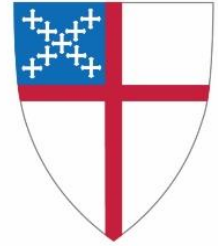




*St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church  
Newsletter  
September 2023*



Office manager: Email: [marksowards@ststephensaz.org](mailto:marksowards@ststephensaz.org) Phone: (520) 458 4432



*From our Rector*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your ongoing patience these past months as we have been juggling office tasks with Mark out of the office and more recently recovering from his hip replacement surgery. Mark is doing very well and feeling much relief in his hip for the pain that hip had been causing him. He continues to care for May his mom who has good and bad days in her declining health.

I am also working through some grief as we learned of the death of Maryhelen Henthorn at the end of August. It comes as a shock because Maryhelen was so vivacious and fun and energetic just weeks ago and now suddenly she is gone. It is a reminder for each of us to relish and delight in the days that we have because it can all be over very quickly. Tell those around you that you love them; we never know if those will be our last words to them.

Peace be with you,

*Rev. Allison*

Rev. Allison and Robin St. Clair will be on vacation from Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> through Sept 12<sup>th</sup> traveling to Sudbury, Ontario in Canada.

Please keep them in prayer for safe journeys.

## Digital Organ Donated to St. Stephen's

We have been given a used but in good condition digital organ from a Jewish synagogue in Phoenix. Mr. Mark Austin who repairs organs came this past spring to inspect our church organ and gave us three options. One of which was to acquire a digital organ that could be made a hybrid with our own organ pipes (for an extra cost).

A few weeks ago, Mr. Austin informed us that he knew of a digital organ that we may be able to get for very little money. In following up with the synagogue, they offered us this organ for free... we just have to arrange to move it to Sierra Vista. As I write this, we are looking into the most affordable way to move the digital organ and have it installed at our church.

The model of digital organ is a Rodgers 950B:





\*from *What's That Funny Look on Your Faith* by Cuyler Black, 2006, Hallmark Gift Books, Zondervan, Kansas City MO.

### **Coming Soon – Mark your Calendars:**

- Education for Ministry (EfM) is resuming classes on Thursday afternoons in Parish Hall or on zoom.
- First Friday night film will show “The Chosen” season 3, episodes 1 and 2 on Sept 1st
- Second Saturday Supper will venture to “The Brite Spot” in Hereford/Palominas on Sept 9th.
- Church yard cleanup day – 7:30am to 10:30am Saturday Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. Free coffee and donuts
- Monster Mash – Halloween Potluck Sunday Oct 29 11am-1pm
- Annual Hymn Fest – St. Andrew’s Catholic Church 2pm. Come hear and singalong with your favorite hymns for an hour.
- Trunk or Treat – Oct 31<sup>st</sup> in church parking lot 4pm to 6pm: Bring candy and goodies to hand out to neighborhood kids from the trunk of your car. Wear a costume and decorate your car to make it festive



## From our Reverend Deacon

### Musings

It was a wonderful three weeks in New England after nearly seven years absence due to the pandemic and Deacon Formation Classes. Adlynrood Retreat and Conference Center in Massachusetts was the main destination the whole time. I enjoyed being in much cooler temperatures ranging from 78 degrees and raining, with a few sunny days, though after leaving here in 105 degrees it was delicious to just need a light jacket now and then. While at the retreat house I served in the Chapel and was invited several times to serve as Deacon for the Eucharist. The reason I was at the retreat center was to take the first of four sessions on spiritual direction as part of my continuing education. The class started on Monday the second week and went on to Friday at noon. It was quite enlightening as to the methods and differences there are when being a spiritual advisor to someone depending on their own circumstances. Our presenters were all “in the business”. One is a teacher of S.D. at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Virginia. We were a group of 15 in all, in various stages of the course. On Friday, 4 participants graduated during a short Holy Eucharist service. With their certificates of completion given out, they are now able to apply for their license as spiritual directors for their home churches. During those first two weeks, there was a lot of time for reflection and prayer in my life since accepting the call to Holy Orders. It was also relaxing and rejuvenating for my soul to have that time alone with God. On August 11<sup>th</sup> my brother came to take me to his home in New Hampshire. It was a good visit with him and his family and some neighbors that I had met before. We had much to catch up on and many places to visit from Chester, NH to Portsmouth, Maine. It was a sunny morning when I boarded a bus to go back to Boston Logan Airport to return to Arizona. With much trepidation I learned we had a layover in Denver. Fortunately, though, for the first time in my years of making this trip, the plane was not delayed leaving there and made it back to Tucson on time later that afternoon. It was a wonderful feeling to be home again, best of all back in Saint Stephens, among so many good friends, as we worship together.

Sadly, the news of Mary Helen’s untimely passing was hard to absorb. Some good news though, we are being blessed with the gift of a new/used organ which is fantastic. It seems to me that God always gives us a grace right after something unpleasant happens.

We are honoring our own first responders this month during the remembrance of September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001. The information and suggestions for your cards is on the table near weekly bulletins and announcements. Won't you join me and Reverend Allison in thanking our police, fire department and all others for their being at our beck and call in times of emergency, right here in our own area? There is a container for you to leave your cards and letters for them until after Sunday service September 24th. I will be picking them up and delivering them to the various departments the following day. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this project.

Respectfully submitted., Deacon Dottie G.

**From Our Treasurer** - The financial reports for the Vestry are created remotely by Freedom from Bookkeeping out of the Quickbooks software in the office computer. Your gifts are entered by the Tellers - a pair of us each Sunday - and then recorded by the Parish Administrator. Hard copies are on file in the office. Your mid-year statements of Pledges are available. The last few will be mailed by September 1<sup>st</sup>

We have lost one team of tellers, so if anyone is willing to learn the process, contact me or Nancy Rea.

Anne Roth



## September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
3 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Also live stream)	4 	5 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	6 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	7	8	9 Supper 6.30pm At The Brite Spot 10989 E Hwy92 Herford
10 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Also live stream)	11	12 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	13 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	14	15	16 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
17 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Also live stream)	18	19 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	20 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	21	22	23 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
24 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Also live stream)	25 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	26 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	27 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	28	29	30 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion

### September Lay Ministry Teams Schedule

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

<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>			
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Alter guild – Jill Holsonback	
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>			
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Alter Guild – Jeff Speer	
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup></b>			
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Jeff Speer	Altar Guild – Robin StClair	
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>			
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Robin StClair	Alter Guild – Jill Holsonback	
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b>			
LEM - Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Alter Guild – Jeff Speer	
<hr/>			
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>			
LEM – Nancy Rae	Lector – Peggy Brown	Alter Guild – Nancy Rae	Deacon - Dottie Gutwein
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>			
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Wilma Swartz	Altar Guild – Deb Ash	Deacon - Dottie Gutwein
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>			
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild – Deb Ash	Deacon - Dottie Gutwein
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>			
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector - Doris Millard	Alter Guild – Robin StClair	Deacon - Dottie Gutwein



Dorothy Gutwein	September 9 <sup>th</sup>
Nicholas B Santanocito	September 14 <sup>th</sup>
Jeff Speer	September 25 <sup>th</sup>

## From your editor!

Dear Readers,

For those of you that haven't yet met, or even heard of Wilma Swartz, let me tell you of some of her many talents!

- She is a ventriloquist and has entertained at **Family oriented ventriloquist shows, puppet shows, birthday parties and puppet ministries**. She has been in two movies and even appeared on America's Got Talent!!
- She is also quite artistic with a paint brush and will **repair/restore outdoor statues, birdbaths and garden ornaments etc.**
- Currently she is making **miniature Christmas trees, table centre pieces and decorative wreaths etc.**, using pine cones, and other materials. **All proceeds will go to the church**. If you have any spare pine cones in your yard, she will happily relieve you of them!

Apart from all that she is the Fellowship Time coordinator for our refreshments after the Sunday morning services. She organises the drinks and snacks etc. and even makes displays and decorations if she is following a theme such as a public holiday etc.. **She is looking for assistants and there is a sheet available where you can write your name on the Sundays that you would be willing to assist.** Oh and did I mention that Wilma is also the **Clerk of the Vestry** here at St. Stephen's!

For more information on all or any of the above please contact –  
**Wilma Swartz, The VENTertainer on 520-210-1006 or email [wilma@wilmaspuppets.com](mailto:wilma@wilmaspuppets.com)**

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter – maybe something about yourselves, a meaningful quote or poem, a favourite recipe – anything you'd like to share with us – please email to [dianepyancey@gmail.com](mailto:dianepyancey@gmail.com)

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Diane

