



ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2016 Ministry Reports

JANUARY 29, 2016
ST. STEPHENS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2750 E. Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

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SENIOR WARDEN ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

The year began with another Vestry Retreat at Chapel Rock with 6 vestry members. We all enjoyed the workshops and plenary talks by Mary Parmer. We were all offered a tour of the whole campus. Since I had not really walked around while there in 2014, it was interesting to see how many new buildings and camp activity areas were created. Most inspiring to me was the emphasis on the Newcomer Program that Ms Parmer introduced. As a result, a telephone contact list was given to each vestry member. The purpose is to call the few names on their list at least once a month to say hello and keep in touch with them. A friendly hello and asking if the person/family is ok or can we help them in any way is a means of keeping communication open. It is also intended as a chain calling list when there is something of particular interest planned within the parish family-- such as memorial/funeral services, reception for special occasions and announcement of Bishop Visitation.

Between Feb. 1 and Holy Week, our Sanctuary was renovated, the old wood paneling was covered and painted a subtle shade of off white, the rest of the walls painted a brighter white. By removing excess tables and other items not used regularly, the back of the church has been opened up. Even the back wall was redecorated with essential pictures and certificates. The Entry Porch was created to allow parishioners to come into the coffee room area for bulletins, other pieces of information and enjoy a little fellowship and coffee before the service. Those who wish to sit quietly in the pews may do so without being surrounded by much conversation.. The "way back" porch area which allows handicap entrance has also been redecorated to allow small group discussions (our choir has used it for lunches after service on occasion while preparing to have an extra choir practice). The facilities committee has done an excellent job in enhancing our appearance. And, they are still deciding on which part of the total plan will be the next project.

A second Capital Campaign was started by Don Yadusky. He began by writing letters to all congregants explaining the process to pay for our Education Center building. Under his direction, several Vestry members and Fr. Vic wrote letters as a follow-up. The thank you notes were mailed to those who re-pledged to the fund. There is also a way for folks to pick a month and donate either in full or partial payment in honor of an occasion or person. The chart of where we are as far as paying off the debt is hanging in the Parish hall. Unfortunately, Don passed away suddenly late in 2016 and leaves a big void in all our hearts. He was devoted to doing what he believed in as a Vestry Member.

Don also painted the Labyrinth on the side parking lot. He was trying to gain interest in our building one on our property.

In an effort to continue providing fresh flowers for our Altar year round, a Flower Chart was hung recently in the Entry Hall. It is intended that parishioners sign up to honor a birthday, anniversary or thanksgiving by putting the name and occasion on whatever week they choose. I will be in touch with them a week before to see if there is a specific bouquet or plant and request a donation to cover the cost of same. The choice will then be put in place in time for the Sunday chosen and the dedication will appear in that week's bulletin.

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It has been my pleasure to serve my church family in this capacity. Some of the projects I was involved in during the last 2 years, I plan to continue as long as I am able.

The 2016 Vestry has been a delight to work with. Much energy and enthusiasm has enabled to get a lot done: for instance we voted on a new logo (Mark Sowards and Douglas Hickey are working on getting it into our computer system), we voted to change a word in our Mission Statement; we have made sure the interior signage is more evident and that the church sign is kept current to seasons, an endowment policy was worked on and approved. These are, of course, on top of the projects mentioned above.

In Christ's Name,

Dottie Gutwein

OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT 2016

2016 Operation Christmas child boxes

In late September, I provided the congregations with 25 Operation Christmas Child Boxes to be filled and returned no later than November 13. After being blessed at the altar during the 11/13 10:30AM service, I delivered 15 boxes to the drop off trailer in front of the First Christian Church, Sierra Vista. Since there were 5 empty boxes in the entry way on Monday, I asked Mark to post on line for those who did not return their boxes to please take to the drop off trailer before 3PM Monday November 21. One more box appeared on the church pew sometime after that date. It will be held in storage to be delivered next year. Thank you to all who filled a box and ensured a child in one of the 3rd world countries will have a gift this year. The missionaries who deliver them report how excited both children their parents are when the truckload of Christmas boxes arrive. These are children of God who have not yet learned of their Savior, Jesus Christ. They are given simple, in their own language, books to learn about God and Jesus. Their "Sunday School" teaches them and in time they receive a diploma and are baptized. After that they go on to be confirmed and often bring their friends and more family members to attend the classes. Whole villages are receiving the Good News for the first time.

Please remember the world's children when saying your daily prayers.

Blessings to all,

Dottie Gutwein, Senior Warden

San Carlos Apache Food and Blanket Delivery, Bylas, AZ - November and December 2016

With much gratitude to everyone who contributed to our Thanksgiving and December food and blanket drive, I offer the following information:

As of November 18, All Saints Episcopal Church, Safford, AZ, Mindy Weisser-Lee (director for the annual food drive for Bylas area) had obtained 35 family names from the Community Health Center staff. We set up tables and the cases of food outside the Thriftee Food Store in Safford. Boxes showing the areas of Bylas and family code #'s were carried along the tables by 6 packers. There were 3 young people and 2 members of All Saints Church and myself. Mindy and her husband, Ken, oversaw the production line. Rev. Allison Cornell, interim vicar for All Saints, and a visitor from California explained to shoppers who approached our work area asking questions. They also had a Donation Jar for folks to contribute toward the December Delivery. A reporter from the local newspaper, Northeast Courier, interviewed our group and took pictures for the next week's edition. Through the generosity of St. Stephen's Church, I delivered 50 blankets and 70 knit hats and scarfs. After all the vehicles making delivery on Saturday were loaded with grocery boxes, we all retired to All Saints church for a soup and salad supper provided by Mindy and Ken. The blankets and hats had been sorted into bags for delivery by name and area and stored in the church hall. On Saturday morning, all drivers arrived at church to pick up the frozen turkeys and bags of blankets/hats for each of the families on their delivery list.

In convoy, we headed to the Community Center at Bylas, met with our individual guides and took off to make deliveries. By noon everyone had finished dropped off the guides and headed home. It is always such a pleasure to meet the families and see the faces of the children when they see their feast food and warm blankets/hats arrive. An extra blessing, on top of Rev. Allison's prayer and blessing over the food boxes and blanket/hat bags, came as we were working in front of the store. A shopper recognized Ken from his "before retirement" job. She had connections to the local United Way foundation. Apparently, the organization had written a check for \$2500.00 for another group in Safford who wanted to do a similar food delivery. The organization never picked it up and they were not able to reach them. The lady told us that she would drop off the form to request the grant and that if returned to her, signed by Rev. Allison, she would see to it that All Saints receive the \$2500.00. It can then be used for the December food drive, along with individual monetary contributions.

The next delivery was scheduled for December 16/17. With a list of 45 families in hand, Mindy Weisser-Lee and several of us volunteers sorted through another 55+blankets, hats and scarves for our parish , 35 blankets from St. John Bisbee/St Stephen's Douglas, and more donated by members of All Saint's, Safford. Each family was given 2 blankets, and at least 1 or 2 hats/scarfs. That was Friday afternoon. That evening we sorted the boxes of food by family and area in which they live. A light supper followed, provided by All Saints church. On Saturday morning, a meeting of the Diocesan Native American Ministry Group met in the All Saints fellowship hall. We were gathered to hear comments from Rev. Canon Debbie Royals who had been to Standing Rock prior to our meeting. After lunch, the group adjourned to the parking lot to unload 80 gift wrapped gifts for the Bylas Head Start program Christmas party. They were loaded into the van donated by All Saints by a parishioner from Church of the Advent , Sun City.

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Mindy, who volunteers with Head Start, was going to take the gifts to the Monday 12/19 party. Also, unloaded were many bundles of adult warm clothing to be distributed to Bylas Head Start children's parents at another day following week. Getting back to the food drive, we began our convoy of 8 vehicles to the reservation about 3PM. Fr. Vic Sarrazin joined us at the meeting, had some food and blankets placed in his car and helped with deliveries. The last of our group to finish deliveries was the undersigned. I stayed to attend church on Sunday before returning home. It was another wonderful weekend of working "for the Carpenter". Because some of the food items were in short supply both for food boxes and the Friday evening supper, I went shopping and donated them in St Stephen's name through our Outreach program funding.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Gutwein

St. Stephen's Ministry to the Salvation Army 2016

The Salvation Army food ministry had a great year. What helped us greatly was the addition of Bob Brietske to our cooks' team. We served 10 meals this past year. We had to miss one because everyone who cooks was out of town for July, our most difficult month to cover. Because of contact with the local Good Sams chapter, we were able to have them to do our week in December. They supplied the workers and paid for the meal with Carol and I doing the supervision. We are always on the lookout for other groups or individuals who would like to assist.

Since we are in the new SA building and have a great kitchen, the days of the overcrowded "closet" kitchen are over. There does seem to be growth in the number of clients who are being served, so please continue to make your donations to the Salvation Army fund of St. Stephen's. If you would like to get involved, there is always need for more prep people and servers. Normally, prep lasts 2-3 hours. When the serving crew comes in, prep workers may leave. Also, if you are a member of a group that would like to take a month, please let us know.

Finally, Carol and I would like to thank all those individuals who have helped with the meals: Steve and PJ Capps, Bob Brietske, Dottie Gutwein, Mary Lowe, Maralyn Parker, Donne Puckle and Fred Orman. If we have left anyone off this list, please forgive us.

God Bless,

Tony and Carol Roselli

The State of the Web Site 2016

Here's some quick statistics on St. Stephens web site. There are 58 permanent link pages and with 296 posts. We get just under 600 views per month; in the last year we had a high of approximately 750 for one month and a low of 430+. Wordfence, one of the few WordPress plugins of which we have purchased the full version, has stopped over 23 thousand malicious login attempts while Akismet has blocked hundreds of spam comments in the last month alone. I have rejected over a thousand unqualified user requests. In the last year search engines have made over 1000 referrals to our web site. We are getting multiple PayPal donations from the site. We have one recurring monthly pledge coming in that way. Also, we have begun to see outside donations for special events i.e. memorial services through PayPal.

One of the big draws to our web site is the videos of the Sunday Sermon. We have almost 600 views of our videos, an average of 7 views per video; the highest view count being 42 for the "How Great Thou Art" song and picture collage video. The new camera has been a big improvement in quality of recording both video and sound. This year I plan to try to get more hands-on for the members adding volunteer schedules for the ministries that schedule their participation i.e. Greeters, Tellers and Altar Guild.

Sincerely, IHS+
Mark Sowards
Parish Admin

St. Stephen's 2016 Bible Study Annual Report

Bible Study is offered at 10:00 AM Wednesdays in the Education Building. Is this an important function for this congregation? Think about it.

This year we are pondering Paul's letters to seek answers to the ongoing Christian dialogue. Jesus asks, "Who do you say I am?" How did Paul and the early congregations deal with the paradoxical message of a crucified victim and the Risen Lord? How did they work out the call to be "new people" living with "the Mind of Christ", being "one another" communities, equal, united and sharing in the culture that still remained classified and divisive. Most Sundays we hear about Paul struggling to respond to the Thessalonians, Corinthians, Ephesians, and others. His version of the Christ has influenced twenty one centuries. What does he say to us today? And do we care to hear it? Isn't time to take a grown up look at our early childhood learnings? Let's talk about it. Rosemary Snapp 378-9351

Intercessory Prayer is held at 9:30 Wednesday mornings in the Church with Contemplative Eucharist each third Wednesday. There are signup sheets on the porch bulletin board for healing and other requests. A dedicated group holds up your requests with contemplative silence, prayerful litany and listening hearts. Please join.

Rosemary Snapp

The order of the Daughters of the King St. Barbara chapter Annual report to the parish 2016

St. Barbara chapter of the Daughters of the King meet on the first Saturday of each month, except July. We began with Holy Eucharist, celebrated by our Chaplain, Rev. Allison Cornell. Then a short business meeting and program.

We continue supplying blue prayer cards in the pews for prayer requests from the congregation. St. Barbara's members each pray for these concerns every day for one month.

Monday evening of Holy Week, we led an evening prayer service with Taize music.

It has been our pleasure to have Rev. Allison become our Chaplain this year. Fr. Donne graciously suggested the change after he had been our chaplain since 2008. Robin St. Clair and Rev. Allison came to St. Stephens Church already members of the D.O.K. We were happy to have them join our chapter.

We continue to support Peaches' Pantry through personal donations of snack food and instant food products. They are packed into bags and back packs for children in the elementary schools of Sierra Vista and distributed on Friday afternoons. It is part of an effort to ensure low income families will have meals on the weekends. During the school week, these children receive free breakfast and low or no cost lunches. The congregation was asked to share their manufacturer coupons for snack items--such as cookies, crackers, microwave mac and cheese, juice packs etc.

In the fall, our President, Marge Pult, found it necessary to move to Wisconsin to live

With her daughter and family there. Marge is greatly missed by our Chapter as well as the whole parish.

The Order of the Daughters of the King is an Episcopal Women's group whose mission is to Study, Pray and Serve God. We are a worldwide order and have been in existence for 100 years. For further information please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Gutwein, Secretary/Treasurer

2016 ECW Ministry Report

Episcopal Church Women group existed in many parishes here and abroad. It is open to all women in the Episcopal Church. Here at St. Stephen's, we have had monthly meetings with prayer, Bible Study and do many fundraising (such as bake sales, bazaars and rummage sales) to help with finance. For instance: we help provide camperships to our youth to go to the Diocesan Camp in Prescott each summer. The projects around the church are noticeable----such as the kneelers which grace our nave. These are unique as we designed them, sent over to England for the materials, worked designs and sewed them all.

Sadly, we cannot continue and this will be our last report. In time other women may resurrect it.

Yours in Christ,

Dinah McCreery, President

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The Brotherhood of St. Andrew Annual Report 2016

Not available at time of publication....

Altar Guild Annual Report 2016

The Altar Guild Needs You!!!!

It's 2017.....You probably know that. We have NO requirements and unfortunately very few rewards, but, if you'd like to be in on the secrets of the sacristy, please join us. We will train you to do things you probably already know how to do. Once a month, you and your partner will clean the Altar area, set up wine/water/bread for services, check the candles and linens and make sure the service will go smoothly. (We clean all our own linens.) Please help,.... we are mostly old and getting older!!!!!!

Joan Strom

Music Ministry Report for 2016

The choir is a dedicated group of individuals who give much of their effort and time to the music ministry at St. Stephen's. They rehearse every Sunday morning, every other Wednesday evening, and at special rehearsals, called as needed. Counting rehearsals and services, the average choir member spent just over 200 hours in musical service to St. Stephen's in 2016 .

In 2016, the choir ordered and received new vestments. What originally began as a desire for robes that might be made of a lighter material and be cooler to wear, turned into a requirement as the choir grew, leaving us with too few robes in certain sizes we needed to vest the choir. All funds necessary to purchase the new vestments were raised by choir members, taking no money from St. Stephen's budget.

In addition to leading the parish musically each week at the 10:30 service, the choir has taken part in many of the extra services throughout the year, including during the Lenten and Christmas Seasons.

For 2017, the music ministry at St. Stephen's looks forward to providing the congregation leadership for the singing of liturgical music and hymns while offering choral anthems and other special music on special occasions.

Thank you,

Wes Moulton, Organist/Choirmaster

Pastoral Care Report 2016

We had four Memorial Services receptions during the year. With the help of Mary Loew, Doris Millard and other helping hands, we also had various Pot Luck luncheons throughout the year. However, due to low interest and many travelling parishioners this November, we did not host a Thanksgiving Day Turkey Lunch this year.

I continue to do Eucharistic Visiting as part of my ministry of Pastoral Care which includes a chance to visit with those who are unable to attend services.

I also continue to give time to the St. Andrew's Children's Clinic each month. It has long been my most rewarding /first love of this ministry.

I am very blessed to be a part of this parish family and I thank each person here.

Alverita Egbert,

Pastoral Care Ministry Coordinator.

Worship Ministry 2016 Annual Report

We have been blessed with Tabitha Brown joining Charlotte Hickey as acolyte this year. It is a pleasure having our young people take part in the church leadership.

Our Eucharistic Ministers total 9. Ron and Dinah McCreery have now both regretfully resigned as Eucharistic Ministers. However, they are both still active Lectors and are joined with 6 others. Some of our Eucharistic Ministers also double as Lectors on occasion.

There were 4 baptisms this year and 3 Memorial Services.

Our Christmas and Easter services were well attended, including the Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Good Friday services.

The altar flowers continue to be fresh blooms or live plants as often as possible. A Flower Chart is now available for anyone who wishes to have flowers dedicated to special occasions throughout the year. We do have to be aware that lilies and some roses can cause allergic reactions so we try not to use the more fragrant varieties.

And, we cannot overlook the amazing transformation the Sanctuary undertook early in the year. The addition of handrails by the Sacristy anteroom and chancel steps has been a long awaited wish by all who use them. In addition, cleaner less cluttered area in the back of the church was appreciated. Our Entry Porch, despite some criticism, has worked out well. It gives everyone a chance to say Hello and socialize before entering the Sanctuary. The change allows for the silence so many wish to enjoy in their pew before the start of service. Another plus---the little bits of leaves and other airborne particles are not blown thru our Red Door. The white walls replacing the wood paneling and fresh paint all around just brightened up the whole interior.

In March, Rev. Allison Cornell began her interim vicar services at All Saints Church, Safford AZ. She had become a significant part of our worship, "sharing the pulpit" with Fr. Vic and Fr. Donne. And we wished her well in her calling.

Lent and Advent/Epiphany Meditation booklets were distributed to all who wished to use them in preparation for the coming seasons. We hope to repeat this again this year.

Separate reports will be submitted by the Altar Guild and Music/Choir coordinators although they are a division of the Worship Ministry.

Any one interested in becoming a Lector, Acolyte (adults welcome too) or Eucharistic Minister, member of the Altar Guild or Choir, Please feel free to speak to anyone already involved in the ministry.

Also, we have 6 Greeters at 10:30AM service. Anyone wishing to help out as an alternate may be in touch with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Gutwein

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ST. STEPHEN'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The St. Stephens Children's and Youth Ministries are both on a hiatus at present pending identification of volunteers for these ministries. We are in prayer for God's guidance and resources for the revival our Children and Youth Ministries in the coming school year.

Facilities Committee Annual Report 2016

Not available at time of publication

Stewardship Committee Report for 2016

Not available at time of publication

Teller Report for 2016

Tellers for 2016 were:

Kim Brietske

Nelson Hall

Nancy Rea

Dennis Smith

Pat Wick

Misty Williams

Harriet Kolen, Substitute

Kim Brietske not only counted, but she also prepared the Teller's Schedule for a 90 day period for 2 people to count each Sunday's contributions until she had to step down due to personal reasons. Nancy Rea is currently preparing the Schedule.

About midway through the year, Mark Sowards, our Parish Administrator, helped us to transition from hand written Teller Sheets to a computer program to handle the accounting input. The new method has shown to be more accurate and faster, making the Teller's job easier.

Mark will provide all of us with a training class on January 28, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Church. We tellers applaud and thank Mark for his assistance.

If you feel called to this ministry, we welcome anyone interested in helping count & record the weekly contributions. We work two at a time and are scheduled on a rotating basis to count about every 3 to 4 weeks.

Contact Nancy Rea at 520-227-3817 for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rea, Teller