

St Stephen's Announcements Dec 7-13 2023

- **Christmas Bonus for Church Staff** – Please make a donation to our staff Christmas Bonus by donating to the Rector Discretionary Fund. Each year we like to give a little extra to our staff: Mark our parish administrator, Doreen our accompanist, and Debra our sexton. The donations for December to the Rector Discretionary will be dedicated to the staff bonus. Thank you for helping to show gratitude for the work these folks do for our church.
- **Second Saturday Supper** – Saturday Dec 9th at 6:30pm we will dine at the La Sierra Grill in Hereford, 7196 AZ-92, Hereford, AZ 85615 . Website: <https://lasierragrillsteakhouse.com/>
- **Christmas “Go Bags” for Foster Kids** – Please drop off your filled bags by Dec 15th (Friday). We will get them to the Social Workers shortly thereafter.
- **Coats for Kids** - Please drop off gently used or new coats for kids by 15 December.
- **12 Steps for Christians meets on Wednesdays at 5pm in the Parish Hall.** New book “12 steps to a compassionate life” by Karen Armstrong will begin December 6th. Copies available from Rev. Allison for \$8.00.
- **Advent devotional books to use in your daily prayers are available for you on the back table.** Sat and Sun adult forum will discuss the weekly reflections and share our own thoughts. Wednesday worship at 9:30am will also use the reflection for the homily/sermon time.
- **“I’ll have a blue Christmas without you” – For those who are missing loved-ones this Christmas, we are having a Blue Christmas Service Saturday December 16th at 5pm.** This is the worship service for that Saturday. We will remember those we said goodbye to this year: Bill - Doris’s gentleman friend, Margaret – Andy Anderson’s daughter, Danny – special friend and neighbor of Sandra Calhoun, Maryhelen Henthorn, Phyllis Fortenberry, Tim Ash Jr, and May Sowards – all members of St. Stephen’s. Bring your broken heart, let flow your tears, remember their place in our lives. Invite anyone who you know is also grieving this Christmas.
- **Christmas worship services:** This year 4th Advent falls on the same Sunday as Christmas Eve. We will have 4th Advent on Saturday Dec 23rd (with music) at 5pm but **no Sunday morning worship on Dec 24th**. We will have Christmas Eve service on Sunday Dec 24th at 5pm. We will also have a Christmas Day service on Monday Dec 25th at 10am with a short brunch to follow in the Parish Hall.
- **The Church Office will be closed between Christmas and New Years Day.** You can still call and leave a message or send an email if you have an urgent need to contact Rev. Allison or the church office. We will be monitoring those communications in case of emergency. After hours (7pm to 7am), please call Rev. Allison at her home number: 520-335-2436, her cell phone is turned off at night.
- **Dec 30-31: New Years’ service Sat 5pm and Sun 10am.** Bid goodbye to this year and look to the coming year with hope. Sunday morning service will also offer a champaign or sparkling cider fellowship time following the service...
- **Church Annual Meeting – Sunday January 21st 11:30am with potluck lunch in Parish Hall.** Come hear the state of the church address and vote for new vestry members. If you would like to be on the Vestry for the coming year(s), please see Rev. Allison to indicate your desire to serve our church in this leadership role.
- **Vestry Retreat for new vestry** - Friday Jan 26th 5:30pm to 8pm with dinner and Saturday Jan 27th 8am to 2pm with coffee, donuts, and lunch. Vestry members should make plans to attend all sessions.
- **Please continue to drop off your aluminum cans and pull tabs** – We will continue to take to Animal Shelter to donate for them.