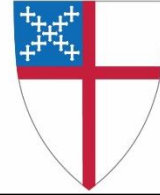




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



January 2023

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From our Rector:

Happy New Year!

I hope that you and your families have had a love-filled Christmas. I know that some of us have had moments when family is especially precious and the memories of happy days together tug at our hearts. It is a national tradition to sing the song "Auld Lang Syne" on New Year's Eve. From Wikipedia, here is what that phrase means:



"The poem's Scots title may be translated into standard English as "old long since" or, less literally, "long long ago", "days gone by", "times long past" or "old times". Consequently, "For auld lang syne", as it appears in the first line of the chorus, might be loosely translated as "for the sake of old times". (accessed from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auld_Lang_Syne on 12/19/22).

Each new year we pause to reflect on the passing year and the year ahead. What do we celebrate? What do we mourn or grieve? What do we release and let go of with relief? What do we hope for in the new year ahead? What changes do we want to make for ourselves?

As your priest and rector, I celebrate that as a church family we continue to hold each other up and support one another through the tough times and challenges. I am grateful for the generosity of spirit that you all show to one another and to our community and the world. I am touched by the genuine love that you show to me and to each other. Your kindnesses in prayers, hugs, visits, rides, meals, and gifts for each other are what make us a family in Christ.

In the coming year, I pray for and hope for our beloved community to continue to invite and welcome new people. Some of that invitation will be the work of God's spirit bringing people to our doors. The majority of that invitation should come from us, each of us, letting others know about our faith family and asking them to be a part of our extended family. And when new folks enter our church, may we be as caring about them as we are of ourselves so that they too can feel loved and that they belong with us. Be sure to greet and introduce yourself to any new faces you see at church or during our activities. Be curious about who they are and how they came to our church. Invite them to sit with you at fellowship or get together with them for coffee later.

Our church is a special group of people. You are special. You are what makes our church special. I love and appreciate each one of you. May you have a wonderful new year.

With peace and love,

Rev. Allison

**"What does the Lord require of you but
to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God."**

Micah 6:8

Senior Warden

Fellow Parishioners

Happy New Year. As we look at the new year, what do you want to accomplish this year. Always remember you are never alone. We and God are always with you.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
January 26th

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.

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.

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

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 or phone 520-249-6635.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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/>

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.

Junior Warden:



The new year us about new beginnings; setting New Year's resolutions. Here at the church, it's about taking care of not just the building but those who come to worship with us. Last year was a great one. Let's keep that going this coming year.



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

- 10 Jan: Mary Perez
- 12 Jan: Donna Savill
- 12 Jan: William Sanders
- 21 Jan: Bill Carswell



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.

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.

Clergy retreat Jan 24-26 – Rev. Allison and Deacon Dottie will be away at clergy retreat in Prescott at Chapel Rock.

Teller Volunteers are needed to help count & deposit funds from weekly collections. Computer knowledge will be helpful, but not necessary. Training will be provided. You will be scheduled once a month for about a hour. Please consider lending a hand! Contact Nancy Rea 520-227-3827 for more info.

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!

Vestry retreat – Friday and Saturday Feb 3 - 4 Members of the vestry are asked to reserve Friday from 3 to 7pm and Saturday from 9am to 4pm for our annual vestry retreat in the Parish Hall for planning 2023 and getting to know each other/team building. booklets.

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.

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.

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. And of course, if you feel sick, please stay home.

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.

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

Thank you to Bruce Hardt for hosting a wonderful Christmas Party. A good time was had by all.

Ministry Teams Schedule for January

Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 7

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

Saturday 14

LEM – Ed Stone Lector – Tim Holsonback Altar Guild – Ed Stone

Saturday 21

LEM – Tim Holsonback Lector – Jeff Speer Altar Guild – Jill Holsonback

Saturday 28

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

Sunday 1

LEM – Peggy Brown Lector – Peggy Brown Altar Guild – Sherry Simon Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 8

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

Sunday 15




LEM – MJ Mahland Lector – Wlima Swartz Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 22

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

Sunday 29

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

| January | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6  | 7 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion |
| 8 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream | 9 | 10 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom | 11 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion | 12 | 13 | 14 6:30 pm Manda Le Restraurant, behind Papa 50s |
| 15 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion | 16  | 17 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom | 18 9:30 am Spoken service | 19 | 20 | 21 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion |
| 22 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream | 23 | 24 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom | 25 9:30 am Spoken service | 26 New sletter Articles Due | 27 | 28 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion |
| 29 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion | 30 | 31 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom | | | | |