



ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**2750 East Cardinal Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(520) 458-4432**

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Newsletter August 2018



From the Interim Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP p. 818

We want to relax and watch the thunderstorms during what appears to be an actual monsoon season. There is time for enjoying the summer rain. There is time to watch vegetation return to the valleys and mountainsides, and marvel at all the different shades of green.

But it is also time to pray – frequently, vigorously, aloud and silently. The Search Committee is considering candidates to be your next rector. They need every ounce of support, every breath of the Holy Spirit, every fervent hope from every beating heart in the parish. Every prayer makes a difference.

The prayer from the Book of Common Prayer above mentions the ministries of the people of the parish. Ministry at St Stephen's is definitely in bloom. Sharbel's discernment committee is meeting. We are committed to supporting school children with food and supplies through the school district and Peaches' Pantry. We are looking for pastoral visitors to call parishioners and bring them communion. ECW members are bursting with ideas for fellowship and activities. The men's group has a meeting scheduled in August. Sunday school and youth group volunteers are appearing!

None of this happened without prayer. Please continue and if possible pray even more. Picture a nice comfy seat that Jesus can settle down into, across from or next to you. Welcome him with a cup of tea (they didn't have coffee back then), tell him how much you love him, and let his love and peace wash over you as his wisdom calms your worries and sets your mind at rest. He's got this. Don't worry, he's got time for you, and for everybody. Just stay in touch.

Pray without ceasing, and you will always rejoice.

Julie+



Update on Search For New Rector

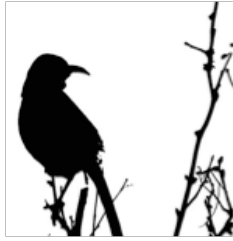
by Carol Dockter

Last February the Vestry appointed Tim Ash, Erin Bennett, Priscilla Burrows, Tim Holsonback, Wendy Kulp, M.J. Mahland, Fred Orman, Mindy Saunders, Rosemary Snapp, and Jeff Speer to a Search Committee for a new Rector. Bill Brunell and Carol Dockter represented the Vestry. Rosemary Snapp served as our spiritual advisor and reminded us of keeping the Holy Spirit present in our endeavors. Tim Holsonback quickly volunteered to be the clerk and, as it evolved, Carol Dockter, Tim Ash and Tim Holsonback became a leadership team.

The first step on our path was the Day of Discovery on March 11th. Over 40 people participated to discover “who we are today” and our “hopes and dreams” for the future. The Rev. Megan Traquair, Canon for the Ordinary, was the facilitator and Landmark Café catered the food through the generosity of Lyle and Sivey Anderson. The second step was for the committee to analyze and summarize the information gleaned from the Day of Discovery. This took several meetings to accomplish and when completed the committee thought they had a fairly good picture of St. Stephen's parish. This is the foundation for the three documents that were written.

(continued on next page)

**A NOTE
FROM THE
EDITOR:**



**OUR
NEWSLETTER**

Dear St. Stephen's Parishioners,

Thank you to all who submitted contributions to this issue of the St. Stephen's Newsletter. Articles, reflections, stories, poems, photos and drawings are always welcome and may be sent (as an attachment) to the newsletter editor, cstoczek@gmail.com, or submissions can be mailed to the church in c/o Newsletter Editor.

The deadline for submissions is the 25th of each month in order for the newsletter to be posted on the St. Stephen's website by the first of each month. Mark, our administrator, takes care of posting the newsletter and mailing it to those without computer or internet access. Please contact him if you would like to receive the newsletter by mail.

Sincerely,
Charlotte H. Stoczek

**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 Rae
Charlotte Stoczek



SUBMITTED BY MAGGIE BROOKS
"Cactus blooming on the side of the mountain on the drive up to Coronado National Monument." — Maggie Brooks

Rector Search (continued from page 1)

The first document completed (the third step) was the Parish Portfolio. The portfolio includes questions about the parish and a compensation package. The committee drafted the document and the Vestry edited and approved it for posting on the national church's website, which is where potential applicants search for employment. Also, the committee found out that applicants answer the same questions in the interviews. A match of a priest to a parish by the Diocese can occur throughout this process. The next two documents (the fourth and fifth steps) are for our official use.

The Parish Profile is on our website and contains information about our parish, the community, and our hopes and dreams for the future. The Tri-fold is an invitation for interested persons to apply for Rector. Both documents are also posted on St. Stephen's website. They are under "St. Stephen's in Transition." The closing date for receiving applications was Friday, July 13th. At this writing we are waiting to hear from Rev. Megan when we will be receiving resumes and begin the first interviews. Hopefully by the time you read this, the Search Committee will be fully involved in this step and able to recommend a candidate to the Vestry.

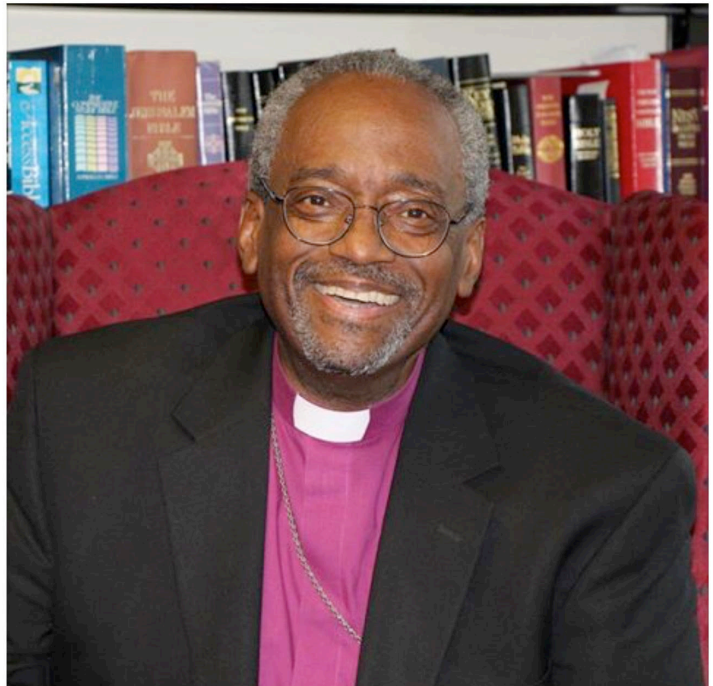
The last step will be at the Vestry level. This will include the second set of interviews and, if it is determined there is a good match, an invitation to serve. Please continue with your fervent prayers that someone will soon answer the call to serve St. Stephen's.

San Carlos Apache Blanket Drive 2018

The weekend before Thanksgiving and Christmas is when All Saints Episcopal Church, Safford, AZ delivers food boxes to the residents of the Bylas, AZ area of the San Carlos Apache Reservation. They have been doing this for over 15 years. Our parish has supported the Safford church for most of that time. At first, we took specified grocery items and helped pack and deliver them. Our Outreach ministry also sent them money to assist in buying the bulk items for several years. About 6 or 7 years ago, we began collecting used clean blankets to add to the food box delivery. The area is all flat and the winter is colder there than we experience. The money for the food boxes is very scarce this year and we may only be delivering blankets before the holidays. The Diocese previously granted money through the Jubilee program but Safford's share has run out and the coordinator for this project at All Saints is not sure there will be any substantial funds to help in 2018. However, St. Stephen's can still help by supplying the good condition, used blankets and sleeping bags. The clear zip style plastic bags that blankets come back from cleaners in are a useful item for keeping the stored items clean until delivery. We do have several folks who donate handmade hats, scarves and afghans which are most welcome. However, we do not accept clothing as it is not practical for deciding which family gets which sizes, etc. All donations may be left on a side pew and will be transferred to storage until delivery time. For questions about this project, please contact Dottie Gutwein, telephone 520-515-0679

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, presiding bishop and primate of the The Episcopal Church and former leader of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, will undergo surgery for prostate cancer next week, he said in [a statement released Wednesday](#) through the Episcopal News Service.

“I am happy to say that the prognosis looks very good and quite positive,” he said in the release. “I have spoken with several others who have gone through this, and who have offered both encouragement and helpful advice. I will be in the hospital for at least a day, then at home to recuperate.



The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, presiding bishop and primate of The Episcopal Church to undergo surgery for cancer on July 31st.



AN INVITATION FROM THE IONA ABBEY WORSHIP BOOK

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company of Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Submitted by Dottie Gutwein

Men of St. Stephen's Meet by Bruce Dockter

We had our first gathering of the men of St. Stephen's this last Sunday and we were blessed that seven of us enjoyed the fellowship. The one thing we agreed on is we would like to get together again. Because of the summer months and people being gone the date for the next gathering will be Sunday, August 26 at 12:30 at the Dockter's house, more details to follow. A couple things we talked about were the interest in forming a helping hand's ministry. Information on the how's and where's will be developed as we go along. Another thought a couple of fella's had was an interest in establishing a youth ministry as we approach the fall and make the offering whether we have visible participants at this point or not. More will be provided on this also. But the bottom line, it was good just to get together and see people we had not seen for awhile and just have good fellowship.

Church as a School of Love

by Rosemary Snapp

Beautiful banners in our church proclaim: WE ARE LOVE---CALLED TO SERVE. Now as we are involved in a search process meditating on their message leads to questions of, “**How do we love and serve**”? “**How does this congregation, as we say in our mission statement, ‘share God’s love through service to others’**”. How do we model the love that Paul envisioned in his letters? How as he exhorts in Romans, “show family affection to one another in brotherly and sisterly love”? He and the early Christians, inspired by the “kingdom” Jesus brought, worked to live into radical new communities based on unity and compassion, where Jews and Gentiles, masters and slaves, men and women, old and young did that. And it changed the world!

We see many outward, visible examples of how we serve. But how do we see/show love, unity, compassion, in community? How does a congregation of flawed and fractious people become a school of love? **How do people know “we are Christians by our love” at St. Stephen’s?**

Douglas Steere, an eminent Quaker, helped create loving communities when he took as his ministry Martin Buber’s statement “**The greatest thing one can do for another is confirm what is deepest in another.**” **How do we practice that with one another?** He told how Jesus did it in the Zacchaeus story in the Gospel of Luke. **Jesus modeled four facets of confirmation: attention, acceptance, association and affirmation** and showed the art of loving not only to those who reciprocate love but also how to love those whom many despise,

scorn, ostracize. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, an oppressor getting rich, not popular; but he wanted to see Jesus in Jericho. A short man he climbed a tree to see over the heads of the crowd.

“When Jesus came to that place” says Luke, “he stopped and looked up.” He gave Zacchaeus attention. Then to attention Jesus added acceptance. “Zacchaeus, hurry down for I have to stay at your house today.” In seconds Jesus had confirmed him with attention and acceptance and to these he added association. Zacchaeus scrambled down and received him rejoicing.

To attention and acceptance certified in association, Jesus added a fourth incalculable element in confirmation- affirmation. No sooner had he gotten Jesus to the house than Zach felt compelled to justify himself, putting his best face forward, promising to give to the poor and repaying fourfold. Not as a consequence of any worthiness in this tax collector, but on the basis of God’s infinite mercy and love Jesus declared “Today salvation has come to this house, for he too is a, child of Abraham.” Zacchaeus was started on that inward path of transformation, learning to live by love—learning to be a person in community with other persons.

As schools of love, churches can create a culture of confirming what is deepest in others by attention, acceptance, association and affirmation. This is the creative, difficult and transforming work to which we as Christians are called---to be builders of liberating communities that free love in us and free love in others. Want to try it?

From a *Weavings* article by E. Glenn Hinson
Paraphrased by Rosemary Snapp