

THE EPISTLE

FEBRUARY 2017



SERVING OUT OF GIFTEDNESS

Am I living out my God given talents? How can I make this the year where I'm serving out of passion and giftedness? What does serving out of privilege and joy look like and how can I shift from serving out of duty? What more does God have in store for me?

Have you asked yourself these questions? We want to help you answer them, with God's help.

Welcome to the Launch Seminar! This seminar is a spiritual journey for participants to reflect on how God has created and prepared them to serve. While on this journey, you will be able to answer the questions listed above and then **connect with ministries where you can serve out of passion, not just out of duty.** You can serve in a manner that works with your stage in life. You can serve at St. Paul's or elsewhere in God's kingdom. The gifts we receive when we are serving others is an incredible experience; often times we receive more than we give especially when we are serving with joy and privilege.

We are delighted to announce that our first seminar will be facilitated by its creator, Sue Nilson Kibbey. Sue's bio appears later in this Epistle. During the initial seminar facilitated by Sue, at least three St.

Paul's facilitators will be trained for future seminars. Our plan is to offer this seminar once per quarter which will embed this into our culture and the Discipleship Pathway. By having our own facilitators, this goal will be accomplished this year.

As we prepared for this exciting seminar, a Launch Team was created and currently consists of Susie Goad, Claudia Perry, Suzanne Cipra and Nancy Scott. Our hope is to add 3-4 more team members; please contact Susie Goad at 722-0867 or Nancy Scott the Church if interested.

This is an exciting time for St. Paul's! What would our community look like if ALL of us serve out of passion and joy? 2017 is our year to find out!



Two Launch Seminar Offerings

Saturday, March 11
9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Brummet Hall

Sunday, March 12
11:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Brummet Hall

Registration Form is located on last page of Epistle.

"We are called to be a community of generosity and love where we invite others to join us in becoming disciples of Jesus Christ for the good of the world."

AT THE GATE

This newsletter focuses on what is—I believe—one of the most exciting events to happen at St. Paul’s in my relatively brief tenure as pastor here! The Reverend Sue Nilson-Kibbey, who is currently serving as The Ohio Conference of the UMC as the Director of Discipleship Ministries, is coming to St. Paul’s specifically to help us to understand our individual Spiritual Gifts, talents, abilities, and preferences, which translate into strengths, and leads us to be knowing God’s calling for our lives.

I met Sue many years ago as a young pastor, she was even then, working on helping people to find their calling in the Church and out into the World. She did that so well, that she got recruited to one of our best large United Methodist Churches anywhere Ginghamburg UMC in Ohio. What she was able to do there caught the attention of the leadership in the Ohio Conference, and she now does works with Churches all over Ohio... and very soon she’ll be right here in Tucson at St. Paul’s! Please do not miss this great opportunity!

Grace Happens,
Pastor Tony

Q & A With Sue Nilson-Kibbey

United Methodist Church elder Reverend Sue Nilson Kibbey presently serves on the West Ohio Conference and leads the Missional Church Consultation Initiative, an intense endeavor of coaching and training that’s rekindled ministry in churches across the country. Over the course of six years, Sue’s work has impacted more than 80 congregations spanning five different conferences.



1. What made you decide to pursue the creation of this workshop?

I’ve been a United Methodist minister for a number of years, and I’ve served several different congregations. In each one, I initially discovered that there was a core set of very dedicated volunteers that did most of the work in the church, and there were many others who attended worship or Sunday school but weren’t really involved and serving. The scriptures are very clear in the New Testament that part of our spiritual growth comes through serving the mission of Jesus- that in fact the life of Christ lives in us. Christ said that He came not to be served but to serve; that as we serve the mission of God’s purposes in the world, the life of Christ can grow and mature in us. This all began as a dream of how we could help people connect with whatever it is that God is calling them to do to serve the mission of Christ through their unique gifts and passions, and how we can help create a venue for people to connect and step out [of the church] to fulfill that. *

2. What are your main goals in this endeavor?

Launch is a three-hour seminar to set the spiritual environment for people to reflect and discern how God has been preparing them uniquely to step out and serve out of the great good of the work of Christ in the world. Everybody is wired differently; everybody’s past experiences, education and desires are different. Launch creates the kind of environment where people can reflect and gain insight on what they’d like to do next in terms of serving. It is not a class where we’re teaching people, it’s a class where we’re facilitating [an environment] where people can take a spiritual journey of discernment. People might identify ways to serve within the ministries of the church, or possibly beyond- but whatever it is, it’s all part of how we help people grow spiritually and connect to what it is that God is speaking to them to do. The Saint Paul’s Launch Team will work to get people connected into serving right away, after their participation in the Launch Seminar. It’s a great way to “unleash” the unpaid ministry of the church. *

* Transcribed from a recorded interview.

UPCOMING SERMONS



February 5th- “Get the Picture” - Holy Communion
Genesis 12:2-3

We are all created in the image of the Creator; and we were intended for great things. It seems, though, we make excuses to live lesser lives.



February 12th- “The Power of Commitment” - Commitment Sunday
Luke 9:57-62

“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” Bring your pledges to church, or mail them in. You want to be a part of God’s dream for St. Paul’s!



February 19th- “What’s My Legacy?” - Foundation Sunday
Deuteronomy 6:5-7, Proverbs 13:22, Joshua 24:15, Psalm 37:18

This day we will learn about the St. Paul’s Foundation, what it does, how you can be a part of it. The Foundation will be providing a meal and an hour long presentation on Wills and Estates for anyone who needs to update their will, and for those who do not yet have one. ...

It is also our church’s birthday celebration, and Valentine’s Day. In 1960, our church officially chartered. We were “planted” by the good people of Catalina United Methodist Church.



February 24th- Transfiguration Sunday
Luke 9:28-38

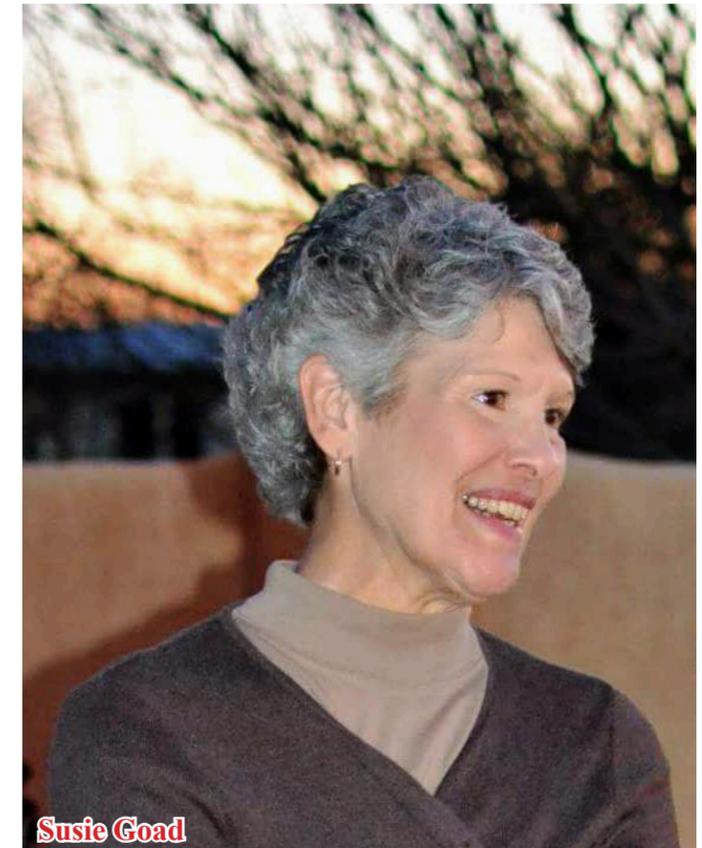
What does “transfigured” and “the transfiguration” of Jesus even mean? What would it mean for you and I to be transfigured?

PHOTO GALLERY

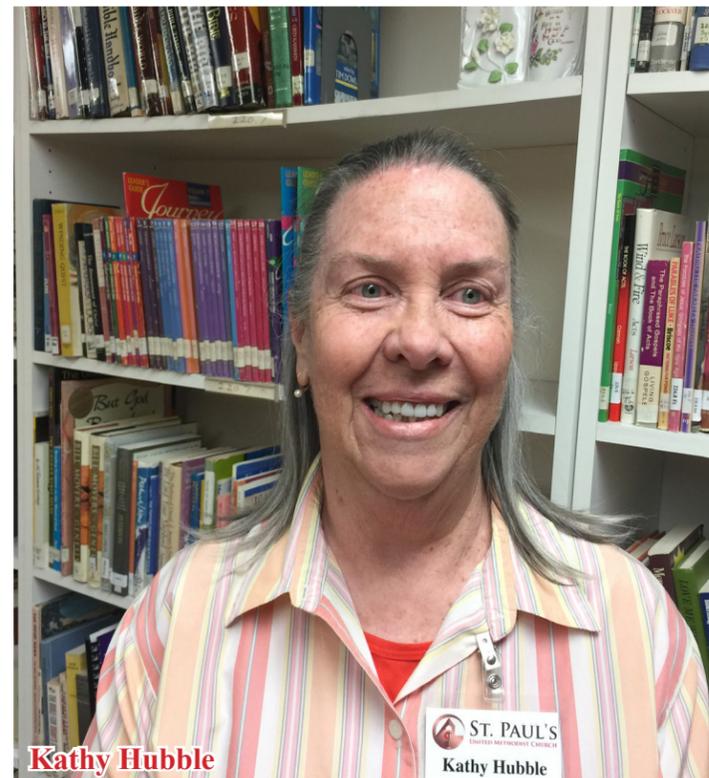
**"As SPRC Chair, it is important for me to continually grow spiritually. I'm committed to attending Launch to explore my gifts while listening to what God has planned for my life in the next year."
-Kevin Wakefield**



**"I will be attending Launch because I want to know what more God has for me in this life. My faith journey has taken me places I could not have imagined so I know that as long as I live God will stretch me and grow me in ways I would not have considered. With each new calling I grow closer to my Lord Jesus and I am always amazed by how my calling can impact those around me."
-Susie Goad**



**"I'm.... ";)" years old. I'm just now understanding Justifying Grace. Sanctifying Grace is the on-going experience of Justifying Grace, a journey of gratitude and maturing in God's love and grace. The Spirit of the Loving God, (to coin a song) falls afresh on my by degrees. I trust the Launch is another gift of grace with a big bow just waiting to be unwrapped and I'm so excited to share this opportunity with my church family as we grow in grace together."
-Becky Cowart**

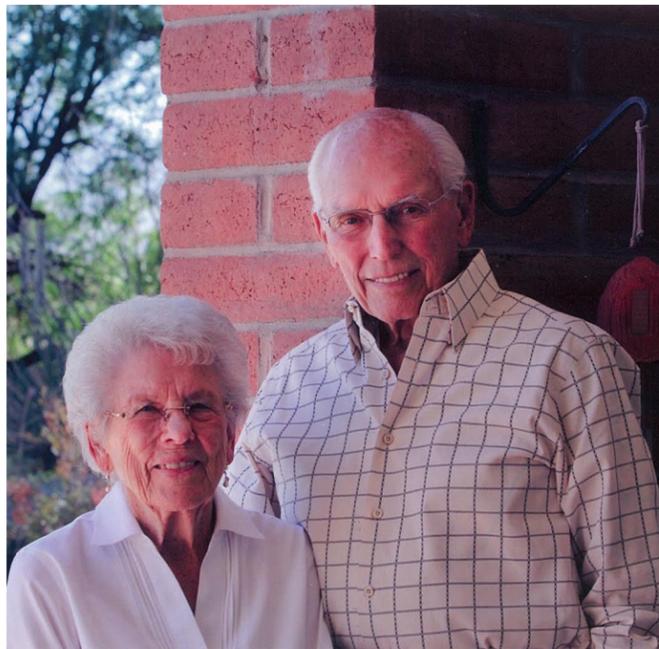


**"I'm attending Launch as I'm asking God to help me clearly understand my gifts and passions. My hope is this will allow me to more effectively connect my gifts to the right ministries at St Paul's and in the world."
-Kathy Hubble**

EPISTLE EDITORIAL: THE GIFT OF LOVE

“We had what you might call a fairytale meeting,” Stan Sloan prefaced.

Stan and Alys, famed among the St. Paul’s community for their long membership and recent 71-year anniversary, met in the sixth grade. As Stan put it, his heart was set to thumping the moment he first laid eyes on little blonde-haired, blue-eyed Alys. As fate would have it, he’d joined the school shortly before Valentine’s Day, and he settled on giving her something to commemorate the occasion.



But as all magical first meetings go, there was a bit of conflict. “Another little boy thought she was his girl, and caught me in the hall, saying ‘don’t ever do that again.’ The coach saw us talking and decided we’d put our gloves on and settle it right there,” Stan explained. 200 kids gathered behind the school to witness the display of fisticuffs, of which Stan emerged the victor. “From that moment on, I gave her my heart and never got it back.”

At this sentiment, Alys offered me a wink from across the table.

The two completed high school together and while Alys went through training to become a nurse, Stan joined the Navy and became a pilot, flying off of aircraft carriers in Westpac. Upon his return in 1946, they were married.

“I give her a lot of credit for keeping me out of trouble,” Stan mentioned. He went on to lead a very successful Navy career, commanding aircraft squadrons and becoming an air officer, as well as commanding a few Navy ships.

The Sloans, in their words, have always been a Navy family. Stan’s brother was an aviator, and his sister was a World War II nurse. Stan and Alys’s son and grandson became Naval aviators as well.

The couple settled down in Arizona in 1996 and found St. Paul’s, where they’ve been members ever since. They attest that going to church throughout the years has strengthened their relationship, as “forgiveness comes easier to a Christian.”

From the den of a romance that’s stood the true test of time, a bit of advice: “Marriage isn’t a 50/50 proposition. Don’t look for reasons to support wrong behavior- just try not to do it in the first place. You just figure you’re going to give 100% and ask nothing in return, and hope the other person does the same...and never go to bed mad, or without a goodnight kiss.”

Happy Birthday, St. Paul’s!

February 14th, 1960, St. Paul’s was planted out here in the desert, and it continues to grow and prosper because of our wonderful church family.



Thank You’s

Thank you to all the well-wishers, Merry Christmas, and thank you God for watching over me after my accident and during my recovery.
-Brenda Williams

Editor’s Note

Hello everyone! As you all know, with a new year comes change, and as the Epistle nears its third year of publication, it is certainly no exception.

The Epistle is much more than a simple newsletter or a “big bulletin.” We like to keep you informed, of course- but in a way that involves our whole church family. You never know when you might see a quote from an acquaintance or your picture in the photo gallery. In that way, it captures both the essence of a newspaper, and perhaps a letter from an old friend: exciting, but topical and close to home.

Rest assured, that’s exactly what we want to keep. We’re making a few changes to ensure the involvement of the most important aspect of the Epistle: its audience.

The old deadlines are being replaced with one single deadline: the 16th for each month is the last day you can submit content for the next month’s publication (including pictures, thank you’s, and condolences). This makes things more cohesive, and it’s a bit easier to remember. Secondly, we’re instating monthly meetings to decide the content for the next Epistle. These meetings will be held early in the month and will determine the theme and content for the following month (i.e., February’s meeting will be for March’s newsletter). If you have suggestions or content you’d like to provide for the following month’s Epistle, you are highly encouraged to attend these meetings. Dates will be announced in church as well as the bulletin until we’re able to get a clear schedule established.

As always: thank you for all that you’ve done and continue to do for us. I’m excited for what’s to come, and I think you will be too!

Jane Ellis
Epistle Editor

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**WORSHIP
SUNDAY SERVICES**

8:00 A.M.
Traditional

9:30 A.M.
Contemporary

11:00 A.M.
Traditional



SAVE THE DATES

Launch! Seminar Registration

Seminar will be held in Brummet Hall

*Place completed registration in basket in narthex on Sunday,
or deliver to the church office*

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Circle the session you will attend:

Saturday, March 11th
9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Sunday, March 12th
11:00 am - 2:30 pm

Childcare needed? _____ # of Children _____ Age(s) _____

Please include your reason for attending: (Check any that apply)

- I'm actively involved in church and beyond, and I'm excited to find out new ways to use my gifts for Christ's ministry!
- I want to find out what spiritual gifts I have, and become more involved at church.
- I'm excited to meet other people who are passionate about serving Christ and our community.
- I've never done anything like this, and I don't know what to expect, but I feel called to take this first step.

Registration Deadline: Sunday, March 5th

- **Upward Evaluations - 2/4**
9:30 am - 1:30 pm; Billy and Ann
Still Life Center
- **Stewardship Campaign Commitment Sunday - 2/12**
During services; Sanctuary
- **Lunch & Estate Planning Seminar - 2/19**
12:15 pm, Brummet Hall
- **Launch Workshops - 3/11, 3/12**
9:00 am (3/11), 11:00 am (3/12);
Brummet Hall
- **Spring Break Food Drive - 3/12**

For more details on upcoming events, visit
www.stpaulsumctucson.org.