

St Stephen's Announcements Dec 14-21 2022

- **Covid infection rates are high in Cochise County** – You are encouraged to wear a mask indoors at church especially if you feel vulnerable to the Covid/Flu/RSV viruses. If you feel it is necessary also, please social distance yourself from others along the back and sides of the church.
- **Stewardship Update** – Following the end of the stewardship season, we are a little short of last year's budget by \$8000. We thank all of you who have sent us your estimated giving cards. If you have not yet sent in your estimated giving for 2023, please do so as soon as possible so that we can prepare the draft budget for next year.
- **End of year approaching please complete your pledges for the year** – We are nearing the end of the year and will be closing out our finances soon. Please be sure that you are current on your pledges.
- **Christmas Bonus for staff** – Each year we ask for you to help us show some appreciation for our Accompanist Doreen, Sexton Deborah, and Parish Administrator with a donation to the employee purse. These folks work hard for us to be able to enjoy our church and its services. Please indicate on your check or cash envelope "employee purse". Donations will be shared among our staff at Annual Meeting.
- **Christmas Party!** - Bruce Hardt has offered to host a Christmas party at his home in Hereford this year. It will begin Sunday afternoon at 2pm and go until 5pm on December 18th. Bring your own beverage and some appetizers/finger foods to share. Sign up for appetizers in Parish Hall. Wear Red and Green to make the day festive! **Bruce's address 6920 S. Rainbow Vista Lane, Hereford, AZ. Directions >>**
- **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. Christmas day service come in pajamas (if you want) and stay for light brunch of egg casserole, potatoes, fruit, pastry.
- **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED BETWEEN DEC 25-JAN 2:** You can still reach us for emergency needs via phone voice mail, email, or texts. No regular office hours during this week.
- **Next Singalong Dec 30 at 6pm to 7pm in Ed Bldg** – Christmas begins with Christmas Eve/Day so we will have a Christmas song singalong (some of those favorites that we don't necessarily sing in church). Bring a friend and have some fun singing our seasonal favorites.
- **Lunch Bunch having lunch Sat Dec 31st at Olive Garden** at 11:30am in the family dining room. All are welcome.
- **Dec 31st 5pm New Year's Eve service and Jan 1st 11am New Year's Day service** – Be sure to have your blackeyed peas, greens, and cornbread to bless the new year!
- **First Friday Film Night January 6th at 5pm** – We will watch "Imagine", the life story behind lead singer of Mercy Me, leading up to his composing the song "I can only imagine" to honor his once estranged and abusive father. Light supper of soup is offered. Bring your own beverage. All are welcome! Bring a friend!
- **Wednesday 11th January: Epiphany Blessing of our Church as part of our Wednesday worship service.** Like a house blessing, we will go from room to room, offering prayers to welcome God's blessing and to dispel any negativity from our premises. All are welcome to participate in this special service.
- **Second Saturday St. Stephen's Supper group will meet Saturday January 14th 6:30pm** – We are going to Vinny's Pizza, 1977 Frontage Rd, Sierra Vista, AZ. Menu: <https://mhme.nu/design/92161340-d32c-472a-ac94-e61e411d9b58?create=true>. Let's get tables near the pool table and play a game or two of pool! All are welcome, invite your friends.
- **Annual Meeting SATURDAY January 21st 3pm in Ed Bldg with Chili potluck early dinner** – Everyone is encouraged to come and attend the annual meeting to review the 2023 budget, elect new members of the vestry, and thank all our ministry folks for their time and talent in the preceding year. We will need two new folks to be on vestry as Andy Anderson rotates off and we did not fill the other vestry vacancy last year. Please see Rev. Allison if you are interested in serving on the vestry for a two-year term.

