



ST. STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Newsletter

2750 East Cardinal Drive  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

(520) 458-4432

June 2018



## FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR May 25, 2018

We have just launched into the Sundays after the Feast of Pentecost. "Ordinary" time, it is called – a season of green growth that lasts until Advent. "Ordinary" means "ordered" – each of the 27 Sundays is carefully counted and observed. It is not a boring time, but a season in which we relax from the exertions of holidays and reflect on the growth God gives us in our lives. We have time to dig deeply into God's workings as if we are planting something in the earth, and time to rest in the loving hands of God.

We will make some changes to our liturgy to allow us more room to breathe and reflect. Rite I will be celebrated on the first weekend of each month. We will celebrate a saint, perhaps someone little known to many of us, at least once a month. And we will continue exploring the history and modern practice of our beautiful liturgy by taking time to talk about what we do and why we do it, and comparing traditions of other churches throughout the world. Episcopal 101 begins with a movie on Wednesday, June 6 at 6 pm in the Education Building. There is so much to explore!

Your search committee has been putting in double shifts to get the parish profile and other information together. They should be receiving applications in the near future. Please pray for the search committee and the search process.

Our first "saint" will be celebrated on June 16-17. I won't reveal her name here, but she is a mystic as well as a scholar of the universal mystical path. Let me close now with a prayer from the Native American tradition that captures some of this universal longing for God:

In Christ's love, Julie+



### *Native American Prayer*

*O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and let my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears grow sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength not to be greater than my brother or sister but to fight my greatest enemy, myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes so when life fades as the fading sunset my spirit may come to you without shame.*

**A NOTE  
FROM THE  
EDITOR:**



Dear St. Stephen's Parishioners,

I want to thank Mark, our church administrator, for posting the newsletter on the St. Stephen's website and for sending the May newsletter to 22 parishioners who lack computer or internet access. Please contact Mark if you want the newsletter mailed to you.

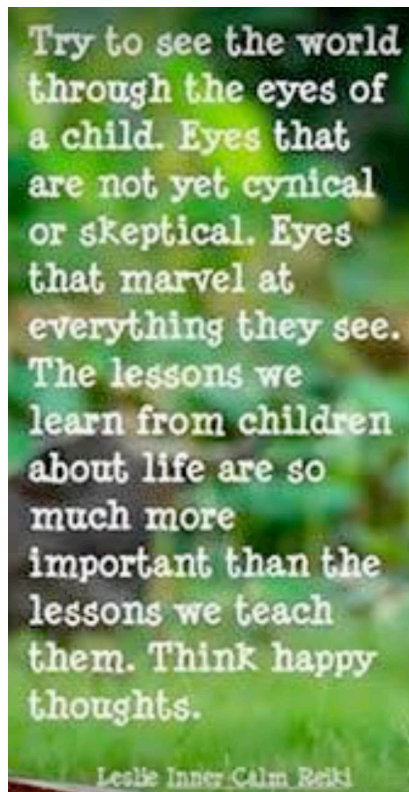
There will not be an issue of the newsletter in July. Please submit your articles, reflections, stories, poems, photos and drawings (as an attachment) to the newsletter editor, [cstocck@gmail.com](mailto:cstocck@gmail.com), or submissions can be mailed to the church in c/o Newsletter Editor by July 25 for the August issue. It's helpful to have writings in Times New Roman and 12 pt. and one space between sentences. Thanks.

Sincerely,  
Charlotte H. Stocck, Editor

**St. Stephen's  
Vestry**

Carol Dockter,  
Rector's Warden  
Bill Brunell,  
People's Warden  
Lyle Anderson,  
Treasurer  
Sherry Simon, Clerk

Sivey Anderson  
Thomas Bennett  
Peggy Brown  
Gloria Brunell  
Sharon Douglas  
Jill Holsonback  
Valla Miller  
Nancy Rea  
Charlotte Stocck



**Episcopal Church Women (ECW)  
Luncheon for All St. Stephen's Women**

**Sunday, June 10 at 12:30 pm**

All women of St. Stephen's are invited to attend a luncheon at the Pizza Hut Bistro on Fry Boulevard.

**Rector Search Update** by Carol Dockter

The Search Committee is truly grateful for all the prayers coming our way. Progress is being made. The Portfolio is now under Vestry review. Once the Vestry approves the final draft, it will be on its way to the Diocese for posting on their Website. Rev. Megan Traquair, Canon for the Ordinary, is our Diocesan contact and help. She has already sent out notices that we are looking for a Rector. The Portfolio will be the announcement from us. So, while the Vestry is doing their reviewing the Search Committee is developing the Church Profile to go on our own Website. This posting will be a more comprehensive in description of our Parish. This will include our history and information about our surrounding community as well as a description of our Parish life and ministries. Members of the Search Committee are very dedicated to completing this project and continue to appreciate your sincere prayers.



**Four Generations at St. Stephen's**

Joan Strom and her daughter and granddaughter and great-grandson, Theodore, who will be baptized soon.



### St. Stephen's Delivery to Peach's Pantry

Sherry Simon and Renee Olejnicak delivered about \$500 of foodstuffs to Peach's Pantry, which needed contributions after serving children during the recent teacher walk-out. Peach's Pantry is a non-profit that provides food for children to take home on weekends. The Pantry serves 16 schools in Sierra Vista and Huachuca City.

**Don't Stop Loving God**  
by Cecilia Hope McKinley  
age 9

The reason why you  
Should never stop  
Loving God is because  
He will always love and  
care for you.

He is basically your  
Father.

So, for example,  
Say your dad died  
when you were six.  
God will try to help you  
as much as he can.



### Understanding Gifts

by Rosemary Snapp

The understanding of gifts can take our processes of discernment well beyond talent scouting. What you can do may be a great gift to the rest of us (you musicians, cooks, dynamic speakers, and green thumbs), but who you are is the greater gift. If we shift the focus from “what” you do to “how” you go about living in the world, we redirect our attention to each other’s most characteristic habits, strategies, and processes. We begin to think of each other in curious and empathetic terms: What is it like to be you? What are your rhythms of work and play? Silence and conversation? Prayer and puttering? What global needs or political issues awaken your sense of urgency? How do you handle your anger? How do you cope with loss? How do you pray? Much of what comes naturally ceases to be conspicuous, at least to ourselves. There are things we do without a second thought. But it may be that in our most ordinary acts and habits of mind and speech **we bear gifts for one another. To recognize them as such can enhance appreciation, learning, and a more focused use of the best that is in us and among us.**

Pray that as St. Paul admonished: we take on the “mind of Christ”; see ‘one another’ as God-gifted and together answer the call to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world.



Ghent Altarpiece "Angel Musicians"  
— Jan van Eyck, 1432

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church's pipe organ** is a 6-rank built by David McDowell of Tucson and installed in 1970. McDowell's family had a tradition of organ building. He studied it in Germany, served in W.W. II, then returned to the family business in Tucson. He built 82 organs in his lifetime.

Poetry, like chant, is meant to vibrate through the uniqueness of our own voice for it to come alive. Don't take my word for it! Find your favorite poem and see if it becomes *real* in a new way when you say the words out loud.

One of my favorite poets is Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926). Here is one of his poems translated from German by Joanna Macy and Anita Barrows. If you can, read it aloud slowly, musically.

God speaks to each of us as he makes us,  
then walks with us silently out of the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:

You, sent out beyond your recall,  
go to the limits of your longing.  
Embody me.

Flare up like flame  
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.  
Just keep going. No feeling is final.  
Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.  
You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand. [3]



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