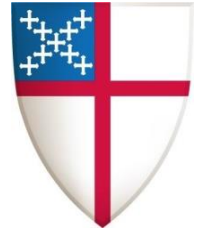




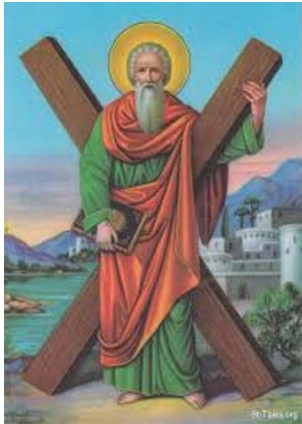
ST. STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2019



Rector - Rev. Allison Cornell

Editor- Carol Dockter



## SAINT ANDREW IS COMMEMORATED IN NOVEMBER

(The brother of Simon Peter.) They were both fishermen. It was Andrew who brought the boy with the loaves and fishes to Jesus for the feeding of the multitude. The tradition claims that he was crucified on an X-shaped cross. Andrew has been the patron saint of Scotland since the middle of the eighth century. St. Andrew the Apostle is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on November 30.

## RECTOR'S GREETING – NOVEMBER

*“As soon as the word spread, the people of Israel gave in abundance the first fruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. — 2 Chron 31:5*

Dear St. Stephen's,

Autumn and the time of harvest for many of our crops and gardens is here. A time to consider the abundance that God provides for us. When we follow the traditions of our faith, we offer to God thanks and praise particularly at this time of year. And traditionally we give/pledge to God's church a portion of what God has blessed us with. That portion from the Old Testament tradition is a tithe, a tenth, of what God has given to us.

It can be a big leap of faith to make a tithe, a pledge of a tenth of our finances to God through the church. I encourage all of us to try. If it isn't possible this year, start with something smaller and then raise it each year until you reach the ten percent mark. If you have previously started on this path to a tithe and are increasing from last year, that is terrific.

As we enter our season of annual giving, St. Stephen's church looks forward to the blessings of our annual giving from our members out of our harvest, our abundance. With our giving, we support the ministry we do in providing a welcoming worship space, meaningful music, uplifting messages, Biblical teaching, pastoral support, outreach to those in need, and friendly fellowship gatherings.

If you have already made your pledge at our kickoff brunch on October 27<sup>th</sup>, thank you. If you were not able to join us for the kickoff, can we count on you for your support? Pledge cards will be mailed to you, or you can make your pledge online on our church website:

<https://ststephensaz.org/2020-pledge-drive/>

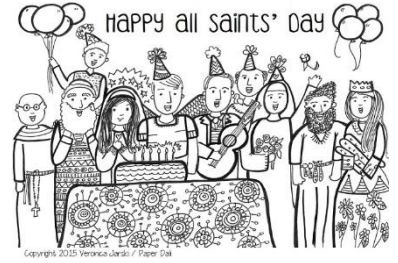
Peace and blessings,  
Rev. Allison+



## WORSHIP

### ALL SAINTS/SOULS DAY CELEBRATION – NOV. 3 & 4

In addition to our worship service honoring All Saints Day and All Souls Day moved from Nov. 1 and 2, we will have an OFREDA or Mexican Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) style altar to remember our deceased family and friends. A small table decorated with bright colors will be set up in front of our altar. Rev. Allison has invited everyone to please bring a picture or object representing the folks being remembered and place it on the Ofreda. The Mexican make their altars at home and in the cemeteries where their relatives/friends are laid to rest. Many colorful flowers and religious articles decorate the altar, as well as sugar skulls, food and drink favorites of the deceased. Several things which are also traditionally added are: a small amount of salt to help the souls avoid being corrupted during their journey; candles to signify the light to guide the souls on their trip back and forth; flowers to welcome the souls; water for purity of soul and source of life; mounds of tortillas, and loaves of bread called Pan de Muerto. It is believed that the souls of the deceased return on November 1 and 2 and are celebrated with music, dancing and feasting at their gravesites. The candles invite the souls in and guide them back out. We are incorporating both our celebration through the Liturgy for All Saints/All Souls Day with some of the tradition of our neighbors to the south. Our Coffee hour after the 10:30 AM service will include Pan de Muertos for all to share. *from Dottie Gutwein*



This Photo by Unknown

### THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE – 10:30AM

Once again, we will have a worship service on Thanksgiving Day. Last year we had a service with the baptism of Theo, great grandson of Joan Strom. No baptisms this year, but we will gather in gratitude for all that God has blessed us with. **Bring the family!**

### A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WORSHIP ? 😊 ?

Rev. Allison is interested in organizing a new 12-step format worship service during the week. Possible days/times would be Tuesday or Friday morning at 7am or Thursday evening at 6pm. Anyone interested in helping to get this started and to participate regularly in this worship style, please let Rev. Allison know. This **NOT** a recovery focused service but would use the 12-step format. Bible readings and “Forward Day by Day” devotional booklet would be the discussion starters.

### COMING IN DECEMBER – A “BLUE CHRISTMAS” SERVICE – DEC. 15<sup>TH</sup>

This is a meaningful service for those who especially miss loved ones who have died and find it difficult to experience the joyful spirit of the season. This is a safe place to allow your blue feelings to be tenderly expressed to God.



Guess What!! **Ordinary Time** is almost over. It ends on November 31<sup>st</sup> and Advent starts on **December 1<sup>st</sup>**! Yay

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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**DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES** - Saturday Session at 4pm and Thursdays Brow Bag Lunch Lessons at 11:30am for about 45 min. to an hour. Meet in the Parish Hall

- > **Oct 31 & Nov 2** – What about “The End Times”? Is there such a thing as “the Rapture?” Saturday session only will include showing of the movie “Left Behind” (2000, 1 hr. 35 mins long) in Ed Bldg. We will start with a showing of a movie at 2:30pm. Popcorn provided, bring your own beverage.
- > **Nov 7 & 9** – Ways to enrich your Bible Study
- > **Nov 14 & 16** – Overcoming anxiety in sharing your faith – The E word -- Evangelism
- > **Nov 21 & 23** – A deeper look at the Creeds of the Church, what they mean/say.
- > **Nov 28 & 30** - No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday. Advent starts Dec. 1st. Classes will resume in January.

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICES CLASS:** Art as An Aid to Spirituality – Saturday **November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am** in the Parish Hall. We will have a class on how art can help us to connect with God and our deeper selves in prayer and meditation/contemplation. Several objects of art will be focal points of our practice during the hour.



**BOOK READ ALONG** continues. “Our reading of “Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God” by Dallas Willard is read following Sunday worship at noon in the Parish Hall.

## PARISH EVENTS

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### St. Stephen’s Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship is about a financial

Commitment from us and doing what is right to support our church.

We have a group of people who are saying “Count on Me.” Can we count on you to stand together with us?

**count  
on me!**



We all trust in God knowing He is always there for us. It is our turn, our time to give back to our church to show we are also there for Him.

What gift are you willing to give and “Can we count on you?”

Pledge cards are available at the church or you can pledge online at <https://ststephensaz.org/2020-pledge-drive/>

# FINALLY, THE RUMMAGE/ESTATE SALE IS HAPPENING!!

NOVEMBER 15-16



This year we are partnering with Cactus Estate Sales who will bring many of their own items and use our spaces to sell them. Cactus Estate Sales will staff and promote the sale for us. We will get a percentage of the items that we offer for sale in return for their help. **Clean out your closets** and please bring in items for the sale after Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> and place them in the Educational Building. All sorts of items are accepted for sales. Clothing should be clean and on hangers, electronics should be functional, furniture should not be broken, etc.

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

All women of the church are invited and encouraged to attend a meeting on **Sunday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 (Noon)** at the Parish Hall. Presentation and discussion of plans for remodeling the kitchen is on the agenda. Those to contact for information are Gretchen Lamberth, Nancy Rea, or Renee Olejicak. This remodel has been a project of ECW for many years and they have been having many fund raisers (bazaars, cookie sales, etc.) to create enough money to complete the project. Most all agree that not only esthetically; but, also functionally it needs to be improved. Please show your support and join in the discussion.

## BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will meet at **6:30 PM on Thursday, Nov 7** in the Parish Hall. The meeting will consist of prayer, fellowship and a discussion of Chapter 3, "Never Alone" in "Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God" by Dallas Willard.

## INFORMAL MEN'S GROUP

A friendly reminder of our next Informal Men's Gathering on **Saturday, 9 November at 0830** in the Parish Hall. The discussion topic will be furnished before the meeting. We will be having another potluck breakfast and if you know of somebody who would like to hang out with us, have them come over and have breakfast with us.



### BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- Russell Egbert – Oct. 12th
- Hilda Hoffman-Arnold – Oct.12th
- Debra Ash – Oct. 13th
- Marietta Conley – Oct. 14th
- Doris Millard – Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Jill Holsonback – Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Ralph Snapp – Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>
- MJ Mahland – Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>
- Ann Carswell – Oct. 31st



### NOV. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

will be celebrated with cake on Sunday **Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>** after worship

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- Joseph Ash – Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Alverita Egbert – Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>
- Gretchen Lamberth – Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>
- Dinah McCreery – Nov. 20th



### FOYER/SUPPER GROUPS

This is another nice social opportunity of with others from our church over a meal.

Ed and Cheryl Stone are organizing those who would like to participate into groups. Each member of the group takes a turn of hosting the other members at their home or have the option of making the reservations at a restaurant, whichever is easier. The rotation is once a month and gives everyone a chance to spend time getting to know each other better. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall and Ed or Cheryl will be happy to give you more details.

(Ed. Note: Some at St. Stephen’s may remember a similar activity offered several years ago and will remember that it was fun.)

### A SPIRITUAL RETREAT for REV.

**ALLISON** is on Dec. 2 -6 in Colorado. This will be a silent retreat without access to internet and phone only for emergencies. Our Wardens will handle anything needing attention in Allison’s absence

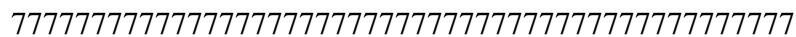
### NEXT VESTRY

**MEETING** is **Nov. 20th**

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



**REAL WISHES FOUNDATION** under the auspices of the local realtors is conducting their annual “Coats for Kids” drive. St. Stephen’s is listed on their web site as a “drop off” location. They are asking for coats, sweatshirts, scarfs and hats for school age children in Cochise County. Some of them are bigger kids who would wear adult sizes. They ask for gently used clean coats. The donations will be picked by the organization of Realtors who sponsor it and be given to children before Christmas break. This organization also advises that they do help on a one- time basis for those who apply for assistance with all types of needs from groceries to utility bills to fixing cars etc. They have an office at the Realtor's building at 125 2nd street (behind SSVEC building) where applications can be picked up. They do background and bank statement checks for legalities to eliminate druggies, criminals, etc. *submitted by Renee Olejnicak and Dottie Gutwein*



### BORDER MINISTRIES

St. Stephen’s Sierra Vista just recently joined with St. John’s Bisbee and St. Stephen’s Douglas to help asylum seekers at the Douglas/Agua Prieta Point of Entry. This in a wonderful outreach opportunity serving families that are fleeing from terrible violence and poverty in their own countries. Thanks go those of our Parish who have contributed so generously.



### St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank



Is asking for turkeys for the Holidays. Call Stan Garner 520-458-9725 for more Details.

**Groceries 4 U** – Current funding is exhausted. If you can find a little extra, please think of giving to this fun

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

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**Columbarium Expansion** is now complete and looks wonderful - more niches were constructed and a new floor was installed. Thanks goes to the hard - working people who completed this project. Now, as of November 1<sup>st</sup> the cost of reserving one is \$450.00. Be sure to take a look at this special space.



## INVITATIONS

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### A THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Allison and Robin invite those who don't have other plans to come over and celebrate Thanksgiving at their home after the Thanksgiving worship service. Please RSVP for accurate count for food preparation to come and be part of our Thanksgiving Day feast and friendship.



### HONORING RON MCCREERY

Former parishioner Ron McCreery will be honored for his military and community service on Veteran's Day, **Thursday, Nov 7** when his picture is added to the Veterans Wall at Canyon Vista Medical Center. The ceremony will be at **5:30 PM** and the family will be present to receive the award. Please attend if you are available.

