

The Briefly

December 2014 /
January 2015

The monthly newsletter for the community of
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Why are we still waiting?

Well, well, well, the season of counter-culture is upon us once again. We spend a noticeable amount of time at GSP talking about our desire to have no separation between our religious and secular lives. Ideally, religion is not something we do at certain times of the week, but rather a way of living every moment. But sometimes the disparity between culture and religion is so extreme, we cannot help but feel the tension. Such is the case during Advent, where the differences create not just a tension in our lives, but a downright contradiction.

No time of year is more frenetic in our culture than December. While the world around us spins out of control in a total frenzy, the liturgical season of Advent encourages us to do the

opposite, to watch and to wait. Never are we more counter cultural than we are at this time of year, as we turn our backs on the world and try desperately to hold on to waiting patiently. We do so because without waiting and hoping first, the reality of Christmas is impossible for any of us to experience.

Each of us needs to come up with creative ways to not be sucked into the whirlwind. Each of us needs to have a non-anxious presence while the world scurries. Each of us need to be quiet enough that we can hear the still small voice of God. This is also one of the great gifts that we have to offer society. If someone wants to be upset about the damage the culture has done to Christmas, how about pondering the fact that our constant activity surrounding this holiday has made it impossible for anyone to experience God with us? Most of us are so tired by the time we get to Christmas day, we wouldn't know God was with us if God hit us with a lightning bolt.

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C While the world around us spins out of control, Advent encourages us to do the opposite, to watch and wait.



Members of GSP spent Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Safeway at Prince & Campbell collecting food for Joseph's Pantry. Karen McVean, Jill Plotner Clements and David Clements among those who volunteered their time. Lots of shoppers were very generous, as these full baskets attest! For the full update on Joseph's Pantry, see Page 8.

Submissions to The Briefly

Please submit articles to Joyce Henderson, BrieflyEditor@grace-stpauls.org. John Banks receives photos, charts, and graphics at jdbanks@gmail.com.

The deadline for the February 2015 issue will be Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Rector's Letter

Continued from Page 1

There is no question that we have much to teach the world about how we can find God in our lives again. There is no question that having a season of Advent is also emotionally beneficial to all of us. But from a theological standpoint, does the season of Advent still make any sense? For who or what are we waiting? Is Advent really supposed to be about some sort of suspension of belief so that we can experience the birth of Jesus as something totally new? Another theological understanding of Advent, heard in some of our hymns and prayers, suggests that what we are really waiting for at this time of year is the second coming of Christ. But this imagery is not very helpful for those of us who believe that Christ's incarnation was not just a one time event. Christ is here and present with us right now and if that is true, does a liturgical season of waiting still make any theological sense for us?

My personal response is that yes, Christ is already present with us, but that presence is akin to the way Jesus described the kingdom of God. He told the disciples that the kingdom was already here and in their midst. But he also said that it was not yet.

At Grace St. Paul's, we know full well that our God is a present reality because we have experienced that God in profoundly powerful ways as we have watched our church and our social ministry grow exponentially. We have experienced the kingdom of God through the amazing changes in our lives and the spiritual growth of this life giving community. But at the same time, we see the suffering around us first hand, up close and personal. We know darn well that the kingdom may be here, but it is also not yet.

That is what we wait for this Advent season. We wait for the emergence of that kingdom in new and exciting ways. We wait for Christ's presence in an even more transparent way than we have experienced in the past. We know that God is already here. But we wait for an even greater unveiling of that God in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Let us wait together in fervent hope that the kingdom of God will arrive...again and again. Let us wait together for Immanuel, for God with us again. Let us wait in hope for the real Christmas, a Christmas that brings the presence of Christ's love to all of the world.

Happy waiting,

Steve +

Community Epiphany Service

*Candlelight
Three Kings
Service &
Celebration*

*By The Rev.
Steve Keplinger*

On the evening of Epiphany, January 6, Grace St. Paul's will embark on a new adventure. We will be having a Three Kings Service. This might not sound unusual. We, of course, have had lots of services celebrating the last day of Christmas. The difference this time is that the service will not be in our church. We are taking church to the world.

At press time, we were still negotiating the location of the service, but it will be outside, in a familiar location to Tucsonans. This service is being designed for folks who have not been in a church for a long time, for those who feel alienated from church and for those who would not ever consider walking in our building. It will be a simple service to bond the community together, to touch on the emotions

of the season, to capture the essence of the real Christmas in a way that speaks to the people of Tucson in the 21st century. Beautiful music, a simple but powerful message, twinkling lights, candles, and a sense of wonder. Following the service, we will have hot cider and Three Kings cake.

What we would like all of you to do is invite your friends and relatives who have been estranged from church to this opportunity to celebrate as a community. Our goal is to show people the love of GSP and what a community of love and support is all about. We want to have a party for this town and celebrate what we can be together. If you are passionate about bringing church to the people, we can use your help in making all this happen. Let's show Tucson what we are all about.



Liturgy
Discussion of
the Month
By The Rev.
Steve Keplinger

Worship for all, all the time

There has been a long standing tradition at Grace St. Paul's of having Sunday School run concurrently with our 10 a.m. service. In today's world, where all of our schedules seem to always be filled, whether we are seven or 107, this system makes much sense. Families are finding it difficult enough to always set aside a couple hours every Sunday morning in the midst of a secular world that schedules all kinds of events at the same time church is happening.

In an ideal world, I think each of us would prefer that all of us be worshipping together every week. How realistic it would be, however, to have Sunday School and adult education before our second service, so that every child and adult could participate in worship is a difficult question to answer. How many families could create the space in their schedules to be here from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. each week? As we continue to explore this possibility, we also know that we need to immediately create a situation where our children have a greater opportunity to worship on a regular basis. Being in church from the Peace to the Post-Communion Prayer is just not enough opportunity to be a part of worship and a part of our community.

I met with the Sunday School teachers and Youth leaders to discuss many issues around this, but specifically to talk about how we might create more worship experiences for our children.

This is what we are planning. We will have three services at our regular 10 a.m. worship during the year where children will be an integral part. The liturgies will be designed to appeal to all ages. The first will be on Advent Two, as we celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 7. The second will be on Feb. 15, as we close out the Epiphany season before heading into Lent. The third will be on May 31, at the end of the regular program year for our children. *Mark the dates on your calendar as they will be services you will not want to miss.*

We will also continue to have these Intergenerational services during the year; our 6 p.m. Christmas Eve worship, a special Ash Wednesday service at 5 p.m., a Children's Way of the Cross on Good Friday, our third annual Seder meal during Holy Week, and our Easter Vigil service.

In addition, we will be adding more worship experiences, especially for our children, that will happen concurrently with the 10 a.m. service. These services will be outside, whenever possible, casual Eucharistic gatherings in the park or other locations. We are presently choosing the exact days for these services, but one will occur in early January, one in early March, and a third in mid-April.

The goal is that these services will immediately integrate our children more completely in the life of the parish and also expose them in a more extensive way to the flow and beauty of our worship experience. That can't be anything but wonderful for all of us, as we have greater opportunities to come together as a full community and see our children grow in the faith.

Christmas Services

- **Blue Christmas**, Sunday, 12 /14, 6 p.m., Sanctuary
- **Los Posadas**, Saturday, 12/20, 6 p.m., gather on the Labyrinth
- **Christmas Eve**, Wednesday, 12/24, 6 p.m., Intergenerational Service w/reception
- **Christmas Eve**, 12/24, 10:30 p.m., Candlelight Service w/Carols, Reception in McBride Hall after
- **Christmas Day**, Thursday 12/25, 10 a.m., Sanctuary
- **New Year's Eve**, Wednesday 12/24, 7 p.m., Sanctuary, Sing for Peace



Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,
Director of Music



This is the time of year when I am most grateful to be a musician. What a fortunate life, to spend hours, days and years listening to music, playing it, singing it, coaching it, loving it. I'm always finding new pieces in the choral library or dragging out an old one, thinking perhaps this time it will fit in the scheme of things. Despite the purge a while back, there remain pieces we will never, ever sing again. And yet I can't bear to toss them. We'll cherish you, little pieces. Yeah, I know, we packed those other ones off to the Diocese (and I'm sure they thanked us), but we won't abandon you.

The Christmas season is Janus-faced. Wait, that's January. Never mind, we'll get there, too. The music of the season is pure joy, but the logistics can be a wee bit stressful. I'm trying to keep Advent simple this year, so that Christmas will feel comfy, like that lovely plush bathrobe and hot chocolate on Christmas Eve. Not that any choir member will have a chance to put their feet up until about 2 a.m.

One way in which we will ease up on the gas pedal is to feature the wonderful instrumentalists in the parish. Karen Hanson will play the Native American flute for the Blue Christmas service at 6 p.m. on Dec. 14. Jane Click has reorganized the Lieto Ensemble, which will continue to provide music through the year. Mary Lonsdale Baker and Alan Brundage have formed a duo to present violin/piano repertoire. For the service on Dec. 21, Mary and Alan are celebrating the solstice, as well as Advent, with arrangements of Bach's "Sheep may safely graze" and "Winter" from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*.

We are also blessed with particularly fine soloists. On Advent 3 (Dec. 14), Barbara Pritchard will sing Bach's "Mein gläubiges Herze," BWV 68. I want to say BWV stands for Blessed Well-tempered Virgin, but it actually stands for Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis (Bach Works Catalogue).

Advent 2 (Dec. 7)—St. Nicholas Sunday—has been designated an intergenerational service. The St. Cecilia's Children's Choir and the St. Zeno's Zombie Choir will sing a round gleaned from the St. Nicholas Center website in lieu of the Sequence hymn. The Adult Choir is singing an arrangement by John Ferguson of "Comfort, comfort ye my people" and "Mercy and truth," a setting of a verse from Psalm 85. Mercy and

truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. This sort of poetry is why we can't just toss out the BCP.

Other choir offerings for Advent will include "Out of your sleep" (Richard Rodney Bennett), "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" (Calvisius), "There shall a star come out of Jacob" (Mendelssohn), and "Ecce virgo concipiet" (Morales—I like Morales). Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Mighty God.

Our Christmas services will take familiar form. The 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service is traditionally our family service. The Zombies will sing "Gatatumba," a villancico from Andalusia. The children of the St. Cecilia's choir will team up with the Zombies to sing "Cantate et exultate" (Ken Berg).

The 10:30 p.m. carol service will feature the Lieto Ensemble playing arrangements of the Wexford Carol and a medley of I Saw Three Ships, Good King Wenceslas, and the Sussex Carol. Dr. Pamela Decker will present a joyful seasonal offering. James Neeley will sing "This night in David's city," an arrangement by Brahms of a German folksong. The choir is inaugurating a ravishing new piece made possible by a donation from Richard and Phyllis Cameron in honor of the marriage of Richard Rhoads and Eric Carr. The work, by Matthew Oltman, is a setting of the Irish carol "Love came down at Christmas."

Music for the 11 p.m. Festival Eucharist includes the "Fantasia on Christmas Carols" by Ralph Vaughan Williams and "Puer natus in Bethlehem," third movement of *Cum Novo Cantico* by Gerald Near, a celebrated contemporary composer of church music who lives in Green Valley at the moment, so he really is near.

The last two years, the South Sudanese Choir, directed by Solomon Machar Kuch, has sung for the service on Christmas Day, and we are hoping they will be able to do so again this year. A few members of the choir come support the hymns and sing any anthems required. It being a year in which Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Thursdays, the choir will not rehearse those nights (don't thank me, choir, really). In the meantime, Toru Tagawa will play violin on Sunday, Dec. 28, as part of a trade for using the GSP sanctuary for concerts presented by the

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**Singing for Peace:
An Evening of
Chants & Meditation**
Wednesday, Dec. 31,
7-8 p.m., in the Chancel

Join us for a GSP tradition to celebrate the close of the old year with hope for the new by coming together to meditate and sing for peace in our hearts, in our families, our communities, and the world. We will use our voices, singing simple, easy-to-learn chants to express our desire for "the peace of God which passeth all understanding" and for a world in which all beings may be happy and free from suffering.

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

Notes from the Choir Stall

Continued from Page 4

Tucson Repertory Orchestra, which he directs.

We are then launched into January, the month named after the two-faced Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings, who looks both forward and backward. In order to accommodate the Baptism of Christ on Jan. 11, we will celebrate Epiphany on Jan. 4, which trims one Sunday out of the Christmas season. There is talk of organizing a Twelfth Night celebration in a local park, so we won't lose out on our proper Christmas celebration completely. The Epiphany offertory anthem is "Los ojos siguen la Estrella" (Guerrero). The Lieto Ensemble will provide music for the communion anthem slot that Sunday: an arrangement of The Cherry Tree Carol/Swedish Song. Music for Jan. 11 includes "This is my beloved Son" (Dan Uhl) and "Arise, shine, for thy light has come" (Kenneth Jennings).

On Jan. 18, we celebrate the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday with an anthem called "Freedom's Plow," with text by Langston Hughes and music by Dr. Rollo Dilworth. The communion anthem is "I believe this is Jesus," arranged by Undine Moore. The church celebrates one of its patronal feast days on Jan. 25, that of St. Paul. I can't think of a less likely patron for our parish than St. Paul, but never mind, eh. It's also time for the Annual Meeting, when we celebrate our unlikeliness and our unity. Music for that Sunday includes an arrangement of "Ain'-a that good news" and "I have called you," a work by local composer Michael Jeróragim.

May God bless you with grace and wholeness during this Advent and Christmas season. Balance is hard to maintain during the holidays, but may we all find moments of peace and beauty in the bustle. A healthy and happy New Year to us all!

Peace,

Christina

CYF Update

By Rosalind Garcia

Last winter, during our **Friends and Faith Across Borders** experience, we had a chance to walk part of the "Devil's Highway," which is the route many migrants used to cross from Mexico into the United States in hopes of finding work, education and a better life.

Just the small part of the journey we walked gave us a sense of the difficulty of the undertaking. The hike was hot, dusty and arduous; up steep mountain paths covered with shards of rock like razor blades. Venomous snakes, cactus, sprained ankles and bad falls were constant threats.

Yet we faced those obstacles during the day, after a picnic lunch, with water bottles and the knowledge we were not going far and our lives and those of our family did not depend on completing this journey. Do we really have any sense of the desperation of those who feel forced to take such a gamble?

As we were walking that treacherous trail, we talked a little about the journey of Mary and Joseph, walking to Bethlehem to be counted for the census. Mary, awkward and exhausted in late pregnancy, had to have wondered why she was in this impossible situation. Joseph too, must have had some "why me" moments, perhaps quickly crowded out with the immediate worry for Mary's comfort and safety.

Yet, Mary and Joseph, not much older than the teens in our own youth groups, accepted their fates and as they made the journey to Bethlehem, they surely wondered, what does this impending birth, this journey, mean for us? It's a question modern day migrants hiking that hot dusty trail must ask themselves as they travel. It's the question our youth often ask as they move through their teen years.

What does this mean for me?

By the time this is published, we will have celebrated another Rite 13 ceremony at GSP. This is the time when we, as a single voice, tell our young teens that they matter to us. That we will be here for them as they journey through the joyful, painful, growing, confusing years

of adolescence. It is a promise we first made at their baptism and we reiterate it during the Rite 13 ceremony- we care about you; we will be here for you! We, as a community are here to help!

Advent! As we journey together through this quiet season. As we stop along the way to wait and watch, look for our young people on the road. Make an effort to offer a friendly greeting, a helping hand or a willingness to listen. Like Mary and Joseph, our teens have a lot on their plates. Stop to help and make a difference in a young life.

Upcoming Children & Youth Events

- **Dec. 7**—St. Nicolas service, 10 a.m. in the Church
- **Dec. 13**—6 p.m., Southwestern storyteller Martin Rivera entertains us, followed by a potluck supper in McBride Hall
- **Dec. 20**—6 p.m., Las Posadas celebration beginning on the labyrinth; followed by a warm chili supper in McBride Hall
- **Dec. 24**—6 p.m., Christmas Eve family service in the Church
- **Jan. 4**—10 a.m., Children's Chapel Epiphany service
- **Jan. 9**—11 a.m., Friends & Faith Across Borders, an international experience for teens

Meet the Candidates for Vestry & Junior Warden

You are invited to **Meet the Candidates** on Sunday, Jan. 18, at 9 a.m. and noon. This year parish members will elect six members of the Vestry and a new Junior Warden.

Candidates for those important positions will be available in McBride Hall to tell you about their hopes, dreams, and plans for the church and to answer your questions as we approach the Jan. 25 election at Annual Meeting.

Here is your chance to determine who might best serve the parish in the coming years. So plan to attend, bring a question or two, and **Meet the Candidates**.

Annual Meeting, Jan. 25

*Your Voice, Your Vote,
Your Prayers Are Important!*

If you think of the church's Annual Meeting as just another business session... think again!

This year parish members will elect six new Vestry members, a new Junior Warden, and will help shape the future of ministry at Grace St. Paul's. Your presence and your participation are very important.

The Annual Meeting will be held in McBride Hall following the second service. It usually lasts about an hour. During that time you will hear about ministry accomplishments during 2014, look ahead to activities and events

in 2015, cast your vote for Vestry positions, and enjoy the blessing of fellowship as we work together to make GSP stronger in ministry and mission.

The Nominations Committee, appointed by the Rector and approved by Vestry, will prepare a list of candidates and present that list to the congregation six weeks before the Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan. 25. As stated in the church's Bylaws: "Additional nominations may be made to the nominating committee or the Rector up to three weeks before the annual meeting. No nominations from the floor will be accepted."

Please circle Sunday, Jan. 25, on your calendar. You are very important in this vital aspect of ministry.

Calling All Ministry Leaders: Annual Report Deadline!

The Annual Meeting of Grace St. Paul's is coming: Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015, after the 10 a.m. Eucharist. And that means it's time for the Annual Report!

Let us know your ministry's people, accomplishments, milestones, dreams. We'd like reports from as many GSP ministries as possible. If you'd like to share photos of your ministry's activity, that would be wonderful! Either prints or digital photos are fine; if you're going to send digital photos, please

send photos taken at the highest resolution your camera provides, without any editing or resizing, in JPG/JPEG format.

Please e-mail your reports (in Word or WordPerfect format) to David Wachter, at annualreport@gracestpauls.org, no later than Monday, Jan. 5, 2015. Again, that address is annualreport@gracestpauls.org. Please do *not* send them to gsp1@dakotacom.net; this will help make sure that nothing goes astray!

Thank you!

David Wachter,
Annual Report Editor



Photo Directory Update

By Martha Whitaker

At last count there were about 50 more families photographed for this directory than the last one (back in 2011)! I'd say we've grown quite a bit!

As of the publication of this issue of *The Briefly*, we are still working on getting all

of the data and materials together for the directory publication. Since there is still quite a bit to compile, and we are also navigating Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas schedules, we don't yet know what the final distribution date will be, but rest assured we are working hard to make a fabulous new GSP photo directory!

Donate Blankets & Towels for Dogs & Cats!

By Chris Ledyard

There is a desperate need for blankets and towels to provide physical and emotional comfort to the hundreds of dogs and cats who are sheltered at Pima Animal Care Center (PACC). Towels and blankets help soften the harshness of the cement floors and wire crates, and provide some emotional security to the animals at PACC. The shelter is a very stressful place; the comfort that blankets and towels can bring has the added bonus of helping the cats and dogs become more adoptable by relieving some of that stress. So clean out your closets and give a helping hand to the animals at PACC!! Please leave your extra towels and blankets in the donation box in the McBride hall. Thank you for your kindness. Sponsored by the Animals and Spirituality Ministry.

“We love and miss you, Jean!”

By Martha Whitaker

Several people have asked how to contact Jean Keplinger now that she is moving from Walpole, Mass., to visit with her other children. The best way is to contact her via email: jeankeplinger040604@gmail.com.

For “snail” mail, in December write her c/o Bailey, 74 McKaig Gulf Rd., Cloudland, GA 30731; in January write c/o Stephens, 5634 NE 61st Ave., Silver Springs, FL 34488.

Same-Sex Marriage: All settled, right?

By Bruce Anderson

So, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals declared Arizona’s same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional. Most of Grace St. Paul’s parishioners rejoiced. We have been celebrating the unions of gay couples for years. We have been at the forefront, always wishing the rest of the world would just get with the program and recognize the relationships we all celebrate. So, it’s done. It’s settled now, right? Not so fast!

Only a few weeks after the momentous 9th Circuit decision, after the Arizona Attorney General decided not to fight the decision, after marriage licenses were granted to same-sex couples in Arizona, after a big press conference/celebration was held at Grace St. Paul’s (the weekend of the Diocesan Convention), now the 6th Circuit Court has upheld bans on same-sex marriage in four states. Then the Supreme Court decided they will hear the appeal to the 6th Circuit Court’s decision. But even if the Supreme Court declares same-sex marriage bans unconstitutional, we in the Episcopal Church are not done.

At the last General Convention of the Episcopal church (happens every three years, last in 2012), we approved “an official liturgy for blessing same-sex unions, enabling priests who have the approval of their bishops to bestow the church’s blessing on gay couples whether they live in a state where same-sex marriage is legal or not.”¹

But that’s the catch. This move by the national church made back on July 10, 2010, seemed like a wonderful thing, but in light of the recent swift societal change in attitude toward same-sex unions, this represents a “separate, but equal” kind of treatment of the marriage rite.

Grace St. Paul’s has historically been at

the forefront of social issues (“race” issues in the 60s at Grace Church, women priests after the Philadelphia Eleven were “irregularly ordained” to the priesthood in 1974, ordination of gay and lesbian people in recent decades), but we clearly have a role to play in the continuing struggle for marriage equality.

Grace St. Paul’s prophetic voice has been heard over the years, as it relates to same-sex unions and same-sex marriage, and we have been “out front,” when it comes to recognizing and solemnizing those relationships.³



At the next General Convention (June 2015 in Salt Lake City) should we push for same-sex marriages in the church, or perhaps consider whether the church should be in the legal marriage business at all? Should we solemnize marriages in God’s eyes and totally separate what we do from the actions of the state? Shall we follow the secular world—and which one?—or is this our prophecy?

And what of our brothers and sisters (certainly some in our own congregation) who just aren’t there yet? None of us wants to shut down conversation. Prophecy can be messy and potentially contentious. But the Episcopal Church is one where such discussions are often public and unapologetic. One thing is certain: for the nation and for our church, this is an exciting time, and the issue is clearly not settled.

¹ www.nytimes.com/2012/07/11/us/episcopalians-approve-rite-to-bless-same-sex-unions.html

² wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordination_of_women_in_the_Anglican_Communion

³ www.gsptucson.org/pdfs/news_oct-nov2013.pdf, p. 7



News from Joseph's Pantry

By Deacon Nancy Meister

Joseph's Pantry is on target to feed 10,200 people by the end of 2014, an increase over 2013. We can do that through donations from parishioners and being a Community Food Bank site. We are able to shop twice a week at the Community Food Bank's Agency Market and have commercial refrigeration to store the food.

On Nov. 1, David and Jill Clements organized a food drive at the Safeway at Prince and Campbell. Volunteers collected six shopping carts of food, since grocery shoppers were very generous.

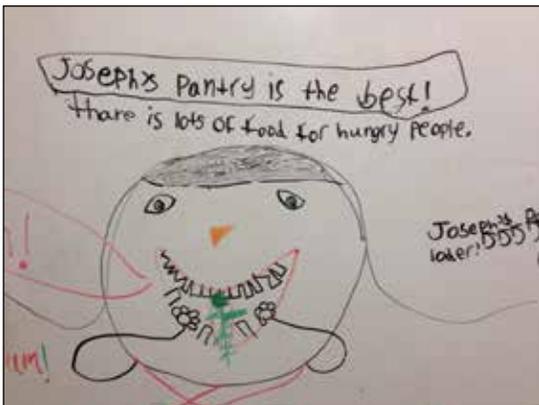
Just in time for Thanksgiving, pantry volunteers Steve

Mattix and Amy Cormode received a surprise delivery of an abundant amount of food from Resurrection Lutheran Church. So our flood closet is overflowing with goodies. All of this helps supplement the one bag per month that people can receive from the CFB.

Many thanks for those efforts and donations. This will surely help Holly Shinn, our Shopping Coordinator and of course, the many people who come to us.

Amy Cormode, Andrew Gardner, and Sofia Gardner-Starks prepped and painted the showers and that has made quite an improvement to them. This was funded by the ECS grant we received in January. Unfortunately our ECS grant request for 2015 was not funded. So we are looking for funding elsewhere and ideas are welcome.

Sofia Gardner-Starks, daughter of Andrew Gardner, is our youngest pantry volunteer. At left is a drawing she did at a recent meeting where she and her Dad helped recruit two new pantry volunteers. But more hands are always welcome and needed.



Changes Coming for Church Staff

By The Rev. Steve Keplinger

As we head into the new year at Grace St. Paul's, noticeable changes are occurring with our staff.

The first involves our facilities assistant, **James Teal**. James has been serving us for the last four years in innumerable ways, more ways than I can count or elaborate. He is our go to person for any need we have on campus. He acts as our sexton on the days and hours when **James White** is not here. I and others also call on him to solve any emergency or situation that develops on our property, day and night.

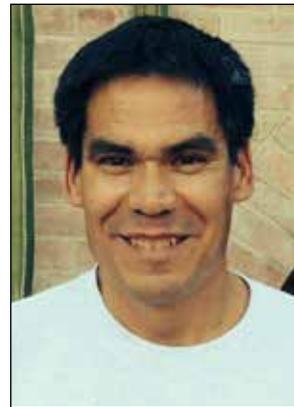
James not only does all kinds of labor to keep GSP looking great and functioning like a well oiled machine, but he is also a problem solver and a caretaker of our property. James has personally bailed me out of many situations and his presence on this campus has been a great gift to all of us, giving our community so much more than we have given him. For the past three years, James has also been a night watchman for us, a presence on our campus day and night, and the one who has made sure our property is secure.

James' role at GSP is changing, as he has decided to move off campus into his own apartment. While we will lose the benefit of having a 24-hour presence on campus, James will continue to serve us in all the other ways he has in the past. His diligence in enforcing our policies has made this move possible, and we rejoice with James as he moves into his new digs. Congratulate James the next time you see him. I cannot express just how thankful I am for all he has done for us.

The second change is happening with our parish administrator. **KiKi Fenik** was the first person I hired at Grace St. Paul's, and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made in my career. KiKi brought to us the professionalism, exuberance, and efficiency that was so important as we went into high gear at GSP. She became the face of this church and it was her image and character that represented the epitome of who we wanted to be and what we became. She was the perfect person for the new job and what we were trying to create. KiKi has also had a "whatever it takes" attitude



Kiki Fenik (above) and James Teal



in getting the job accomplished.

KiKi has decided that she has been called to a new career. She has started a new business as a life coach. Those of you who know her, realize that it is a perfect fit for her many talents and her personality. KiKi will be leaving GSP in mid-January. Stay tuned for how we will honor KiKi before her departure.

Words are not enough to express my gratefulness to KiKi for the gigantic role she has played in implementing the vision we had for

this community. We are the wonderful church we are today, thanks in large part to what she has given us.

KiKi is also a great example of what GSP is all about. We will continue to surround ourselves with people like her, the most talented people in the world. We rejoice in what she has done for us and we also rejoice that her time here has allowed her to see a new door opening in her life.



Help Create Advent Calendar on Facebook!

By Catherine Penn Williams

This Advent, the Communications Ministry invites you to help us create a beautiful, daily Advent Calendar for Grace St. Paul's on Facebook.

Here's how it works: 1) beginning Sunday, Nov. 30, meditate on the word assigned for that

day (see box below), 2) pray with your camera or smartphone by taking a photo inspired by the word for the day, and 3) post the photo to your Facebook page along with the hashtags: #gspadvent and the word of the day (i.e. #look). Then watch the Advent Calendar take form as we journey through this season of anticipation and preparation for the One who is coming.

Note: We are grateful to the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (ssje.org) for supplying the Advent words as part of their project to create an Advent Calendar on Instagram. You can subscribe to that project at: aco.org/adventword.cfm.

#Look (30 Nov)	#Encourage (9 Dec)	#Beautify (18 Dec)
#Remember (1 Dec)	#Wake Up (10 Dec)	#Heal (19 Dec)
#Imagine (2 Dec)	#Breathe (11 Dec)	#Thank (20 Dec)
#Thrive (3 Dec)	#Act (12 Dec)	#Ask (21 Dec)
#Abide (4 Dec)	#Risk (13 Dec)	#Relate (22 Dec)
#Notice (5 Dec)	#Expand (14 Dec)	#Delight (23 Dec)
#Watch (6 Dec)	#Focus (15 Dec)	#Love (24 Dec)
#Show Up (7 Dec)	#Experience (16 Dec)	#Receive (25 Dec)
#Respond (8 Dec)	#Become (17 Dec)	

The Rev. Nancy Meister organized a recognition/thank you dinner on Sunday, Nov. 16, for all the volunteers who participate in the Social Justice & Outreach Ministry Group. The ministries in that group are: Audio Accessibility, Bread from the Pantry, Bridging Borders, Green Church, Episcopal Campus Ministry, Interfaith Community Services, Joseph's Pantry, Just Coffee, Office Welcome Team, Primavera, Social Services, St. Andrew's Children's Clinic and TiHAN.





The Winter Solstice: Why bother with it?

Sunday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

The Winter Solstice has held a powerful place in the rhythm of the year's calendar for centuries. Join us for a multimedia presentation that will invite us to consider:

How do we view darkness? How does God view darkness?

Why is the axial tilt important?

When is winter? How does winter affect us?

How do we determine a solstice?

What does a goat have to do with the December solstice? What does fire have to do with the December solstice?

How do the sun's movements affect how we site our structures?

What does the god Saturn have to do with the winter solstice? What does Christ's Nativity have to do with the winter solstice?

Other than that Galileo unpleasantness, what is the Church's interest in astronomy? Are Christians sun worshipers?

Presented by Dr Chuck Dickson, a longtime GSP member and frequent contributor to Adult Spiritual Formation at GSP.

Prayers, Poetry & Images of Incarnation

Sundays, Dec. 14 & 21, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

Join us for this special Advent series as we contemplate the Incarnation through poetry, prayers and art. We will draw especially from *A Widening Light: Poems of the Incarnation*, edited by Lucy Shaw.

Presenter Deacon Linda Hutson is a Spiritual Director and Retreat Leader.

Exploring Today's Lectionary

Sunday, Jan. 4, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

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.

Episcopal Relief & Development:

The Gospel of Matthew in Action

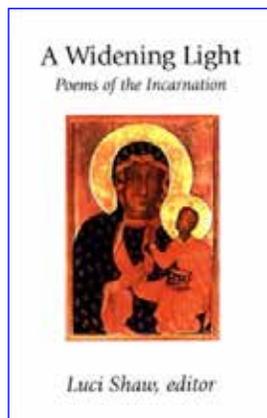
Sunday, Jan. 11, 9 a.m., Bloom Education Center

‘For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ —Matthew 25:35-36

Episcopal Relief & Development works with Church partners and other local organizations to save lives and transform communities worldwide. ERD helps rebuild after disasters and empower people to create lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger and disease. Working in close to 40 countries, their programs impact the lives of approximately 3 million people around the world. Join us for an informative session about the work of this important ministry of the Episcopal Church.

Presented by Deacon Linda Hale. Deacon Hale moved to Tucson from the Diocese of Spokane about a year ago and currently serves at Christ the King Episcopal Church. She has worked with ERD for many years.

NOTE: There will be no 9 o'clock classes on Sunday, Jan. 18 or Jan. 25 due to the Vestry Nominees Panel and the Annual Meeting.





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 December 2014

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., Quilting Ministry
- 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

1st 7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)

3rd 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
7 p.m., E/M Class

5th 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading

6th [All-Church Work Day](#)

7th 9 a.m., *Winter Solstice: Why Bother With It?*

8th 6:30 p.m., E/M Eternal Group

7 p.m., [Joseph's Pantry meeting](#)

10th 7 p.m., E/M Class

12th 11:30 a.m., GSP Reading Group

6:30 p.m., [Adult Spiritual Formation Film Series](#)

14th 9 a.m., *Prayers, Poetry & Images of Incarnation*

12 noon, Lay Minister Training
6 p.m., [BLUE CHRISTMAS](#)

16th 9 a.m., Community Spa Day with Aveda Institute

17th 9 a.m., E/M Class
12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

7 p.m., E/M Class

18th 5:30 p.m., [Spirit Now: Winter Solstice Service](#)

19th 9:30 a.m., Community of Hope meeting

6:30 p.m., [Film & Fellowship](#)

20th 6 p.m., *Las Posadas*

21st 9 a.m., *Prayers, Poetry & Images of Incarnation*

6 p.m., [SpiritSong: Worship &](#)

[Prayer in the style of Taizé](#)

23rd 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks! Fourth Tuesday Group

6:30 p.m., [Vestry Meeting](#)

24th [CHRISTMAS EVE—Office closes at 12 noon](#)

6 p.m., Intergenerational Service

7:30 p.m., Reception

10:30 p.m., Candlelight Service with Carols

25th [CHRISTMAS DAY—Office,](#)

[Social Service Ministry & Joseph's Pantry Closed](#)

10 a.m., Service with Carols

26th [Office & Social Service Ministry Closed](#)

28th 1 p.m., Mother's Kitchen

31st 7 p.m., [Sing for Peace](#)

[New Year's Eve Concert](#)

What's Coming in January 2015

1st [NEW YEAR'S DAY—Office & Social Service Ministry Closed](#)

4th 9 a.m., *Exploring Today's*

Lectionary

5th 10 a.m., E/M Post-Grad Forum

7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)

7th 9 a.m., E/M Class

12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

7 p.m., E/M Class

9th 11:30 a.m., GSP Reading Group

6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading

11th 9 a.m., *ERD: The Gospel of*

Matthew in Action

12 noon, Lay Minister Training

6 p.m., [SpiritSong: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé](#)

12th 7 p.m., [Joseph's Pantry Meeting](#)

14th 9 a.m., E/M Class

7 p.m., E/M Class

16th 9:30 a.m., Community of Hope meeting

6:30 p.m., [Film & Fellowship](#)

18th 9 & 11:30 a.m., [Meet the Vestry Candidates](#)

21st 9 a.m., E/M Class

12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

7 p.m., E/M Class

25th [ANNUAL MEETING](#)—following 10 a.m. service

1 p.m., Mother's Kitchen

27th 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks! Fourth Tuesday Group

6:30 p.m., [Vestry Meeting](#)

28th 9 a.m., E/M Class

7 p.m., E/M Class

What's Coming in February 2015

2nd 10 a.m., E/M Post Grad Forum

7 p.m., [Green Church Committee](#)

4th 9 a.m., E/M Class

12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry

7 p.m., E/M Class

6th 6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading

8th 6 p.m., [SpiritSong: Worship & Prayer in the style of Taizé](#)