



ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2750 East Cardinal Drive
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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Newsletter January 2019



*Rector's
Greeting
The Reverend
Allison Cornell*



Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2019! A new year, a fresh start, opportunities and promises await us as we look ahead to what God may have in store for each of us, individually and collectively, as a Church. I myself have a great sense of hope for this coming year. When I talk with you, I hear excitement and enthusiasm and anticipation for what God is leading us towards as a family of faith. In the coming months we will be looking for new ways to share our faith, connect with our neighbors, make differences in peoples' lives, and live into the Good News that Jesus teaches us.

May God's love, energy, and guidance be with us all as we walk through this coming year together.

Rev. Allison+

*A
New
Year
Prayer:*



**In Memoriam
Ron McCreery**

With sadness we announce the passing of Ron McCreery who died on Tuesday December 11, 2018. Ron passed peacefully surrounded by family. His funeral will be held at here St. Stephen's on January 12 at 1 pm. All are invited to come and celebrate his life.



**St. Stephen's
Vestry**

Carol Dockter,
Rector's Warden
Bill Brunell,
People's Warden
Sandra Calhoun,
Treasurer
Sherry Simon,
Clerk

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

**Bible Study
Education Building
Wednesdays
at 10 a.m.**

Contact:
Rosemary Snapp 520-378-9351
or email
rosemarywsnapp@gmail.com

FROM THE TREASURER
by Sandra Calhoun
The shed fund is a restricted fund with a balance of \$73. All expenses associated with building the shed have been incurred, and this amount is surplus. I would like to transfer this money to be used for operating expenses. If you were a donor to the restricted shed fund, and have an objection to transferring the remaining balance to the operating account, please contact Sandra Calhoun via email at treasurer@ststephensaz.org



HELP NEEDED

We need a few folks to learn how to set up and clean up the altar for our worship services. We have only a couple of people now who serve in this manner and it would be good to have a few more people to help out. It takes only about 15 minutes to set things up or to clean things up after worship. If you would be willing to help our church with this simple service that enhances our worship, please see Rev. Allison or Dottie Guttwein for a short training session.



OUTREACH NEWS from Renee

School Supplies Collected Now & Delivered 1/22

It is time again to collect school supplies for our school children. Instead of doing it once a year, the Vestry agreed to do it twice a year. So, we are now collecting supplies for Carmichael school to be delivered on January 22.

Please include items such as tissues, pencils, paper, hand sanitizer, backpacks and notebooks. These are greatly appreciated. You can place items on the table in the entry porch. Thank you for supporting this community service.

Annual Meeting January 20, 2019

Items to be voted on by the people of St. Stephen's at the annual meeting:

This year we have several items that require the parish to vote upon in order to make them come to pass. Many things your vestry are able to decide and execute as actions, but from time to time other things really need the full participation of the parish to decide. This year we have three such items for your consideration:

- 1) **A Change to the By-Laws Concerning Vestry Member Numbers** – The current numbers of members of the church have reduced over the past few years for a number of reasons. And although we are seeing new interest and new members, it may take a year or two to rebound to previous membership levels. Given the numbers and the available persons who can and are willing to serve on the Vestry, we recommend a change in wording of the By-Laws to reflect a need for flexibility to reduce and expand the Vestry membership as needed. The current wording indicates: “The Vestry shall consist of the Rector, two Church Wardens, and nine additional Vestry Members...”

The proposed change to the By Laws would read: “The Vestry shall consist of the Rector, two Church Wardens and no less than three and no more than twelve additional members.”

Eligibility for service on the Vestry has additional recommended changes. The current wording says: No person shall be elected or appointed to the Vestry who shall have served in such capacity for a full three-year term which expired within the 365 days immediately preceding such election or appointment. The proposed change would reduce the three-year term to a two-year term. Likewise, the section describing the length of time to serve on the vestry would be reduced from three years to two years.

These changes in the time between serving and the time to serve on the vestry are proposed due to the inability of many to meet the three-year commitment for a variety of reasons.

The other change is that at each Parish Annual Meeting, the parish will elect between two and six new Vestry members who will each serve a two-year term. (Thus, we will have new people rotate off and on the Vestry in alternating years).

- 2) **Mortgage Payoff Plans** – The vestry has looked at two different options for the remainder of our mortgage payoff of the Education Building for the coming year.
 - a. Option A is to use our financial reserves to pay off the mortgage that remains (approximately \$14,000.00) and save ourselves the interest that would accumulate if we continued to pay down the mortgage in monthly payments.
 - b. Option B is to continue to pay our monthly payments without using our financial reserves for this purpose. (continued on page 4)

Mortgage Payoff Plans (continued from page 3)

These two options have a direct affect on the budget proposed for the coming year, which also will be voted on at the at Annual Meeting. Option A brings us to a budget of \$147,701 and will require the use of \$38,841 additional reserves to meet expected expenses. Option B brings us to a budget of \$156, 326 and will require the use of \$47,466 additional reserves to meet expected expenses. The vestry prefers to save the interest by paying off the mortgage and having that over and done with. We will need your vote on this.

Budget for 2019 – Each year the treasurer will present you with a budget to vote on for the coming year. This year, the previous vote will determine which of the two budgets you agree to and vote upon (see above about paying off the mortgage or continuing payments). Currently, the expenses are higher than the pledged income by approximately \$36,000. In using our financial reserves to cover that extra \$36,000 we will spend all of our reserves by the end of 2019. Additional income/pledging is needed to create a balanced and achievable budget for 2020 and beyond.



Annual Meeting & St. Stephen's Day Celebration

We are moving our feast day celebration to our Annual Meeting day because it is hard to celebrate our feast day on the day after Christmas which is where it falls on the calendar of feast days. On January 20 immediately following the 10:30am service (do not leave your pews), we will have our Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary. We hope to move quickly through the agenda and vote on those things that require your vote and voice. Then we will have a lunch/brunch potluck together as we celebrate St. Stephen's Day and our life together as a church family. Please sign up for a potluck item to bring on the sign up sheet in the parish hall.

Save the date

New Rector Installation Saturday Feb 9th 3pm



Come celebrate the official installation of Rev. Allison Cornell as the new rector of St. Stephen's. Bishop Kirk Smith and Bishop-elect Jennifer Reddall along with other clergy, community leaders, and honored guests will gather to acknowledge the people of St. Stephen's choice for their new priest, pray and bless her ministry, and celebrate a new chapter in the life of our church.