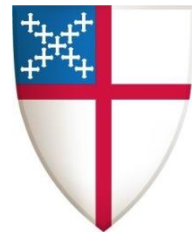




ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019



Rector - Rev. Allison Cornell

Editor- Carol Dockter

SAINTS WE HONOR IN DECEMBER



Thomas the Apostle, Saint

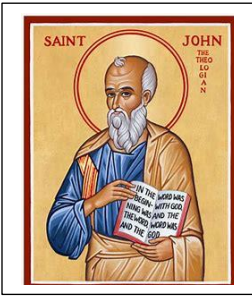
Also called Didymus, the twin, Thomas is identified as an apostle in all the lists of the apostles (Mt 10:3, Mk 3:18, Lk 6:15, Acts 1:13), and he has an important role in John's gospel. Thomas boldly urges his fellow disciples to go with Jesus to Bethany in Judea, despite the dangers they will face. Thomas says, "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (Jn 11:16). At the Last Supper, Thomas tells Jesus that he does not know where Jesus is going, and asks, "How can we know the way?" (Jn 14:5). Thomas was absent at the time of Jesus' first appearance to the disciples after the resurrection. Thomas did not believe the other disciples when they told him they had seen the Lord. He has been known as "doubting Thomas" because of his disbelief that Jesus had appeared to the disciples. Thomas needed proof to believe. He did believe when Jesus appeared to him and the other disciples a week later. Thomas responds to Jesus' appearance by clearly proclaiming his faith, "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28). Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe" (Jn 20:29). Several apocryphal works have been attributed to Thomas, including the Gospel of Thomas. He is associated with the Christian mission to Parthia and India. Thomas's willingness to express his doubts and his faith in Jesus has provided a helpful example for many Christians. The BCP collect for Saint Thomas the Apostle prays that "our faith may never be found wanting" (BCP, p. 237). His life is commemorated on **Dec. 21** in the Episcopal calendar of the church year.

Stephen, Saint, Deacon and Martyr

(First Christian martyr. He was a Hellenist, a outside Palestine. His name is Greek, meaning chosen by the Jerusalem congregation to see that their fair share of the contributions. Stephen's attitude of some of the Jewish people toward the period of persecution which scattered Christians Jerusalem. The young Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, heard the martyr's prayer for his enemies. Saul short by Stephen's death. Tradition says that Stephen's burial place was discovered on Dec. 5, 415, and that his bones were moved to Jerusalem on Dec. 26. Some scholars say that Dec. 26 was chosen as St. Stephen's Day because he was the first martyr for Christ and that he appropriately appears first in the procession of saints who surround the cradle of Christ. Stephen is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on **Dec. 26.**



Greek-speaking Jew born and reared "crown." He was one of the seven the Hellenistic Jewish Christians got preaching caused a revolution in the young Christian church. There was a into many parts of the world outside witnessed Stephen's stoning and eventually took up the work cut



John

(Jn 19:26-27). John, his brother James, and Peter formed the inner circle in the apostolic group. With Peter and James, he witnessed the Transfiguration, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the agony at Gethsemane. Jesus nicknamed the brothers John and James "sons of thunder." John is traditionally regarded as the author of the Fourth Gospel, the three epistles that bear his name, and the Book of Revelation. In connection with Revelation, he is called John "the Divine," and John "the Theologian." After a period of exile on the isle of Patmos under the emperor Domitian, he went to Asia Minor and settled at Ephesus. According to tradition, John wrote Revelation while on the isle of Patmos. He probably died in Ephesus. John is believed to be the only apostle who was not martyred. Some consider him the patron of theologians, writers, and those who produce books. John is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on **Dec. 27**.

WHO IS SANTA CLAUS?



It is **Nicholas, Bishop of Myra** (fourth century). Very little is known about the life of Nicholas. He became Bishop of Myra on the southwest coast of Asia Minor. He may have been imprisoned for his faith in the persecution (303-311) that began under the Emperor Diocletian, and he may have attended the Council of Nicaea in 325. Nicholas is the traditional patron of seafarers and sailors. He is also known as a patron of children, based on his reputation as a bearer of gifts to children. The Dutch brought his name to New York. He is popularly known as Santa Claus. Nicholas is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on **Dec. 6**.

MESSAGE FROM REV. ALLISON



Rector's Greeting: December 2019

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 15:13

Dear St. Stephen's,

Our Advent and Christmas Seasons are at hand. The traditional greeting at this time is “Joyous Advent.” Advent is a time of anticipation, expectation, self-reflection, and joy. The weekly lighting of the Advent wreath has 4 candles, each one representing a characteristic of this waiting time: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love (in that order).

I recently saw a reflection that said: “Hope fulfilled brings peace. Peace fulfilled brings Joy. Joy fulfilled brings love. Love fulfilled brings Christ.”

During our Advent and Christmas seasons, may your days be filled with hope, peace, joy, love, and especially with Christ who brings to fulfillment all of these desires.

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Allison+



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SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Blue Christmas Sunday, December 15th at 4 pm here at St. Stephen's is especially for those who are missing loved ones who have died and whose absence makes the holidays more difficult to appreciate and more difficult to get into the joyful spirit of the season. We will have some readings from scripture, prayers and time to receive personal prayer as well as the blessed healing oil. There will be a chance for whoever wishes to do so to light a candle or two in remembrance. It can be for someone recently passed or long ago. Rev. Allison will be officiating assisted by Cheryl Stone and Dottie Gutwein.

Our **Sunday, December 22, 2019 10:30 am** service will consist of Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm there will be Holy Eucharist with music and the traditional candle lit singing of Silent Night. At this service, the Christmas tree will be lit and the final additions made to the already present altar decorations. Can you guess what they are?

Christmas Day, Wednesday December 25 there will be a service at **10:30 am** also with Holy Eucharist and music.

Submitted by Dottie Gutwein



Happy Birthday to these December Babies

Carol Dockter – Dec. 21, ??years old

Rosemary Snapp – Dec. 24, ?? years old

Sherril O'Neil – Dec. 25, ?? years old

Liz York – Dec. 29, ?? years old



St. Stephen's Grief Group

Submitted by Cheryl Stone

The holidays can be the hardest time when we miss a loved one. Join us as we work through a broken heart, anger, or sadness. Our group is a safe confidential place to help you through.

Our St. Stephen's Grief Group will begin on Thursday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m. and end at 11:30. We will meet every Thursday.

For more information contact Cheryl
cheryl.l.stone1@gmail.com



ECW

For several years ECW ladies have held many fund raisers including Christmas Bazaars, rummage sales and cookie sales all for raising funds for camp scholarships, supplies for the Sexton, a kitchen remodel and other projects that benefit St. Stephen's. They had put aside a substantial sum for the kitchen project. During the past few months there have been several meetings about what is needed for the kitchen and how to proceed to complete the project. Several ideas have been bantered about and any of them would be an improvement on what we now have. In the meantime, 2 anonymous supporters have come forward to help. Look for more information on progress on the Kitchen Project in 2020.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Submitted by Bruce Dockter

The next Brotherhood of St. Andrew meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9 at 6:30 PM rather than Jan 2. We will discuss Chapter 4 in "Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God" by Dallas Willard. All men of the church are invited for this short service and discussion.

The December Men's Group will be held at the home of Bruce and Carol Dockter, 2455 Willow Bark Lane, on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 8:30 AM. Pastries and coffee will be provided. We will talk about "What Christmas means to me".

St. Nicholas and the Christkind

When the call for donations to refurbish the Santas in the Park St. Stephen's joined with the Sierra Vista Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Dockters to make sure that St. Nicolas and the Christkind would again be displayed in Veterans Park during the Holidays. Be sure to stop by to see ALL the Santas.



Thank you for helping the **Well Wishes Foundation** in their endeavor to keep **Cochise County Children** warm this winter with your donations of coats and jackets, sweaters and cap.

Thank you for donating needed items for the **families seeking asylum** in the United States.

Thank you for continuing to support **Peach's Pantry** and **Carmichael Elementary School**

Thank you for supporting the **Rummage/Estate Sale**. Our share was **\$2,137**.

\$1,100 was allocated to Groceries 4 U program. The rest went to the kitchen project and another worthy cause.

A SPECIAL THANKS to 35 of us who pledged a total of **\$100,788.00** to St. Stephen's for the coming year.



A SPECIAL SHARING

On Saturday, November 30th, Tim Holsonback shared with the worshippers at the 5:00 pm service a letter that he and Jill received regarding the opening and naming of a special transitional living space. This is the letter:

from Brenna Kathleen

Hello Tim, I received your info from Michelle Phips. I am Brenna, I started a Nonprofit organization called Desert Rose Transitional living. It will be in Sierra Vista. It opens soon. I met your daughter right when I moved back to SV from California. She shortly passed after meeting her, I am so sorry for you and your wife's loss. I have heard a lot about Heidi and her beautiful nature and how she touched everyone she came across. My question is, if it would be okay with your permission to call the 1st house Heidi's House. In Honor of her. This is what it would be known across Cochise county as. It's a Recovery based program and should and will touch many women's lives.

Tim responded: "Brenna, that would be an honor."

From the Editor: Thank you so very much for sharing this with us.
I know you were deeply touched

