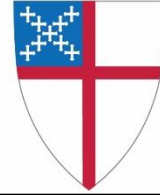




# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



September 2022

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## From our Rector:



September Greetings,

The monsoon months are coming to a close, harvest season is around the corner, pumpkin spice is already making its appearance in stores and on menus. Autumn has always been my favorite season. I love the cooling temperatures, the fall colors, and the rhythm of life as the Earth begins to slow its growth and move into a time of rest and renewal.

Church has a similar rhythm as people come back from vacations, taking time off in summer. We look for your familiar faces and are delighted to see you again and hear how you have been. We look toward the last part of the year and the holidays and Holy Days that are coming and make our plans.

This fall we welcome you to participate in several things that are coming up:

**\*\* October 11th 6pm – National LGBTQ Coming Out Day Service**, we offer encouragement and support to our LGBTQ friends and family who are ready to let others know of their LGBTQ identity.

**\*\* October 29th 9am – Pet Costume and Blessing at New Frontier Vet Clinic**, bring your pet in a costume (and you can dress up too), prizes for most original pet costume, best coordinated owner and pet costume, scariest pet costume. Receive a pet blessing.

**\*\* November Stewardship Campaign** – We will kickoff our annual stewardship campaign which will last the month of November. We humbly ask you to continue and/or increase your estimated giving for the coming year to allow us to build our budget of income and expenses for 2023 as we faithfully look ahead to live into our joy of loving and serving each other and our neighbors.

**\*\* November 11th** – We invite you to participate in a Veteran's Day celebration at Veterans Park to honor those who have served in our Armed Forces to protect our nation.

**\*\* November 24th – Thanksgiving Day Service and Dinner at Church**, we will be hosting a service and dinner at the church for our church members, and we hope to have some of the Fort Huachuca service men and women who are unable to be with family with us. Sign up for side dishes to bring.

**\*\* November & December** – Food collection at a local grocery store to stock local food pantry shelves for the holidays, we will ask some of you to volunteer to man our table at a local store for an hour where we will ask shoppers to pick up one, only one, item from a list to donate as they exit for the local food pantry.

**\*\* December 24th Christmas Eve Service 5pm & 25th Christmas Day Service 10am** – Celebrate once again with joy the coming of Jesus into our world, the Messiah, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

"May the Lord bless their land with rain and with water from under the earth. May their land be blessed with sun-ripened fruit, rich with the best fruits of each season. May their ancient hills be covered with choice fruit. May their land be filled with all that is good, blessed by the goodness of the Lord..." Deuteronomy 33: 14-16

We have been blessed with much in our lives and from our gratitude we continue to bless others. Thank you for your willingness to share your blessings with us, those in our community, and others around the world.

Autumn Blessings to you,

*Rev. Allison*



**Senior Warden**

Fellow Parishioners

Our kids are back to school so please ensure you keep your eyes and ears open to see and hear when they are out and about.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
September 23rd**

**Sunday's service will be In Person and Live Stream.**

**Saturday Evening Worshippers:**

Please recycle your bulletins for Sunday worshippers if you are not taking them home with you.

**Coffee Hour helpers needed!**

**As we return to having a time of fellowship with each other after worship on Sundays, we can use some helpers to set up the coffee and snacks before and clean up after the coffee hour. Please sign up on the sheet on the snacks table.**

**Sunday Book Study started on June 26th –**

**“How to read the Bible & Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis to Revelation”** by John Dominic Crossan. Rev. Allison has 7 copies of the book available for \$12 each.

**Photos Wanted** – Please send Mark any photos of events or happenings around our church to Mark for him to have in refreshing our photo library. Can be photos of various activities around the church or decorations or even flowers/trees on our property.

**First Friday Film Night Sept 2nd at 5pm** – We will be watching the movie “The Shack” in which Mack receives a mysterious letter telling him to meet at the shack where four years ago his abducted daughter's clothes were found. Angry and upset, Mack goes to confront the mysterious sender of the letter and meets God at the Shack. Light supper of soup is offered. Bring your own beverage. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

**Lori's Place donations** – Please bring the following for donations to the church for “Lori's Place” our Sierra Vista charity that helps people with sexual and domestic abuse. They can use the following items: snacks (nabs, cookies, crackers, applesauce, fruit cups), juice boxes, small blankets, lap quilts, stuffed animals, small toys, dolls, action figures. Place in the box on the Porch for these donations. We will take them at the end of August to Lori's Place. Monetary donations should be labeled “Lori's Place”. Thank you for your help and kindness.

**From our Administrator Mark**

Please notify the church office when you move or change phone or emails. If you change your email, please update your sign-on with our website prior to shutting down the old email.

Our office hours have really changed, but with Covid-19 impacts, they have been very flexible.

**Standard hours are:**

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am to 2:00pm  
Wednesday 11:00am to 2:00pm.

**NEW Singalong sessions!!!** – We had great fun singing songs of summer last time. Next singalong will be Friday Sept 23rd at 6pm in the Ed Bldg featuring greatest pop hits of the 1950s and 1960s! Come sing with us!

**New Program for giving in Sierra Vista –**

**Better Bucks:** The vestry voted Tuesday to shift our Groceries 4U program to using the Better Bucks booklets to give to those who need some assistance with food, clothing, and other necessities. Please donate to the church to buy the booklets or donate booklets for us to use. Cannot be used for alcohol or tobacco.  
website: <https://betterbuckssierravista.org/>

**Junior Warden:**



Monsoon season will soon be coming to an end. Given the amount of rain we have received, let's continue to keep the outside of the church just as beautiful as it is on the inside.

Everybody stay safe as we all endure the high winds, heavy rain, and the water that accumulates on the roads.



**Bible Study**

Every Tuesday at 5pm join in Zoom for an in-depth review of the Psalms. We use several interpretations for a lively discussion. The zoom link is: 811-888-8197.

**Birthdays**

9 Sept: Dorothy Gutwein  
25 Sept: Jeff Speer



**Re-starting our outreach ministry team, "Community Connections"**. Looking for those who would like to be part of the team to identify community needs that our church may be able to help meet. Please add your name to our signup sheet if you are interested in helping out!

**Labor Day Sunday Cookout after church! Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, Desserts...** Let us celebrate the closing days of summer together with a time of extended fellowship and let's meet our new friends from the New Testament Christian Church congregation. Do you have a grill you could bring to the church? Sign up in Parish Hall for items to bring.

**Second Saturday St. Stephen's Supper group** will meet Saturday Sept 10th 6:30pm – Following the 5pm service (about 6:30pm) meet at The Peacock (Vietnamese), 1287 E Fry Blvd. All are welcome, invite your friends

**Rev. Allison will be on vacation Sept 9th to 22nd** - Please see Deacon Dottie, Mark Sowards, or Senior Warden Jeff Speer or Junior Warden Pete Criscuolo for church matters while Rev. Allison is away.

**Spiritual Self-care Support Group** - Have you struggled with caregiving for someone with dementia or Alzheimer's? Is your soul suffering from the effects of these diseases on your loved one? We are planning a support group to help caregivers share their trials and find ways to bolster their spiritual health. Please let Rev. Allison know when a good day and time for you would be to participate in this group. We are considering 11am on Thursdays in the Ed Building (with a possible zoom connection for remote attendance).

We need more Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Alter Guild personnel.

If you are interest in any of these positions, please contact Robin StClair at [rscinca@gmail.com](mailto:rscinca@gmail.com)

**Are you curious about what the 12-steps used in various support groups are all about?**

Come and learn how the 12-steps have a Christian and specifically Episcopal history in their formation and how they can be used for anyone in any situation. They are not confined to those in recovery from addiction. The 12 steps are helpful for everyday life. Join us on Wednesday evenings in the Parish Hall at 5pm til 6pm as we explore these 12 steps through our Christian perspective. Open to everyone.

**Duplicate Bridge Club** to begin meeting at St. Stephen's in Ed Bldg on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12 noon to 4pm. Classes for new players offered. Any interested please contact Bob Walton at [publius92@yahoo.com](mailto:publius92@yahoo.com) or phone 520-249-6635.

**Christian Ed Forum** – Study of the Book of Revelation continues Sat 4 pm. Sunday Adult Forum is reading “How to Read the Bible & Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis through Revelation” by John Dominic Crossan. Copies of the book are \$12.00/ea from Rev. Allison.

**Living with Loss** – A support group for those processing grief from losing someone you love. Next mtg Friday Aug 19th, 4pm.

**Diocesan Convention Volunteers Needed in Tucson at the Conquistador Resort!!!** - Have you ever wanted to work on the inside of the Diocesan Convention? Would you like to help your Diocese? Your opportunity to volunteer for Convention is here! We are looking for several, good volunteers to be part of the 2022 Diocesan Convention being held on Friday, October 21 through Saturday, October 22, 2022. Duties may include greeting attendees, counting ballots, or other essential jobs that help make the Convention a success. Complimentary lunch is available to volunteers on both days. If you volunteer on Friday, you are also welcome to join us for dinner. To join us, please contact Toni Murdock at 480-382-6140 or via email at [toni@azdiocese.org](mailto:toni@azdiocese.org).

Summer AZ Episcopalian Magazine available online at this link:  
[https://azdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/AZepiscopal\\_Summer2022forprintmerged-Smallpdf-1.pdf](https://azdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/AZepiscopal_Summer2022forprintmerged-Smallpdf-1.pdf). This issue has all the upcoming October Diocesan Convention information in it.

**Education for Ministry (EFM)** – NOW registering new students for Fall 2022 start. If you are interested in a truly transformative experience learning seminary education in New Testament, Old Testament, Church History, Theology, Liturgy, Prayer, Ministry, Fellowship, and Pastoral Care, then this program is for you. At least half of St. Stephen's members have completed the program and agree that it is spiritually life changing. (Sponsored by University of the South, Sewanee). See Sherry Simon, Peggy Brown for additional information to get signed up.

**Adjustments to the relationship between St. Raphael's and the two supporting churches, St. Stephens and Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sierra Vista** are coming. For the first time in 40 years, SELC does not have an incoming pastor-intern this summer. The three churches and two bishops are in discussion about what the best way forward is for St. Raphael's after July this year.

**Sherry Simon has begun her Deacon school.** The process that Dottie just completed, Deacon formation school for the past two years, is now what Sherry Simon is beginning. In two years, we expect to be celebrating another deacon ordination for Sherry. Until then, keep Sherry in your prayers for her continued formation.

**We continue to have several members with various health concerns** or who have family and friends with health concerns. We ask your prayers for all those that we lift up during our “Healing Prayers” part of our worship service.

**Spiritual Gifts Inventories** – If you missed the opportunity to take the Spiritual Gift Inventory when Canon Cathy Black was with us, copies are available on the back table of the church, or contact me to have a copy emailed to you. Then let us know your top 5 gifts.

**Ladies Social Group** meets monthly for lunch or other fun activities. See Dottie or Nancy for next lunch date and place.

**Lay Ministry Teams**  
If you are unable to serve at the appointed time and day, you are responsible for finding a replacement.  
Please notify Robin of substitutions.

**Now forming a Pastoral Care Team (also known as Eucharistic Visitors)** – volunteers to be trained to take communion to people unable to come to church and visit with them for a bit. If you are interested, please sign up for this ministry.

**Coming Saturday October 29th:** Halloween Pet Costume Contest and Pet Blessing at New Frontier Animal Medical Center. Dress your dog or cat for Halloween and/or bring them for a pet blessing. 9am til 10am on the lawn. Prizes for most original costume, best pet and owner collaborated costume, and scariest costume.

**Ministry Teams Schedule for September**

**Wednesdays 7, 14, 21, 28**

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

**Saturday 3**

LEM – Robin StClair                      Lector – Sandra Calhoun                      Altar Guild – Robin StClair

**Saturday 10**

LEM – Evening Prayer                      Lector – Tim Holsonback                      Altar Guild – Ed Stone                      Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

**Saturday 17**

LEM – Evening Prayer                      Lector – Jeff Speer                      Altar Guild – Jill Holsonback                      Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

**Saturday 24**

LEM – Jeff Speer                      Lector – Sandra Calhoun                      Altar Guild – Robin StClair

**Sunday 4**

LEM – Nancy Rea                      Lector – Judy Davis                      Altar Guild – Sherry Simon                      Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

**Sunday 11**

LEM – Morning Prayer                      Lector – MJ Mahland                      Altar Guild – Deb Ash                      Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

**Sunday 18**

LEM – Morning Prayer                      Lector – Nancy Rea                      Altar Guild – Robin StClair                      Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

**Sunday 25**

LEM – MJ Mahland                      Lector – Peggy Brown                      Altar Guild – Deb Ash                      Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

**Allison will be on leave from 9 – 22 September**

September						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
						
4 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	5 	6 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	7 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	8	9	10 6:30 pm Supper Group The Peacock Restaurant
11 11:00 am Morning Prayer	12	13 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	14 9:30 am Spoken service	15	16	17 5:00 pm Evening Prayer
18 11:00 am Morning Prayer	19	20 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	21 9:30 am Spoken service	22	23 New sletter Articles Due	24 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
25 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	26	27 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	28 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	29	30	