn in a known homosexual. Working with a dedicated group of fellow activists, David fights for Kampala's *kuchus* on Ugandan television, at the United Nations, and in the courts. He insists, "If we keep on hiding, they will say we are not here."

With unprecedented access, "Call Me Kuchu" examines the battle against an oppressive government, a vicious media and a powerful church in the fight for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights.

All screenings at all locations for the Festival are *free to the public*. You can look up other screenings at **loftcinema.com** and click on Special Events.

# Kinship Corner

# Just Say Yes!

By Peggy Scott

ou're going to be seeing a lot of *Just Say Yes* phrases in the coming weeks. And you are going to have many opportunities to "just say yes," starting with the Ministry Fair on Oct. 7, all the way through Giving & Receiving Sunday on Nov. 18.

At the Ministry Fair, you'll be able to see all the great things that we do to bring God into people's lives. On Giving & Receiving Sunday, you'll be able to say yes to making all those ministries thrive and grow with your own personal gifts of time, talent and money.

Why is saying yes a good thing? Jamie Stringfellow, a freelance writer, gathered

stories from other researchers in psychology and neuroscience about how saying yes makes a difference in our bodies and minds in her article entitled "Just Say Yes" in the July-August edition of *Spirituality & Health* magazine.

Some of the main points that Ms. Stringfellow makes about saying yes are:

- •Yes leads to creativity and problem solving
- •Yes strengthens bonds with other people
- Yes broadens your outlook
- •Saying yes to adventure re-creates your brain
- Yes is good for your relationships
- •If you practice, saying maybe can be just as instinctive as saying no
- •What's important is not so much the yes as the willingness to say yes What are you passionate about? *Just say*

yes!



# Be Proud with GSP

By Bruce Anderson



Carly Frieders, Youth Grand Marshal for the Pride Parade, is a freshmen at Sahuarita High School. She is a 2012–13 GLSEN ambassador and has been a straight ally since the second grade.

or the last several years, Grace St. Paul's GLBT and straight members have participated in Tucson's annual Pride celebration. This year the various Pride events in Tucson occur during the week culminating Oct. 13.

First, Grace St. Paul's will host a Multi-Faith Pride Service on Oct. 11 (*see Debbie Royals' article below*).

Then on Saturday, Oct. 13, Tucson's Pride Committee has planned a parade and festival, based on the theme "Pride Links Us Together."

As outreach, GSP's Congregational Development Committee invites all interested members to represent our parish in the following ways:

• Be present at the Multi-Faith Pride Service, Thursday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m.

• Participate in the Pride Parade by simply showing up at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13, at GSP's parking lot. A banner, the processional poles, and all other materials will be provided. If you have a GSP T-shirt, please wear it, along with whatever head covering and sunscreen you will need. You will be in the sun from 9:45 until about 11:30 (the parade starts at 11, but it's very short), unless you decide to continue to the festival. The parade route is along Sixth Avenue, between 18th St. and 12th St. This is great fun, as GSP is recognized in the GLBT community as being a great place, so cheers and cheery hellos are commonplace as we process.

• Represent Grace St. Paul's at our table at the Pride Festival, held this year in Armory Park. A sign-up has been circulated at coffee hours for several weeks. If you would like to represent GSP and haven't signed up, please contact Bruce Anderson at <a href="mailto:azlizard@comcast.net">azlizard@comcast.net</a> or 546-6706. This is a fun way to engage people in conversation and show that Christianity can be something positive for GLBT people!

For further information about Tucson's 2012 Pride Festival, visit <u>tucsonpride.org/2012</u>.

# **Love Wins**

By The Rev. Debbie Royals+

ove Wins is the theme for the 4th Annual Multi-Faith Pride Service, hosted this year by Grace St. Paul's. The service is Thursday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m., while doors open at 6 p.m. Included in the service are representatives from the Jewish, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and Wiccan communities, to name a few. One of the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers,

Mona Polanca, will lead a water blessing, and music from various groups, including the GSP choir, will be a part of the service.

Each year the planning group chooses a service project to support. This year the service

project is the Habitat for Humanity Rainbow Build. GSP is decorating a house that will be on display the day of the event as a part of the Rainbow Village being built by the participating faith communities. Our hope is to retire the final \$2,500 debt for the build.

The Multi-Faith Service is also linked to this year's Pride Festival where GSP will have a table and participate in the parade. On Saturday, Oct. 13, couples who would like to participate in a mass commitment ceremony are asked to register at the Pride Service and come to the festival to participate in the ceremony. The ceremony is a mass demonstration favoring Marriage Equality.

Check out the **Facebook** invite pages for the service and for the commitment ceremony: **facebook.com/tucson.pride**.



# Altar Guild calls for Volunteers

By Aimee Graves

Do you enjoy working on a team? Getting to know others in a small group and informal setting?

If so, Grace St. Paul's Altar Guild may be the perfect setting for you to get to know others more intimately while supporting our church community in this important ministry.

Many team members volunteer once a month to set up for 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. Others choose to be on-call to set up for services that mark particularly special transitions in congregants' lives, such as memorial services and weddings.

Please contact Aimee Graves, aimeegraves67@gmail.com or 971-7247 if you would like to find out more about volunteering with the Altar Guild Ministry.

Each month, your vestry requests an update from one of the covenant groups. Here's this month's report.

# Congregational Development

By Bruce Anderson

he Congregational Development
Ministry Group was commissioned
in 2007 by the Vestry to develop
the human and financial resources needed
to promote growth of the church and
its ministries. The group does this by
providing advice to the following Grace St.
Paul's ministries: Advertising, Welcoming
Newcomers (including the Greeters program),
Planned Giving, and Giving and Receiving.

The Communications and Long-range Planning ministries have also been since placed under the ministry group's umbrella. The Annual Convention and Vestry ministry also falls in Congregational Development for budgeting purposes.

Four individuals, including the rector and three laypersons, meet once a month to discuss Congregational Development issues face-to-face. Topics of discussion include ways to grow and develop the parish, its ministries, and its people and to broaden Grace St. Paul's reach into the Greater Tucson community. Between meetings, communication is maintained via email with all interested persons in the ministry group.

The ministry group supports the mission and vision of Grace St. Paul's through its activities to increase participation, awareness, and support of the parish.

#### **Advertising:**

### Pride Service, Parade, and Festival:

The Interfaith Pride Service is at GSP on Thursday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m. Choir and clergy will participate. Congregation and Vestry are encouraged to come to show support. Parade and Festival are on Saturday, Oct. 13, and will feature very interactive volunteers, drawing people into conversation about the parish.

**Summer '13 Big Event**: To help Tucsonans see a different perspective of Christianity than what is offered in the media and the web,

and hear Steve's (and perhaps others') unique perspective on women, family, and biblical literacy. It could be a 3- or 4-night event (like a revival), with a large amount of advance advertising. This large-scale advertising will also help create an image for GSP, the results of which are never necessarily immediately evident.

Newspaper and Radio: KUAZ ads have proven very effective and will be used again at least for Christmas and Easter, possibly other times, as well. Newspaper is being evaluated—perhaps to be used with other Tucson Episcopal parishes in one advertisement—and Facebook ads will be considered.

**Parish brochure**: A parish brochure is being designed.

**Signage:** Signs directing traffic to GSP will be installed at Campbell and Elm, and at Elm and Norton. Steve is checking into signage at Speedway and Norton.

Bring a Friend to Church: The committee will create articles and resources to encourage parishioners to bring friends to church. A particularly large push will be made, perhaps for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

### **Welcoming Newcomers:**

A new staff-driven greeting program has been put in place. Six sets of two or three greeters rotate each Sunday.

Welcome table: KiKi Fenik reports the numbers of guests who have submitted "purple pew cards" or other contact information. These individuals are contacted by GSP as a follow-up to their visit to church services.

## **Planned Giving:**

We are in need of an energetic, knowledgeable individual to lead efforts in planned giving.

#### **Communications:**

Has responsibility for *The Briefly*, web page, weekly e-blast, Facebook page, forthcoming Pinterest account, Meetup page, and YouTube.

Our Facebook and web pages are widely viewed and regularly receive accolades from

Continued on Page 13



Fr. Steve+ gives a blessing to Mary and Tom Gould, who are moving to Salt Lake City.

# **GSP Bids 'Farewell'** to Tom & Mary Gould By Martha P.L. Whitaker, Senior Warden

first met Tom and Mary Gould at a newcomers' dinner at Chuck and Pat Dickson's home in 2001 when I was pregnant with my twins, Rachel and Robert. That was over eleven years ago! Since then I have met several of their five children, and have seen photos on Facebook of Mary with grandchildren (13!) and great-grandchildren (5!). One of Mary and Tom's daughters, Barbara, is even attending seminary at Church Divinity School of the Pacific—the very same seminary where one of my sisters is studying to become a priest.

With all of these connections, I—and many others at GSP—am sad to see Mary and Tom move to Salt Lake City. Mary enjoyed serving in some of the ministries when she and Tom first joined GSP. She was an Office Welcome (OWel) volunteer for quite some time, and also helped prepare meals for Primavera. It is no surprise that when asked what she will miss most about GSP, Mary did not hesitate to reply, "people"!

We will miss Mary and Tom, but wish them well in their new home in Salt Lake City.



**Well-Wishes** & Goodbyes to Kate Ure By Eric K. Carr

ate Ure has faithfully attended GSP's 8 a.m. service for over a year, but she first ►visited from her native United Kingdom during our interim period. While in the U.K., Kate attended Durham Cathedral, which opened its doors 996 years ago.

Although Kate came from such a "high church" background, she looked up Anglican churches during her first visit to Tucson and found our website to be the one that spoke to her the most. She said the congregation was welcoming, open, and thoughtful, and remembers thinking that GSP was like a "coiled spring" full of energy that would be released under new leadership.

By the time she moved to Tucson, Fr. Steve had been chosen the new rector, and the church was thriving as she expected. Kate quickly became an integral part of the church, devouring adult education classes, contributing to Joseph's Pantry, and making important friendships.

After a year of heartbreak, including the unexpected death of her father in Scotland, Kate felt surrounded by support at GSP. Now, however, she and her husband, Tim, are

moving to Madrid, where Tim will be working as a fellow at the European Space Agency.

Kate says she will miss the people here most of all, and that she appreciates how the liturgies are open, approachable, and meaningful. The adult education classes are thought-provoking and inspiring, and encourage critical thinking, which is important to her as an educator. (Kate taught chemistry and science, and will be updating her credentials so she can teach in Spain.)

Before leaving, Kate said GSP parishioners are the luckiest people on earth because we have Fr. Steve. "He's a gem. Hold on to him with both hands and perhaps he'll never leave." She will also always be grateful to GSP because we brought such fantastic people into her life.

She will try to come back and visit. Tim will still be working with some people in Tucson, and if the University offers him a new contract, they will come back to live here again.

Whatever happens, we wish her well, and will be praying for a great new beginning in Spain. Kate will be deeply missed, and we are very grateful for the time we had with her this past year.



## A Greener Briefly in Every Way By Elizabeth Gooden, Editor

Did you know that you can receive *The Briefly* online instead of in the mail? This option saves paper (and trees), labor, and money.

But that's not all! If you get *The Briefly* online, you also view the photos in full color. You'll see the green grass that the children are playing on (green—get it?) and the colorful vegetables in the community garden.

Another advantage to the on-line *Briefly* is larger print. You can use your "zoom" feature to enlarge articles for easier reading.

The mail option is still alive and well, so if that is your preference, we'll keep you on the list! You don't need to do a thing to keep getting your news in your mailbox.

If you wish to change from getting a paper edition to an electronic one, please contact David Wachter, gsp1@ dakotacom.net.

You can also open the current issue of *The Briefly* and issues from the past four years on the GSP website, gsptucson.org.

# Galaz ordained into Transitional Deaconate

By Martha P.L. Whitaker, Senior Warden

n Sept. 8, at Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix, Bishop Kirk Smith ordained two new transitional deacons, including GSP's own Ernie Galaz.

A transitional deacon is one who is ordained as a deacon en route to becoming ordained as a priest at a later date.

For the past year, Ernie has been serving as a subdeacon and preaching on a regular basis at St. Andrew's in Tucson. He has been attentive to the specific needs of the parish as well as ministering to the needs of the community outside the church. He is now on his way to becoming a priest.

Congratulations, Ernie!



Ernie Galaz (far right) and Bruce Jackson with Bishop Smith after being ordained to the Transitional Deaconate on September 8, 2012

To read Bishop Smith's *E-pistle* about Ernie's ordination and what it means to the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, see "Transitional Deacons, In More Ways Than One," at <u>azdiocese.org/dfc/newsdetail 2/3155321</u>.

# Trinity Institute Nov. 9, 10 & 14

By Lynne Albright

he Trinity Institute will be coming to us from Trinity Episcopal Church, Wall Street. The conference will explore questions such as:

- How can we energize our communities as forces for positive change in the world around us?
- What practices help us to discern where we are called to engage?
- Where may we find sources of creativity and resilience within our tradition?
- How can we work in partnership with those of other faiths and no faith as we follow God's call?

The webcast will be available in GSP's McBride Hall:

Friday, Nov. 9—7-9:15 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 10—9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Trinity Institute's Sunday sermon will be shown as a webcast on Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Weeks Room, or by special arrangement.

Speakers are:

**Joan Chittister, OSB**, who has been a leading voice for the essential connection between spirituality and social action for more than three decades.

**Richard Rohr, OFM**, who will preach at the conference Eucharist on Sunday. Rohr is a Franciscan priest of the New Mexico Province.

Registration forms are available in the office (327-6857), after services at the Welcome Table, or at gsptucson.org.



# Winter Clothes & Power Bars By Toni Sue Brooks

omeless women are the focus of Toni Sue Brooks' Mustard Seed Ministries. She goes on foot, looking for homeless women to give each one a brochure about services she can receive and to say a prayer with her. Then she leaves them with a soft Power Bar and something warm to wear as the weather cools down.

Toni Sue needs donations of winter clothes for women: hats, scarves, gloves, jackets, hoodies, and socks. (Socks are especially important.) She also needs soft Power Bars, soft because many of the women lack some of their teeth.

You can find Toni Sue to make donations or to learn more after both Sunday services.



# **Congregational Development**

Continued from Page 10 around the country. We're shooting for 500+ Likes on Facebook.

The Briefly recently experienced a smooth transition of leadership; it enjoys a wide variety of authors each issue.

Readership and participation metrics are being rounded up and will be the means to study and improve our communications within and outside the parish. Many of them are world-class at this time.

The push to encourage email distribution of *The Briefly* has met limited success. However, there are now 400 paper newsletters sent (compared to 700+ five years ago).

This has been a significant cost savings to the parish and allows for timely publication, and attractive and color layout options.

# **Emergency Preparedness**

Emerging (and Re-emerging)
Infectious Diseases:

How do they affect us?

By The Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Martin & The Rev. Nadine Martin



he topic of microbial diseases (that is, diseases caused by "germs") is not easily grasped because we humans don't want to think about them until either a major outbreak occurs or until we become ill. We are geared to believe in what we can see—in other words, out of sight, out of mind. But microbes cannot be seen with the naked eye, so it's easy to dismiss them until they affect us personally.

Despite their bad press, however, microbes are primarily responsible for our overall health and well-being. For example, billions and even trillions of a vast array of these organisms are beneficial to our health, whereas a relatively few cause disease. It has been estimated that a total of six pounds of these essential microbes reside both in and on the surface of our bodies as part of our normal flora. Without these essential microbes, the "bad" microbes would quickly overwhelm a person's immune system and he/she would die.

The study of infectious diseases occupies much of biomedical research today and with a great sense of urgency. The dynamics of infectious microbes within human bodies and in a variety of human populations and living conditions can best be understood in terms of evolution. Virulent microbes that cause extremely serious, often fatal, infections (such as AIDS, Ebola, bird flu) can spread quickly and directly from person to person; they can also be transmitted by biting insects such as mosquitoes or ticks and can cause diseases such as malaria and West Nile Fever. The fact that disease-causing microbes can mutate is what makes them so dangerous, difficult, and expensive to treat. Microbes can leap from a variety of sources (such as birds or mice) into humans, while adapting to new circumstances as they go, thus, acquiring resistance to drugs

that could kill them. MRSA (Methicillinresistant Staphylococcus aureus) is an excellent example of a microbe becoming drug resistant. What this means is that it becomes difficult for pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs in time to combat new infections.

Microbes have been with us since the beginning of time and will remain with us, perhaps mutating into different, more resistant forms that pose more challenges to humans. For an excellent example of how a pandemic (that is, worldwide disease outbreak) can evolve, check out the movie Contagion starring Matt Damon. It shows in 106 minutes how a lethal airborne virus develops and spreads from country to country, killing as it goes. Although entertaining and scary, Contagion is a scientifically accurate description of how a deadly virus works and how public health officials across the world mobilize to contain it before it's too late. Note: Contagion was made with the cooperation of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, and other infectious disease experts across the world.

This article is the first of many in a series designed to cover current emerging or re-emerging diseases in the U.S. On the negative side, these articles can be scary to read about. But on the positive side, these articles will also cover ways to protect yourself and others from being infected. (Hint: Hand washing is one of the most effective ways of preventing disease.) Knowledge is power—it is with that thought in mind that the Diocesan Emergency Preparedness Committee brings you this information.

The Martins are co-chairs of the Diocesan Emergency Preparedness Committee. Bill (a deacon at St. Matthew's in Tucson) is a medical microbiologist and retired from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. Nadine (a deacon at GSP) is a retired science writer/editor and was also affiliated with the CDC.

# Adult Spiritual Formation

## Ministry Sunday Oct. 7, McBride Hall 9 & 11:45 a.m.

No Adult Ed classes today so you can explore all the wonderful ministries of GSP.

## Parish Wellness Sunday Oct. 14, McBride Hall 9 & 11:45 a.m.

Here's your opportunity to participate in a conversation with parish leaders about the current ministries and future directions of GSP. Your voice and your observations are important!

### **Setting Our Hearts:**

## **Progressive Christianity For A New Era**

Mondays, Sept. 17-Nov. 26 (no class Nov. 19) 7-9 p.m., Bloom Education Center (with at-home retreat weekends Oct. 5-7 & Nov. 9-11)

Are you seeking a safe place to explore what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century? Have you wondered what the term Progressive Christianity means? Are you searching for a small group that allows you to get to know other people deeply?

Setting Our Hearts is a ten-week experiential small group that invites participants to wrestle with what it means to live one's faith in a complex world that doesn't offer easy answers to life's questions. The course grapples with participants' desires for answers and certainty in an ambiguous and often unfair world. Ultimately, the class experience leads people face-to-face into discussions about what matters most.

The course is for any adult—newcomer, old-timer, "cradle" Episcopalians, singles, couples and those who have previously taken the course. Cost for the program is \$75, which covers meals for both retreats. Partial scholarships available.

Class facilitators are Brian Arthur, Catherine Penn Williams, and Chris LaBour. For more information, contact Chris LaBour, 270-1766 or <a href="mailto:celabour@aol.com">celabour@aol.com</a>. To register, contact the church office at 327-6857.

## Spirit Players: A Play Reading Experience 1st Fridays, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, & Jan. 4, 2013 6:30 p.m., Bloom Education Center

Love the theatre? Curious about stageplays? Want to assume a new identity for an hour or two? Then join us as a reader *or* an observer as we give voice to comedies, dramas, social commentaries, and more. Scripts are available to all at these unrehearsed readings scheduled the first Friday of each month. Lively discussions may follow when time allows. WARNING: May be addictive causing increased patronage of live performance.

Readings coordinated by Nanalee Raphael and Halsy Taylor, career professionals in theatre design, direction, and performance.

### **Reading Group**

Mondays, Oct. 8 & 22, Nov. 5 & Dec. 3, 17 & 31 3 p.m., Bloom Education Center

A lively and thoughtful discussion of a wide variety of books, each one chosen by participants with a focus on spiritual and personal growth. You will enjoy the conversations and meet some new people, too. Everyone is invited to come and explore this wonderful experience of fellowship and new insight.

Linda Hutson is convener and coordinator for the group.

## Joan Chittister: A Voice of Hope & Renewal

Sundays, Oct. 21 & 28 & Nov. 4 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Joan Chittister, well-known international speaker, theologian, social psychologist, and prolific writer, is a voice of hope for the future. A leader in justice ministries, peace initiatives and women's movements for equality,



the Benedictine abbess covers a wide range of spiritual topics which will be explored in this three-week discussion of her work. Video presentations will be used with references to her many books.

Facilitated by Lynne Albright, Brian Arthur, and Peggy Scott.

# Exploring Interspirituality through 'The Mystic Heart'

Sundays, Oct. 21 & 28, Nov. 4 & 11 11:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center

"Interspirituality" draws on the world's diverse spiritual traditions which address solidarity with all of life, self-knowledge, non-violence, daily spiritual practice, and simplicity of life style. This four-week exploration will use Wayne Teasdale's book, "The Mystic Heart: Discovering A Universal Spirituality in the World's Religions" as a basis for discussion and conversation.

The exploration will be led by Anna Ortiz, GSP member and ordained Interfaith Minister.

### Longing Soul, Aging Body Mondays, Oct. 22 & 29, Nov. 5, 12 & 19 1 p.m., Bloom Education Center

"So Sarah laughed to herself..." (Gen. 18:12) A paradox: what happens when the soul is still giving birth and the body laughs? Join this small group to explore the issues that arise when the spirit is alive and confronts the realities, the compromises, the changes that are part of the aging process.

The group will be led by Rev. Rosanna C. Kazanjian and Rabbi Helen Cohn. Limited to 8 participants, registration required. Contact the Parish Office, 327-6857, to register.

### Film & Fellowship

3rd Fridays, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21 & Jan. 18, 2013 6:30 p.m., Bloom Education Center

How can you beat a Potluck meal and a great movie!? Take part in the wonderful fellowship and the stimulating discussion of the evening's movie with old friends and new friends, too. Discussion and movie themes range from social justice to romance... something for everyone. The group selects each month's film, so what's your favorite?

Led by Kitt Cordero and Eric Carr, GSP members and film aficionados.

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

# What's Happening in October 2012

## WEEKLY SERVICES

### Sundays

8 a.m., Holy Communion 8 a.m., Coffee & Conversation 9:45 a.m., Child Care 10 a.m., Holy Communion 10 a.m., Sunday School 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour

11:30 a.m., Youth Groups

#### Mondays

11:30 a.m., Spiritual Direction 4 p.m., Spirit Dojo Karate 7 p.m., Setting Our Hearts 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., Quilting Ministry

### Thursdays

**5:30 p.m.**, Spirit Now—An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration

3rd 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

4th 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 p.m., Blessing of the Animals

**5th** 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players: A Play Reading Experience

7th Season of Creation Begins 9 & 11:45 a.m., Ministry Fair

**8th** 3 p.m., Reading Group

11th 7 p.m., Multi-Faith Pride Service (doors open 6)

13th 9 a.m., Meet for Pride Parade 12 noon, Pride Festival, Armory Park

4-7 p.m., Parish Pot Luck and Family Fun Night

**14th** 9:15 a.m., Youth Group Apple Annie's Trip

9:15 & 11:45 a.m., **Parish Wellness** 

4 p.m., Musica Sonora Concert 17th 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

**18th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

**19th Diocesan Convention, Phoenix** 6:30 p.m., Film & Fellowship

20th Diocesan Convention, Phoenix

21st 9 a.m., Joan Chittister: A Voice of Hope & Renewal 11:45 a.m., Exploring Interspirituality Through the Mystic Heart

**22nd** 1 p.m., *Longing Soul, Aging Body* 3 p.m., Reading Group

**23rd** 7 p.m., Human Rights Watch Film Festival

28th 9 a.m., Joan Chittister: A Voice of Hope & Renewal 11:45 a.m., Exploring Interspirituality Through the Mystic Heart

**29th** 1 p.m., Longing Soul, Aging Body

## **Looking Ahead to November**

 1st 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
 2nd 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players: A Play Reading Experience

4th 9 a.m., Joan Chittister: A Voice of Hope & Renewal 11:45 a.m., Exploring Interspirituality Through the Mystic Heart

5th 1 p.m., Longing Soul, Aging Body 3 p.m., Reading Group

**'th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

9th 7 p.m., Trinity Institute webcast10th 9 a.m., Trinity Institute webcast

**11th** 11:45 a.m., *Exploring* 

Interspirituality Through the Mystic Heart

12th 1 p.m., Longing Soul, Aging Body

**14th** 7 p.m., Trinity Institute sermon webcast

**16th** 6:30 p.m., Film & Fellowship

17th 7:30 a.m., Rummage Sale

18th 9 & 11:45 a.m., Giving & Receiving Sunday

**19th** 1 p.m., Longing Soul, Aging Body

21st 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

25th 3 p.m., Musica Sonora Concert

