

# The Briefly

October 2015

The newsletter for the parish community of  
**Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
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## Rector's Letter

**F**or much of Judeo-Christian 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 that of 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.

Perhaps this was 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. We abandoned gods of nature for a God that was discontinuous with the universe. Despite what may have been the intention of the editors, once Elohim was cast above nature, Elohim was interpreted as separate from nature. And if God is separate from the world, then our covenant with God is separate from nature.

It is this understanding of the relationship (or lack of one) between God and nature that we inherited from our religious ancestors. It permeates our theology, our prayers, our worship services and our understanding of

how we are to relate to God and the natural world. We taught it to the world and as we all know, the results have been disastrous. Because we have understood the world as separate from humanity and separate from God, we have had no moral issue with destroying it in the name of what is best for humanity. I would argue therefore, that the church has had as much to do with the environmental mess in which we find ourselves today as any other segment of society.

**C** If God is separate from the world, then our covenant with God is separate from nature ...

It is for this reason that Grace St. Paul's  
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Clergy, parishioners—especially children and youth—were invited to gather around for a laying on of hands, while The Rev. Rosanna Kazanjian said a blessing and prayer of thanksgiving for Fr. Steve Keplinger's first five years of ministry among us.

## Submissions to The Briefly

Submit articles to Joyce Henderson, [BrieflyEditor@gracestpauls.org](mailto:BrieflyEditor@gracestpauls.org).

John Banks receives photos, charts, and graphics at [jdbanks@gmail.com](mailto:jdbanks@gmail.com).

The deadline for the Nov. 2015 issue will be Tuesday, Oct. 13.

## Rector's Letter

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breaks from our ancient liturgical tradition by adding a new season to the church calendar, beginning this year on Sunday, Oct. 4. As I see it, we have an obligation as the church to recapture the part of our biblical tradition that has been generally overlooked for the last 20 centuries. God is not just transcendent in our tradition, but also immanent. We celebrate "God with us", a God who is present in and through nature, a God that is beyond the earth but also part and parcel of the earth.

The Season of Creation is a corrective to this long missing part of our tradition. It beautifully interconnects us with all of the created order, as our tradition teaches us. And it links us to the incarnational God, the God who is present in every flower, every rock, every canyon and every mountain in the universe.

We've spent decades trying to teach humanity that we must protect the earth for economic and altruistic reasons. But as we all know, that will never be enough. But if you and I can get the entire world to see the connection between God and the river, to realize this is orthodox Jewish and Christian theology, we have a chance to save the world. We will have an opportunity, perhaps our only opportunity, to reverse the degradation of creation.

That is the goal of the Season of Creation, nothing less than to change the psyche of the world and save the universe from destruction. Come join us and take part in the most moving, the most beautiful, and the most important liturgy of our time.



## Changes for Parish staff

*By The Rev. Steve Keplinger*



Aaron Bradley

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Aaron Bradley has been offered and accepted the position of parish administrator at Grace St. Paul's.

Aaron comes to us with an extensive business and church administration background. In addition to office experience in a number of corporate settings, he served as the Church Secretary/Liturgical Coordinator at Holy Cross Church in Mesa, Ariz., for seven years. Aaron also worked as the Office Manager and Executive Assistant to the Bishop at the United Methodist Center in Phoenix for four years. This extensive experience will relate directly to his duties at Grace St. Paul's. Aaron has also exhibited a deep sense of professionalism as well as a congenial personality throughout his career. This trinity of skills makes Aaron an obvious choice as our new parish administrator.

Aaron began with us on Monday, Sept. 28. He is working together with Jean Smart over a three-week training period. As the new manager and coordinator of the office staff, Aaron will also spend that time getting to know everyone with whom he will be regularly working. The challenges presented as administrator and manager in our expanding church are many. I am certain that all of you will go out of your way to make Aaron's transition a smooth one.

Please join me in welcoming Aaron with

typical GSP hospitality and let us help him in every way we can in learning about and adjusting to his new environment. May God bless him and all of us as we begin our new life together.

While we welcome Aaron, we also bid farewell to Jean Smart, who brought a new level of excellence to our administrative procedures and practices during her tenure, making our office more efficient and streamlined. This has allowed us to become even more proficient at saving your money.

But perhaps even more importantly, Jean has brought a spirit of hospitality to GSP that has gone even beyond our church's over-the-top goals. Her infectious laughter and sense of compassion for all has permeated our office. She has overtly displayed the GSP spirit of love to everyone who walks in the door, calls us on the phone, or connects with us electronically.

I want to personally thank Jean for creating that atmosphere and for teaching all of us how we can bring dignity to everyone we encounter.

At the end of the transition period with Aaron, Jean will take a leave of absence for a few months. After that, she intends to come back to the church she loves, full of the spirit.

Please join me in thanking Jean for what she has given us and wishing her the very best in her new endeavors!

Liturgy  
Discussion  
of the  
Month  
By The Rev. Steve  
Keplinger

# Creation Sunday 2015

You know them. You might even be one. We affectionately call them C and E's, the folks who frequent our congregations only on the two biggest feast days of the year, Christmas and Easter. Here at Grace St. Paul's, our numbers almost double on the two most important days on the Christian calendar, and I, for one am overjoyed to see every single one of them. Those days are so spectacular here at GSP, that we often get a "bump" from them. A number of regular attenders in our congregation began their experience here with a visit on one of those two days and were so overwhelmed by the spiritual experience, they came back again and again.

No one in the Christian tradition would argue that C&E's have chosen the two biggest feast days in which to attend church. But at Grace St. Paul's, there is a third service that rivals both of them. On Creation Sunday, Oct. 4, you will recognize both Christmas and Easter elements in perhaps our grandest service of the entire year. Incarnation and Resurrection will be combined with God's dream for the Earth in one of the most beautiful liturgies you will experience.

Grace St. Paul's will be the only place in

Tucson that you can experience Creation Sunday and the entire Season of Creation that follows. I firmly believe it is the impetus we need in the environmental movement to change the world's attitude about climate change and all the issues we face from degradation of the planet. And we have now made such an impact, that the Episcopal Church will include the Season of Creation in our new *Book of Occasional Services*.

Every year we have done something very special on this day when we connect the wonder of creation with our experience of the living God. This year will be no exception. We will be unveiling our first Jazz Eucharist with some of the finest musicians Tucson has to offer. Whatever you do, don't miss out on this spectacular day as we celebrate the beauty of God's earth and also blow the roof off the joint. Be sure to invite the world to this big day, especially all of our C&E friends.

And then come back at 5 p.m. with your goats, guinea pigs, lizards and maybe dogs and cats, too, for our Annual Blessing of the Animals. It is always one of the more fun services of the year and the perfect way to end Creation Sunday.



This past July, Brother Chuck Hannan professed Solemn Lifetime Vows in the Order of St. Francis. On Sunday, Sept. 20 we recognized and celebrated his lifetime vows and commitment to his profession.

James Gooden, Verger and Star Fleet Officer (notice the communicator), hams it up when Fr. Steve reads "Vergers carried a large mace or virge often used to dissuade animals or unruly people from disrupting the procession."



## Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,  
Director of Music



I read an alarming article recently about how Saudi Arabia managed to deplete in 30 years a massive aquifer thousands of years old in order to grow wheat. Those springs in the desert from Biblical times bubble no more. The Central Valley of California is busy sucking its own aquifer dry (which is why California farming companies are buying up land in Cochise County). Human beings aren't very good at moderation. That's why we need to be reminded that we are but one part of the created whole and we won't be much of an island unto ourselves if the rest of it goes away. Islands kind of require water.

So let's celebrate the **Season of Creation**, shall we? We can start by being aware of God's gifts all around us, including the beastly little squid (see the Monty Python version of "All Things Bright and Beautiful"). We can then care for those gifts to the best of our ability. And then we can sing about it. Or we could start by singing about it. Change happens when people sing.

Change happens anyway, whether we want it to or not. That's the nature of Creation. But we'd better not change the hymns! The squid wouldn't like it. Well, actually, we do try out new ones from time to time. Because the children are in church starting with communion, the communion hymn these days is generally taken from *My Heart Sings Out*, an all-age hymnal designed for full inclusion of children. The editor, Fiona Vidal-White, did a wonderful job selecting hymns with interesting tunes and good texts. We won't adhere to that religiously (so to speak), because there are still fine hymns in the other hymnals suitable for beings great and small.

As I mentioned last month, we will kick off the Season of Creation with a jazz service assisted by the Glen Gross Quartet—Glendon Gross, trumpet; Malik Alkibir, tenor saxophone; John Einweck, piano; and Kathy Frank, drums. The Adult Choir will sing an arrangement of "What a Wonderful World" by Russell Robinson, and the Zombies will join in on "His Eye is on the Sparrow" for communion.

In a previous *Briefly* article, I said that we will be test driving a few hymns before they're listed in the bulletin for your dining and dancing

pleasure. The offertory anthem on Oct. 11 is the hymn "Follow You, My Jesus," from a compilation by Adam Brooks Webber called *The Inn of God's Forgiveness and Other Hymns for the Progressive Christian*. Thanks to Jim Zuelow for suggesting it. The choir will introduce this hymn to the congregation so that we can add it into the mix for everyone to sing. Throughout the Season of Creation, suitable texts have been fitted to hymn tunes with which we are already familiar, and other regular hymns appropriate for the season are included.

Another notable feature about Oct. 11 is that most of the music is in a minor key, which seemed to suit the lectionary readings. If you notice, you'll know there was a reason. If you might not have noticed, now you'll be maddeningly aware.

The anthems coming up are our usual mix of styles and centuries. I could pretty much cut and paste that sentence from previous *Briefly* articles, but I didn't, okay? I wrote it all out. For Oct. 18, we are scheduled to sing a setting of *Dixit Dominus* (Psalm 110) by Alessandro Grandi, which coordinates with the Gospel reading. We will not be providing a translation in the bulletin, though. If you look it up—what, read a psalm from actual Bible? (feel free to use the prayer book instead)—you will see why. Grandi was a supremely talented Italian composer who died with his family far too young of the plague in 1630. His music, on the cutting edge of the early Baroque, is achingly beautiful. Also that Sunday is "God of the sparrow, God of the whale" by Carl Schalk, which is becoming a Season of Creation standard. I call it "God of the fruitbat, God of the squid" in rehearsals. I seem to have a squid fixation. I think it's a wonderful word. Say it three times slowly: squid, squid, squid. You'll agree with me.

On Oct. 25, we will sing a new offertory anthem, "For the Music of Creation," by Lloyd Larson, on a text by Shirley Erena Murray. We've been using her hymn texts a lot because they work so well for a progressive parish. She was the wife of a Presbyterian minister in

New Zealand and recently passed away in her late 80s. We are eternally grateful for her inclusive and compassionate ministry.

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## Choir Notes

*Continued from Page 4*

A preview for All Saints', because I'm not sure when the next *Briefly* will be issued—the Adult Choir will sing “Herr, wenn ich nur dich habe (Lord, if I have but You)” by Heinrich Schütz from the *Musikalische Exequien* (Funeral Music) for Henry II, Count of Reuss-Gera, also known as Heinrich Posthumous, because he was born after the death of his father. I'm going out on a limb, here, because it's a piece for, um, double choir. Stay healthy, people! Or some of those singing folks out in the pews (you know who you are) could come join us. That would work, too. The communion anthem for that service will be “Breaths,” a setting of the poem we use for memorial services, as Fr. Steve pointed out, by Ysaye M. Barnwell, who retired from Sweet Honey in the Rock.

I haven't forgotten the Hymn of the Month Club. Alas, so far there have only been two entries. Fr. Steve has nixed “Onward Christian Soldiers.” The other was suggested to me by someone at coffee hour, but I can't remember who that was or what hymn they wanted. If you remember who you are, would you please email me at [clj@delegation.org](mailto:clj@delegation.org)? If any of the rest of you have suggestions, let me know.

Otherwise, on to November! Maybe we'll be down to 80 degrees by then.

Peace,

*Christina*



On Sept. 13, her last Sunday as GSP's Director of Children, Youth & Family, Rosalind Garcia and family were offered a prayer of thanksgiving for her service, and Rosalind was presented with several gifts. Here, Noah Dettman delivers letters of thanks from children, youth, and parents.

## Farewell to Rosalind

*By The Rev. Steve Keplinger*

It is with an array of emotions that I report to all of you a change in leadership at Grace St. Paul's. For the last four years, Rosalind Garcia has been our Director of Children and Youth ministries. During this time, we saw our children and youth programs grow geometrically from a handful of kids to numbers sometimes approaching 100. We watched our children engaged in all kinds of new activities, trips, worship experiences, and missions. We saw them connecting to God and the rest of our community at rummage sales and Las Posadas walks and pilgrimages and so much more. They have created liturgies for the whole congregation, sung in new choirs, took off on their own mission trips and shared it all with the rest of us. Rosalind faced many challenges in creating all of this and she took on those challenges with gusto and vitality. I am so grateful for her for bringing to life the vision we had four years ago.

The good news is that Rosalind has been offered and has accepted a position with Cenpatico, the new Behavioral Health services company for southern Arizona. Rosalind

will be advocating for children and youth in families with mental health issues. Many children are going to benefit from her years of experience in children and youth ministry and her background in the legal system. I rejoice in Rosalind's new found position and the lives that will benefit as a result. We pray for her success in navigating her new waters and we rejoice in all she has given us.

Of course this also means that Rosalind will be leaving us as Children and Youth Director. Her last day was Sunday, Sept. 13. In addition to everything else she has given us and our children and youth, Rosalind is leaving us with a big head start in our new curriculum that began on Sept. 13. Our children will have a brand new educational, worship filled, and experiential event each Sunday before they join the rest of the community for the Liturgy of the Table in the main church. Everything is in place for all of this very exciting activity for the kids.

During the next few months, we will have interim leaders in both Sunday School and our youth group as we implement these new practices. I will be meeting with the Sunday school and youth group leaders this

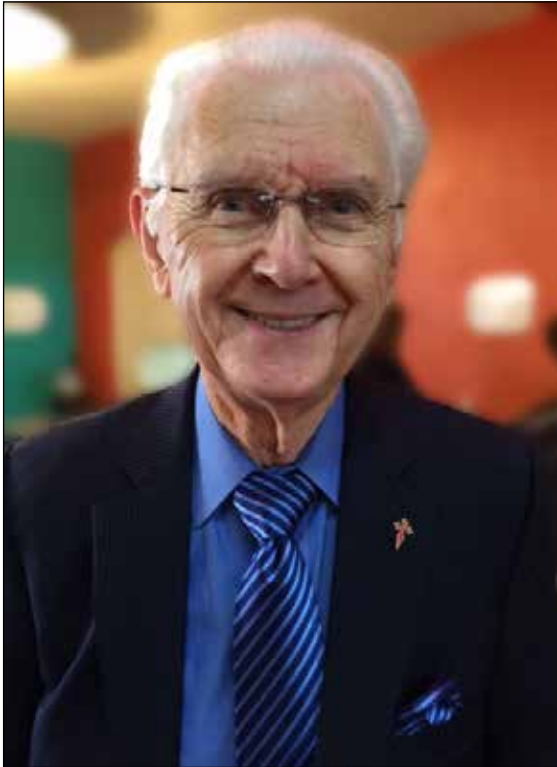
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## Senior Focus

### James Neeley: Dedicated Educator

By Ann Schlumberger

James Lee Neeley, 84, grew up in Waldron, Ark. (pop. 12,000), where he lived until he was 14, when his parents moved to Oklahoma City. After high school he attended Oklahoma City University, which was within walking distance of his home. While working



James Neeley

on his degree in sociology and psychology, James, always a natty dresser, worked in Bond's Clothing Store. After earning his baccalaureate degree in 1952, he debated whether he was called to the seminary. In cold February, he took the long trip from Oklahoma City to Madison, N.J., where he attended Drew University, a Methodist theological seminary. While at Drew he was introduced to the cosmopolitan culture of New York City. What a culture shock to a self-proclaimed

"hick" from Oklahoma and Arkansas! He came to view New York City as his "cultural paradise, a heaven on earth."

After graduation from Drew in 1956, James served in Methodist parishes in New York state—two on Long Island, and one in Cold Spring, which was across the Hudson River from West Point Military Academy. Throughout his ministry, he considered himself a "John Wesley Methodist," more of a pastor and teacher than a preacher. In each of his pastorates, he taught his congregation the historic liturgy and incorporated a lot of singing, in the tradition of John Wesley, who encouraged clergy to "sing lustily." Meanwhile, James also earned a master's degree in

American history, from New York University.

Then, while being a full-time pastor in small town Cold Spring, he was asked to teach high school English. He checked with the Roman Catholic priest in this small, close-knit Italian community to see if he minded a Methodist minister teaching some of his flock. The priest had absolutely no objections. Therefore, James served as pastor and school teacher for one year before deciding to teach full-time—his lifelong desire. James was to teach in Cold Spring for 10 years. During that time, he took a sabbatical at the University of Arizona, where he earned a M.Ed. in Reading, with an emphasis on "Content Area Reading." Back in New York, he set up the first team teaching classes in the Cold Spring's junior high, with the English and social studies teachers. They would meet at his house on Sundays for dinner, cocktails and class prep. The students and their parents loved this curriculum approach and loved Mr. Neeley! In his high school American literature classes, he included Greek plays and European philosophers. When he taught "Antigone, he had the football players serve as the Greek chorus.

After 10 years, this popular teacher was offered a Title 1 reading position in Yuma, Ariz. He described his one year's stay there as "an eternity."

He was freed by an offer of a Title 1 Reading position at TUSD, where after one semester, he was asked to serve as an interim coordinator of the entire reading curriculum for TUSD while the director was on leave. Meanwhile, James was also teaching part time in the Pima Community College Reading Lab. Then came an opening in the Flowing Wells School District as the coordinator for an exemplary elementary school reading program, "Project Catch Up, Keep Up." This new job resulted in his traveling all over the country giving presentations on the district's elementary reading program. When the federal government grant ran out, he was kept in the district to teach English for the gifted at the junior high school.

After James' district superintendent was hired away from Flowing Wells to be the superintendent of the Billings, Mont., public

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## Senior Focus

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schools, James was recruited to apply to be the coordinator of the reading program there. After five years in that position, an economic recession caused several key possessions to be cut. However, during this funding crisis, James was once again recruited to Arizona, this time to the Humboldt Unified School District in very conservative Dewey. After fighting the “religious right” in that community (whom James calls the “irreligious wrong”), James decided to retire. Thus, about twelve years ago, he returned to Tucson. At that time, he established his own consulting program, Creative Curriculum Consultants. He travelled throughout the U.S. training teachers in alternative reading strategies and classroom management. Two major educational publishing companies also employed him.

James jokes that he has “more degrees than a thermometer”: BA, MA, MEd, DD. He also has many hours toward a PhD in American history, concentrating on the Trans-Mississippi West. His Doctor of Divinity degree acknowledged the volunteer work he did organizing historical materials at St. John’s Methodist Church in New York City, the oldest Methodist Church in the country. During his career, he authored many publications for professional journals in the fields of reading and early childhood literature.

James attended St. Michael’s during Father Fowler’s time there in the early 1970s. After James’ retirement, when Tucson had become his permanent residence, he sampled different Tucson Episcopal parishes and was drawn to Grace St. Paul’s because of its adult education program, its inspiring music, and its friendly people. He takes voice lessons from Choir Director Christina Jarvis and on occasion, we are treated to James’ solos during the liturgy.



*By Margaret Scott*

I was reminded recently that giving to God is above all a response. As a people of God, we do not give to receive. We give because we have already received! This is different from the usual fund-raising pitches we are exposed to in the secular world—give a certain amount and you not only support the cause but you receive a mug, or a book, and a tax deduction! Theological giving, on the other hand, is not an investment in future success. It is a party, a celebration, by a community that depends on God and has already been blessed. It is responding to God’s abundance with faith and trust.

What will your response be? Will you help Grace St. Paul’s live into the vision of providing food for the journey and calling people to change the world? Will you join us with your commitment of time and talent? For those of you who have been

kind enough to give us your email address, you will soon be receiving an “Estimate of Giving” form by email. Others will receive the form by regular mail. Or, pick one up at the church. Or, give on line by clicking the link on the GSP website or using the giving kiosk that you see when you come into the church. You can even text your gift! Note that we are asking for an estimate, not a pledge. Estimates can be revised as circumstances change.

You will be soon receiving a gathering letter, inviting you to see some of the tangible results of living gratefully with generosity as a member of our GSP community. There will be **Giving & Receiving gatherings** on Oct. 4 after the 7:45 a.m. service, Oct. 18 after the 10 a.m. service, and Oct. 22 after the 5:30 p.m. Spirit Now service.

Come, participate in the joy that comes from recognizing God’s blessings in our lives!



On Sunday, September 13, after being baptized into the Body of Christ, Rose Goodwin, her mother, sister, and young friend were invited to God’s table to assist with the preparation of the Eucharist. Rose recognizes the Body of Christ when she sees it!



## Here's a Bulletin for You!

By Mark Drew

Every Sunday, as we enter the church, we each receive a handy-dandy booklet—at least those of us who don't download it to our personal electronic devices—containing everything we need to actively participate in our worship service, along with essential information about events in the parish, ministry activities and needs, and a host of other useful information. Also, once every month or so, our church newsletter, *The Briefly*, is sent out to parishioners and others who do not have access to the electronic version. I bet you wonder how these marvels come into being.

Every Friday morning at about 8:30 or so, a group of dedicated volunteers gather in McBride Hall. We collate the pages of the service bulletin, staple each copy and band them together in convenient bunches to be passed out to worshippers as they arrive at

church on Sunday morning. *The Briefly* is assembled and stickers are applied to hold it together for mailing.

Most of the year, this amazing operation takes about an hour to an hour and a half. Twice a year, for Holy Week and again at Christmas time, we have a large number of additional materials to put together for the extra services which occur during those times. This takes time, but with enough helping hands the work goes quickly. We also assemble bulletins for weddings, funerals and other events in the life of our congregation as they are needed.

The amazing group accomplishing all of this consists of Carol McBride, Emi Erickson, Spencer Hunter, Sue Pierce and me. We can always use more help. If you have free time on Friday mornings, just come on in. Our friendly little group will show you the ropes and get you started in no time.

## Special Thanks to our Coffee Fellowship Team!

By Sue Pierce

Having had a chance on Sunday, Sept. 13, to help in the kitchen with the hot dog cookout, I was reminded how committed this small group of people are. Every Sunday they are in the kitchen, working to keep food coming out to the serving tables

after both services. Hoping they don't have to pull off another miracle of "feeding the 5,000" if we don't bring in goodies to share, they joyfully set up, serve, and clean up. I was surprised again at just how many dishes and cups are used, all of which have to be washed and put away.

We each should take time to thank Kathy Allen and her team: Deb Tinajero, Michael Allen, Rogelio and Alicia Lara, Anne Sunderland, Miriam Huber, and William Flowers. Thank you, also, to James Teal and James White (our grill master) for helping set up and clean up afterwards.

As you can see, this is a fairly small team and Kathy would love to have other folks to help in the rotation. Let her know if you'd like to volunteer. Say thank you this week to our Fellowship Team—and please remember to bring in something to share on your designated Sunday or drop a little in the Donation Jar to help offset expenses.

Willie Schlentz, Dan Misenhimer, and many other parishioners enjoyed the hot dogs and generous banquet of goodies at the Sept. 13 coffee hour following the 10 a.m. service.





## Shawls of Grace

**O**ur ministry is based on the passage in Mark referring to the woman who touched Jesus's garment and was healed by faith (Mark 5:25-34). The prayer shawl is a tradition in the Jewish faith. The history of contemporary prayer shawls started in the 60s. A group of women, in Divinity School at Yale, were praying for a friend's husband. She was wearing a knitted shawl which they all touched while praying. This shawl was placed on his coffin. The woman told her friends how loved and cared for she felt while wearing the shawl. From there it was a natural step for the ministry to start.

Many churches have prayer shawl ministries. In Tucson we have groups at St. Philip's and St. Mark's. At GSP, Shawls of Grace, as well as other faith communities, provide shawls for healing, grief, celebration and friendship. Our emphasis is on God's loving embrace and care.

Anyone who knits or crochets can work on prayer shawls. We are an informal group and we "meet" on the first and third Wednesdays in McBride Hall, with the Desert Angels Quilters, from noon to 2 p.m. At that time assistance with patterns or instruction is provided.

Any further questions, please contact Joyce Henderson.



### Great Quilt News!

**D**esert Angels Quilters have offered to provide quilts for Diamond Children's Hospital. These quilts will go to preemies, and children from newborn to 18 years old. Diamond Children's Hospital is a phenomenal hospital with a record of care that is exceptional.

Due to need for materials donations are gladly accepted. Come join our ministry group, which meets on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Animals & Spirituality Ministry

**T**he Mission Statement of this ministry is as follows: "The Animals & Spirituality Ministry—focusing on the goodness of God's creation and embracing our role as loving, responsible caretakers of God's creation, with an emphasis on our animal companions."

The ministries that we support (in no particular order) include the following:

- Blessing of the Animals
- Animal Memorial Garden
- Collecting dog and cat food for Joseph's Pantry guests
- Animal memorial services
- Collecting blankets and towels for

homeless pets at Pima Animal Care Center

- Monthly information on animal rescue groups-planned
- Listing names of ill or deceased animals in the GSP Sunday bulletin
- Animal-related Adult Education and Spiritual Formation classes

The Ministry facilitators are Rev. Chris Ledyard, Gale Odion, and Holly Shin, all of whom can be contacted through the Church office.

If you have questions regarding the loving blankets and towels project, please contact Molly Johnson through the Church office.

## Rosalind's Farewell

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Sunday to discuss strategies for this implementation. I will also be meeting with all of you with children and youth in our programs the following Sunday. I want to hear all of your ideas and suggestions. In addition, we held a special training for our teachers on Saturday, September 12 to help them prepare for the new year.

We are saturated with an abundance of talented individuals in both our Sunday School and youth programs. We will be well led during this interim period and our children and youth are nothing if not flexible! All shall be well thanks to this wonderful leadership and our great kids.

After the interim period and the knowledge we gain from it, we will be searching all over the country for

the best individual(s) to lead us and our children into our emerging future together. If any of you have thoughts in that area, please pass them on to me at any time.

But for now, let us all celebrate the gift that Rosalind has been for this community and wish her well on her new, exciting journey. Thank you Rosalind, and thank you teachers and leaders as we do the Star Trek thing and boldly head off into the future.

## SUNDAY CLASSES

**NO CLASS—Sunday, October 4**



### **DANGEROUSLY ALIVE: Where Do We Go Next?**

**Sunday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m., McBride Hall**

In addition to preaching at both the 7:45 and 10 a.m. services, Mark will lead us in a discussion about our next steps as a community to implement some of the ideas and inspirations that come out of the time we spend together on Friday and Saturday.

Mark Scandrette is the founding director of ReIMAGINE: A Center for Integral Christian Practice, based in San Francisco, where he leads an annual series of retreats, workshops and projects designed to help participants apply spiritual wisdom to everyday life. He is author of several books, most recently, *FREE: Spending Your Time and Money On What Matters Most*.

Mark lives with his wife Lisa and their three children in an old Victorian in San Francisco's Mission District.

### **Exploring Today's Lectionary**

**Sunday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center**

Does it all just seem like Greek to you? One Sunday a month we provide an opportunity to discuss the Bible readings for that day in more depth in a small group setting.

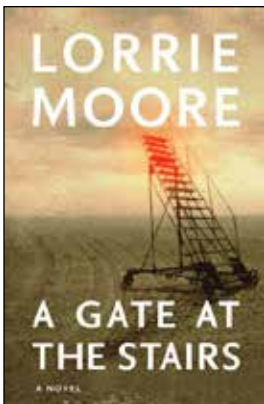
Come join us for a thoughtful but always lively conversation about scripture.

### **GSP Readers Group**

**Friday, Oct. 23, 9:30 a.m., Bloom Education Center**

The book for discussion in October is "A Gate at the Stairs" by Lorrie Moore. Moore knits together the shadow of 9/11 and a young girl's bumpy coming-of-age in this luminous, heart-wrenchingly wry novel—the author's first in 15 years. Moore's graceful prose considers serious emotional and political issues with low-key clarity and poignancy, while generous flashes of wit endow this stellar novel with great heart.

All are welcome! No registration necessary. For more information, please contact the church office at 327-6857.



### **Celebrating Dia De Los Muertos**

**Sunday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center**

We are fortunate to live among so many rich cultural traditions in Tucson. Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is one of those traditions and will be celebrated locally this year on Sunday, November 1 (our All Saints Day in the Episcopal Church). Join us for an informative look at how Dia de los Muertos is traditionally observed and learn some ways we might incorporate some of those traditions into our own All Saints/All Souls practice.

*Facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams, co-chair of Adult Spiritual Formation, and a Dia de los Muertos enthusiast.*



### **Sermons on Tap**

**Sunday, Oct. 25, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Bloom Education Center**

Ever leave worship on Sunday and wish you could talk about the sermon with others? Why not join like-minded folks for an open discussion of the day's sermon over beer and sandwiches?

This small group is for anyone with a desire to connect more deeply with others and a willingness to explore their own questions about how we live into the "good news" as preached at GSP. The setting will be informal and relaxed. No need to register, come anytime. All are welcome!

This discussion occurs on the third Sunday of every month. Beer, iced tea, and a light lunch will be available. Donations will be accepted to cover the costs of lunch.

### **The Devil Made Me Do It!**

**Sunday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center**

What do we think the Devil looks like?

What are the Devil's names?

Is the Devil in the Bible?

Is the Devil in the Prayer Book?

Is the Devil in our Hymnal?

How does the Devil relate to the philosophical problem of evil?

*Chuck Dickson, longtime GSP member and retired history professor, will present*

*another of his entertaining and visually stimulating classes.*



## BIBLE STUDY @ GSP

**Bible Women: A Bible Study**

Friday, Oct. 2 & 16, 10-11:30 a.m., Weeks Room (10/2) & Bloom Education Center (10/16)

Where are the voices of women in the Bible? What do they have to say to us about our own lives? This is the first meeting of a new class to study the Bible through the voices of women in the Old and New Testaments. We will use "Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter" by Lindsay Hardin Freeman as a resource. The book is available from Amazon in softcover (\$22) or Kindle (\$9.99). All are welcome. No registration necessary! [The group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Friday]

For more information about this class contact Catherine Penn Williams, co-chair of Adult Spiritual Formation.

**For Men: Coffee, Bagels and Bible Stuff**

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 a.m., McBride Hall

This is your invitation to join a diverse group of men in a discussion of the Book of Luke. (After 6 months we finished the Book of Acts.) Many of the men are attending their first bible study and are enjoying the attempt to put the weekly readings into historical perspective while finding current application. ALL materials are provided. Drop-ins are welcome and we start and end on time.

Facilitated by Bill Moore, GSP member.

## ONGOING SMALL GROUPS

**Sharing Spiritual Journeys, Living the Way of Jesus**

Mondays, 10 a.m.-Noon, Bloom Education Center

For many, our understanding of what it means to be a Christian has been shaped by church teachings but also, more importantly, by time and experience over the course of our own unique spiritual journeys. In this small group we undertake a shared conversation about what matters most to us as followers of Jesus and how we practice this in our individual lives and the life of our community. Each meeting focuses on a different intersection between spirituality and religion, and the conversation takes us where the Spirit guides. Each session stands alone and all are welcome. No registration is necessary.

Co-facilitated by Catherine Penn Williams and Brian Arthur. Brian is a longtime EFM mentor at GSP and Catherine is the co-chair of Adult Spiritual Formation.

**Saturday Java Jive: Coffee & Conversation**

Saturdays, 8:30-11 a.m., at Epic Café, 745 N. 4th Ave., (SW corner of 4th Ave & University Blvd)

Want to meet and get to know folks in a relaxed and friendly environment? All are welcome to join this long-running motley crew that meets every Saturday morning for coffee and conversation. We never know who will show up, the topic is always up for grabs and hilarity often ensues.

Epic has free wifi so tablets and laptops are welcome (you never know when Wikipedia will need to be consulted...). Look for us at the group of little round tables in the back of the café.

**October Play Reading Features Yiddish Drama**

Because the month of October brings ghosts, ghouls and spirits of the dead, the GSP Spirit Players will join the procession with its October First Friday Play Reading, Tony Kushner's imaginative adaptation of the play "The Dybbuk." This script, considered by many to be the greatest classic of Yiddish drama, brings readers into its fantastic world, where spirit and flesh commingle and clash across the blurred divide of death.

The story concerns the marriage of Leah, the daughter of the wealthy Sender, who has broken off negotiations with three prospective husbands due to his displeasure with the financial terms. Khonen, a poor Yeshiva student, is driven by a fanatical love

for Leah that she secretly reciprocates. When Sender announces he's finally settled on a husband for Leah, Khonen turns to dark spiritual forces to thwart the union. He pays with his life, falling dead in the synagogue only to return as a dybbuk, a spirit that takes possession of Leah's body.

This unrehearsed reading begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2, in the Bloom Room. Scripts will be provided. No theatre or public speaking experience is necessary; parts will be randomly assigned to anyone who attends and wishes to read. Non-readers are welcome as well, and can participate as an "audience."

Facilitated by Nanalee Raphael, theatre designer and aficionado.





# Grace St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

### What's Happening in October 2015

#### WEEKLY SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

##### Sundays

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

##### Mondays

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

##### Tuesdays

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

##### Wednesdays

- 7 a.m., [Holy Communion](#)
- 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters
- 5 p.m., Spirit Dojo

##### Thursdays

- 10 a.m., Bridge Group
- 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
- 5:30 p.m., [Spirit Now—An Emerging Worship Experience](#)

##### Saturdays

- 9 a.m., Altar Guild

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>1st</b> 7:30 a.m., <i>For Men: Coffee, Bagels &amp; B.S.</i>   | <b>16th</b> 9:30 a.m., Community of Hope meeting<br>10 a.m., <i>Bible Women</i><br>6:30 p.m., <b>Film &amp; Fellowship</b>        | <b>31st</b> 8:30 a.m., <b>Java Jive: Epic Café</b>  |
| <b>2nd</b> 10 a.m., <i>Bible Women</i><br>6:30 p.m., <b>Spirit Players Play-Reading</b>   | <b>17th</b> 8:30 a.m., <b>Java Jive, Epic Café</b>  | <b>Coming in November</b>   |
| <b>3rd</b> 8:30 a.m., <b>Java Jive, Epic Café</b><br>8:30 a.m., Grief Group   | <b>18th</b> 9 a.m., <i>Exploring Today's Lectionary</i><br>11:30 a.m., <b>Giving &amp; Receiving Fall Campaign Gathering</b>      | <b>1st</b> 9 a.m., <i>The Devil Made Me Do It!</i>  |
| <b>4th</b> 9 a.m., <b>Giving &amp; Receiving Fall Campaign Gathering</b><br>5 p.m., <b>Blessing of the Animals</b>                                    | <b>19th</b> 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys</i>  | <b>2nd</b> 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys</i><br>10 a.m., E/M Post-Grad Forum<br>7 p.m., Green Church Committee |
| <b>5th</b> 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys</i><br>10 a.m., E/M Post-Grad Forum<br>7 p.m., <b>Green Church Committee</b>                    | <b>21st</b> 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters<br>12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry  | <b>4th</b> 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters<br>12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry   |
| <b>7th</b> 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters<br>12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry   | <b>22nd</b> 7:30 a.m., <i>For Men: Coffee, Bagels &amp; B.S.</i><br>7 p.m., <b>Giving &amp; Receiving Fall Campaign Gathering</b> | <b>5th</b> 7:30 a.m., <i>For Men: Coffee, Bagels &amp; B.S.</i>   |
| <b>8th</b> 7:30 a.m., <i>For Men: Coffee, Bagels &amp; B.S.</i>   | <b>23rd</b> 9:30 a.m., GSP Readers Group  | <b>6th</b> 6:30 p.m., <b>Spirit Players Play-Reading</b>  |
| <b>9th</b> 7 p.m., <b>Dangerously Alive: A Weekend with Mark Scandrette</b>   | <b>24th</b> 8:30 a.m., <b>Java Jive, Epic Café</b><br>5:30 p.m., Medieval 13th Century Feast                                      | <b>7th</b> 8:30 a.m., <b>Java Jive, Epic Café</b><br>9:30 a.m., Community of Hope Workshop                                  |
| <b>10th</b> 8:30 a.m., <b>Java Jive, Epic Café</b><br>9 a.m., <b>Dangerously Alive: A Weekend with Mark Scandrette</b>                                | <b>25th</b> 9 a.m., <i>Celebrating Dia de los Muertos</i><br>11:45 a.m., <b>Sermons on Tap</b><br>1 p.m., Mother's Kitchen        | <b>8th</b> 6 p.m., <b>SpiritSong: Worship &amp; Prayer in the style of Taizé</b>  |
| <b>11th</b> 9 a.m., <b>Dangerously Alive: A Weekend with Mark Scandrette</b><br>6 p.m., <b>SpiritSong: Worship &amp; Prayer in the style of Taizé</b> | <b>26th</b> 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys</i>  | <b>9th</b> 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys</i><br>7 p.m., Joseph's Pantry meeting                                |
| <b>12th</b> 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys</i><br>7 p.m., Joseph's Pantry meeting   | <b>27th</b> 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks!<br>6:30 p.m., <b>Vestry Meeting</b>  | <b>11th</b> 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters  |
| <b>14th</b> 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters  | <b>28th</b> 10 a.m., Desert Angel Quilters  | <b>12th</b> 7:30 a.m., <i>For Men: Coffee, Bagels &amp; B.S.</i>  |
| <b>15th</b> 7:30 a.m., <i>For Men: Coffee, Bagels &amp; B.S.</i>  | <b>29th</b> 7:30 a.m., <i>For Men: Coffee, Bagels &amp; B.S.</i>  | <b>14th</b> <b>PARISH WORK DAY</b><br>8:30 a.m., <b>Java Jive, Epic Café</b><br>10 a.m., <b>CPR Class</b>                   |
|   |   | <b>16th</b> 10 a.m., <i>Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys</i>  |
|   |   | <b>18th</b> 3p.m., <b>Foundation for Episcopal Ministry</b>   |
|   |   | <b>19th</b> 7:30 a.m., <i>For Men: Coffee, Bagels &amp; B.S.</i>  |