

Apostles Epistle

Nurturing connections with the divine

A Periodic Newsletter

November 2011

The Feast of All Saints

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last Sunday I spoke about two ideas of a Cloud. The first referred to a new movement in the world of computing and that is the use of vast off-site servers to store our digital stuff (photos, music, files). It is called The Cloud by folks in the know. While that will have some impact on us, it is the other Cloud – the Great Cloud of Witness described in Hebrews 12 that interests me on the Feast of All Saints.

For November 1 and 2nd are days of remembrance and gratitude. In the

Hispanic tradition a small area is set aside with flowers and candles and photos of the beloved departed and they are remembered with cheer. These small “altars” are *offrenda*. Other groups have other traditions. One family I know of will sit down after supper and light a candle, bring a glass of an appropriate libation, and remember, with fondness all of those whom they love, but no longer see.



May we in the beginning of November exercise the same kind of remembrance. Not only do we each have friends and family who have passed through the veil

of death, but the larger and extended family of Faith also surrounds us. The Saints who have trod our path before us are real, if invisible encouragers. They soften our edge of isolation. They brighten our path with our recollection of them.

For us the days around October 31 are neither spooky nor filled with terrors. For we follow the One who has passed through all of this before us and by his resurrection Christ has made a sure path through life and death to eternal life.

We give thanks to God this week “through Jesus Christ our Lord: who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens” (BCP 382).

Megan †

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CONVENTION REPORT

What a pleasure to be able to report on the 51st Diocesan Convention in this revitalization of Apostles Newsletter! Thanks to Caleb Deupree for his editorship.

Convention delegates met in Phoenix on October 14/15, and the privilege of singing and praying with over 400 enthusiastic Episcopalians during Eucharist Service Saturday morning was almost overwhelming -- and certainly enhanced by fine choir voices and a brass ensemble. For two days Bishop Kirk Smith was inspiring, engaging and funny (he had some great jokes). His sermon Saturday was on the movie "The Kings Speech," which tied in with the overall convention theme of Telling Our Story. We were encouraged to develop "tell skills" and share quick "snapshots" of our personal faith with others.

Yes, there was the inevitable convention "business", but overall there seemed a single-mindedness to move forward with good grace and pace. The convention passed a resolution for the Structural Reform of The Episcopal Church and joins other dioceses in sending it for consideration at General Convention in 2012. (The crux is that the administrative and governance structures of the Episcopal Church now comprise approximately 47% of the church-wide budget. Reform is urged to facilitate more strategic engagement in a world mission that has changed dramatically over the years.)

A great moment at convention... which should touch our hearts at Church of the Apostles.... St. Paul's Church, Payson, was recognized for their rise from mission status to parish status. So many smiling faces! AND WE CAN DO IT TOO!

Marilyn Myers
Senior Warden

Editor Epistology

Welcome to the current manifestation of Apostles' Epistle, the newsletter for the Church of the Apostles in Oro Valley, Arizona. My name is Caleb Deupree, and I'm a retired software engineer residing with my wife Elizabeth in Oro Valley since 2006. We started attending Apostles in the summer of 2011, and when Pastor Megan and I discussed service possibilities, the newsletter quickly percolated to the top of the heap. The position was vacant, and I've kept a music blog for the past several years, so it seemed like a good match.

The editor of a parish newsletter counts for little in relation to the different ministries the newsletter supports. The Epistle is a clearing house, where we tell each other about upcoming events, extending our welcome to our brethren in the parish.

The newsletter is also an opportunity show our colors, share our joys previously hidden. Have you read an especially inspirational or illuminating book that you would like to share with your friends? Send in the title and a couple of sentences about why you liked it. We have a lot of readers in this parish, always on the lookout for new material.

This inaugural issue also welcomes back our winter parishioners, to give them word from their spiritual home in the sun, and remind them about the ongoing life here at Apostles. Stop by at the coffee hour after the 9:30 service to re-acquaint yourselves with our friendly greeters.

In the meantime, please bear with us as we put together the Communications Ministry for the newsletter and its relatives, and as the Epistle continues to evolve.

– All blessings –

Forward Day By Day

The Episcopal Church publishes a quarterly series of short meditations based on the Bible readings from the daily lectionary. The new issue, covering November, December and January, is available for a dollar on the tables in the narthex.



Pictures of the Season

It's early November now, only a couple of weeks from Thanksgiving, initiating another holiday season. Many of us are photographers, so we would like your participation in decorating the December issue of Apostles' Epistle.

Specifically, we seek photographs that express what Christmas means to you. It may or may not include traditional Christmas images, or it may communicate the joy that comes from celebrating the birth of our Savior and the our ever-growing rebirth in the communion of saints.

The Next Epistle

The next issue of Apostles Epistle should be out on or around December 1. Please send by **Tuesday, November 29**, any announcements for December **and early January**, as our new year's issue will probably not be available until later in the month.

November Announcements

November Outreach

In November the Outreach Team will be collecting socks for the Troops through Operation Gratitude. Socks should be preferably black, brown, green or tan - not white. Appropriate socks are Nike DriFit or New Balance socks (calf style not short) which can be purchased at Sport's Authority. You may also include a personal letter or card to the Troops which are sometimes the most cherished items in the care package. Drop off point will be in the Outreach box in the narthex.

November 5, Parish Clean-up, 8-12

The church's recent horticultural face lift should not lull anyone into thinking that there won't be anything left to do at the Parish Clean-up. Quite the contrary! Mike and the A-Team have a long list of tasks that need our collective attention. Bring work gloves, tools, and water to the church; the clean-up will run **from 8:00 until noon**.

Also November 5, Parents Night Out, 4-8pm

After a morning of parish grounds beautification, our Parish Life Ministry will provide free child care from 4:00 until 8:00 pm. Please make use of this free childcare to have a night out with your spouse or do whatever you would like! We would also ask that you invite your friends to participate (even if they don't attend Apostles!). There is an informative poster located in the Foyer which will include registration slips and directions for signing up. The deadline, so we have an idea about numbers, is Tuesday, November 1. Most of the adult volunteers were involved in Vacation Bible School, so they will be familiar faces to you children!

November 6, special guest Rev. Canon Dombek, Arizona Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. Canon Timothy Dombek will be visiting us, preaching at both services on November 6. Reverend Dombek is the Canon to the Ordinary (in lay terms, assistant to the bishop) in our diocese, and he has led workshops on spirituality and faith. His current specialties include participatory strategic planning and stewardship education for congregations and organizations.

Reverend Dombek and Pastor Megan were at seminary together, and he visited us three years ago to celebrate her installation here at Apostles. Please join us with a special Apostles welcome for our returning guest.

November 13, Consecration celebration

We still have a couple of weeks to finish our Time and Talent Offerings and our Estimate of Giving Forms for 2012 and place them in the designated receptacles near the entrance of the church. Extra forms are available at church. Our Consecration of Time, Talent and Treasure will take place at the Family Service on November 13, followed by a Sonoran Hot Dog Cookout and parish photos.



November 20, Blessing of the Animals

The annual Blessing of the Animals service will take place outdoors at 9:30 on Sunday, November 20. The service is an annual tradition at Church of the Apostles, done a bit later this year in an effort to beat the heat.

The Blessing of the Animals originally started in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. Today we commemorate the special bond between a person and his or her pet, a unspoken relationship of love. So please bring your (well behaved please) pets to church for this special celebration.

Holy Communion will be celebrated, indoors, at 7:30 and 9:30.



November 23, Evening service

Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving, Apostles will celebrate our blessings with a special Communion service at 7:00.

November 27, Baptism

We always welcome new members to the Apostles family, but it is a very special occasion to receive them through baptism. We will have three baptisms at the family service on November 27, the First Sunday of Advent: Benjamin Carmella, infant son of Jessica Sheets; Robert Marshall, two-year-old son of Tom and Erin Marshall; and James Donald Sheets III, grandson of Trudy Sheets. To make the day even more special, Jason and Marissa Ochs will be celebrating their first communion at the same service.

Outreach Food Drive, Dec. 2-3

Save the Date for our upcoming Food Drive which will be held December 2nd and 3rd. Sign up will begin November 13th.



Landscape Renovation

by Elizabeth Deupree

The landscape and irrigation renovation project started innocently enough during the October 10th “A Team” work session with the intent to plant five new shrubs to replace those that succumbed to winter freeze or summer drought. I realized if we were to make a change to the micro environment immediately in front of the sanctuary, Fall was the time to plant for optimum success. I made a spontaneous decision to restore the sanctuary gardens as our gift to the church.

As we got into the process of planting, we discovered caliche which required a jackhammer to accomplish any planting, a poorly functioning irrigation system with

many leaks and open drip lines watering plants that had long since expired, and old control valves in need of replacement. The project morphed at each step and seemed to take on a life of its own.

Through discussions with Pastor Megan and Harrison Hefflin we agreed the best course of action was to replace all the irrigation lines, drip lines, and valves. This should reduce the water bills considerably, visible in the next three months. Of course, the real difference will be apparent next summer. The replacement valves should be good for five to eight years. Harrison’s expertise and advice on valves reduced our costs 50%.

Where possible, I’ve selected native Sonoran Desert environment plants that are drought tolerant. Plants were selected based on location specific micro

environments (shade, filtered sun, full sun, reflected sun). One hundred and seventy-five plants were installed; all of them will bloom. The intention is to have something blooming every month of the year.

In conclusion, the renovation project comes to fruition with an all new, efficiently functioning irrigation system, sanctuary garden planted en masse, driveway plantings, parking lot island plantings, columbarium garden renovation, a new tree, and sidewalk plants along the flagstone path.

Now we sit in the respite of winter’s cool temps and allow everything to root and build strength to produce its Spring bounty. When Summer heat returns, our gardens will be strong and vibrant – more able to withstand the heat.

As many of you have overheard me saying during the project, “grow and prosper . . .” It is my mantra whenever I garden.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in the beautification project: Harrison Hefflin, Loretta Barker, Mike Fehniger, Jane Heffelman, Jon Skaug, Dennis Stricker, Teri Sullivan, and Letha Williams.



Dwarf Oleanders and native Brittlebush line the runoff wash behind the columbarium. The taller Standard Oleanders are placed to hide the electrical boxes next to the driveway.

Recommended reading

Jaroslav Pelikan, *Whose Bible Is It?* (Penguin, 2005). An excellent short history of scripture, covering many topics at a fairly high level. Pelikan is one of the best living scholars of Christian doctrine, and he keeps his vast erudition at the service of readability, making this one of the best non-technical scripture histories available.

Looking Ahead

Henri Nouwen Book Study and Reflection Group

Are you looking for an opportunity to deep your own spiritual life while connecting with others in a relationship of accountability, reflection and community? If so, we invite you to join us, beginning in January, for a 3 week book study and personal reflection group using world renowned author Henri Nouwen’s book, ***SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: WISDOM FOR THE LONG WALK OF FAITH***. Groups will meet for three weeks only, every other week. Group One is offered on Saturday mornings from 10-12 (January 7 and 21 and February 4) and Group Two will meet on Thursday’s from 1-3 (January 12, 26, and February 9). Space is limited so if you are interested please sign up on the registration sheet at the back of the church. For additional information call Loretta Barker at 520-572-2427.

Ongoing Formation Ministry

Tuesday is group study day at Apostles during November. From 10 to 11 in the morning, Pastor Megan leads a discussion of *Exodus*. Each week is self-contained, so come as you are able. We will be covering the following sections this month:

- ❖ November 1: *Exodus* 12:29-13:16
- ❖ November 8: *Exodus* 13:17-14:31
- ❖ November 15: *Exodus* 15:1-21
- ❖ November 22: *Exodus* 15:22-17:16
- ❖ November 29: *Exodus* 18

At 5:30 p.m., Frank Price leads the Christian Meditation group. The group follows the same practice as other small meditation groups around the world that are linked together through [The World Community of Christian Meditation](#). We gather together to listen to a brief spiritual teaching (usually 10-12 minutes) and then turn inward in silence to the practice of contemplative prayer. Our weekly teachings and meditation practice can be attended at any time and are open to all. For more information, please contact Frank at 579-8013 or by [email](#).

Then at 6:30 Father Bob leads the Theological Tuesday discussion group in the library. The current book is *Rabbi Paul*, a very readable intellectual biography of the Apostle and Saint by Bruce Chilton, recommended for anyone who’s ever found Paul’s letters confusing (and really, isn’t that all of us?). The group sets its own pace from session to session instead of publishing the schedule in advance, so the best way to find out the next reading is to contact Father Bob.

Ministers

The Congregation

Vicar

[The Rev. Megan McClure Traquair*](#) – 544-9660

Deacons

[The Rev. Wendy Hackler](#) – 822-2554

[The Rev. Jon Skaug](#) – 834-6147

Retired Associates

[The Rev. Bob Harvey](#) – 744-7810

[The Rev. Brian Ticknor](#) – 797-0759

[The Rev. Cynthia M. Spencer](#) – 825-7730

Music Director

[Ken Easton](#) – 579-7650

Parish Secretary

[Sharon Persson](#) – 544-9660

Bishop's Committee

Marilyn Myers – 219-6144 (Senior Warden)

Dennis Stricker – 544-7716 (Junior Warden)

Wil Harri – 825-8227 (Treasurer)

Chris Craig – 572-9831 (Clerk)

Donna Barker – 575-9393

Kaaren Boothroyd – 818-3829

Fred Chapman – 818-0335

Howard Deevers – 877-3201

Nan Morgan – 825-8334

Ken Webster – 818-0244

Carol Willans – 495-0496

Buildings and Grounds

Dennis Stricker – 544-7716

Outreach

Mimi Hutton – 343-5361

Finances

Fred Chapman – 818-0335

Christian Formation

[The Rev. Bob Harvey](#) – 744-7810

Stewardship

Ken Cookson – 818-9209

Ken Webster – 818-0244

Worship

Diane Stricker – 544-7716

Membership

Sue Fehniger – 742-5934

Administration

Connie Cookson – 818-9209

Children's Ministry

Kristen Downing – 577-1912

Matt Adamson – 544-3887

Pima Council On Aging Ambassador (PCOA)

Anne Harman – 743-4738

Parish Receptions

Phyllis Petersen – 575-9178

Youth Leaders

Matt & Stephanie Adamson – 544-3887

Financial Secretary

Nan Morgan – 825-8334

Webmaster

[Dennis Stricker](#) – 544-7716

*Click on the link to send an email.



About Apostles Epistle

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Edited by Caleb Deupree. Photographs by Caleb Deupree (pages 2, 3 and the saint from Tumamoc Hill on page 5) and Elizabeth Deupree (page 1, 4, the garden on page 5, and 6).