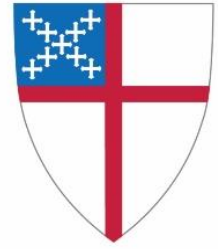




*St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church  
Newsletter  
June/July 2024*



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*From our Rector*

Summer Salutations!

As we pass by Memorial Day we enter into our secular start of summer. School is out, the Sun is shining, and we all tend to slow things down a bit during the summer. We vacation, go to the pool, work on our suntans, grill or BBQ more, enjoy the longer days, and try to relax. I encourage us all to lean into that relaxation time. The world around us has been and will continue to be chaotic and stressful. Tensions are high and the future seems uncertain... changes are drifting on the winds... and all of this can interrupt our inner peace and calm and serenity. A prominent Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr in the mid 1900s wrote a prayer that is now referred to as "The Serenity Prayer":

**God grant me the Serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can,  
And the Wisdom to know the difference.**

**Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time.  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as he did, this sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would like it.**

**Trusting that he will make all things right,  
If I surrender to his will.  
That I may be reasonably happy in this world  
And supremely happy in the next.**

*Continued.....*

A majority of the unrest in our world is in the category of “things I cannot change”. As the second part of the prayer reminds us, Jesus as God incarnate did not change the world when he walked among us... he did not end Roman occupation of Israel, he did not end poverty, he did not end all disease... Jesus helped those who asked for help, he taught those who were willing to learn, he assisted those who wanted to change themselves.

We are asked to do the same... so, if you are carrying a ton of stress and worry and fear for the things you cannot change... take this summer to let those things go... surrender those troubles to God so that you can live one day at a time, enjoying your moments, that you may be reasonably happy in this world... and eventually, one day, supremely happy in the next.

Blessings be upon you in your summertime,  
Rev. Allison Cornell

### **The Bishop is coming! The Bishop is coming!**

Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> we enthusiastically welcome Bishop Jennifer Reddall to St. Stephen’s for her scheduled visit with us. Please be sure to mark your calendar and try to attend worship and lunch following that Sunday. Invite your friends and family to also come. Bishop Jennifer was last with us in 2022. We look forward to her preaching and her sharing with us how things are going in our Diocese of Arizona. Bring your questions to ask her. Lunch will be “pic-nic” style: sandwiches, grilled chicken, chips, tea/lemonade, cookies, ice cream.

### **Calling all Pet-Lovers!**

On July 4<sup>th</sup> at Veteran’s Park in Sierra Vista there will be the annual Pet Parade where pets and their owners dress up in patriotic costumes to be judged by local officials. We invite you to be part of our Pet Blessings team from St Stephen’s church. We will offer pet blessings for those at the event by writing the pet’s name on a blessing card and pronouncing a blessing on the pet (also on the card) and giving their owner a small bag of goodies to take with them along with the card. On the reverse is a prayer of remembrance for pets who have crossed the rainbow bridge (died). We would like to have volunteers to help us bless these pets. Let Allison or Dottie know of your interest. We will have a training session before July 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Teller Teams could use your help!**

On Sunday mornings after our worship and fellowship time, our “Teller Teams” count up the offertory and prepare the bank deposit slips and then drop off the deposit at the bank. If you can count, use a calculator, and/or follow some easy instructions, you too can be a teller! We would like to add at least two more people to the Teller Teams so please consider becoming a teller. See Nancy Rea or Anne Roth.

### **Education for Ministry Graduates Celebration!**

Our Education for Ministry (EfM) classes have two new graduates this year: Tim Holsonback and Pat Thralls. They join last year’s graduates Peggy Brown and Renee Olejnicak. Congratulations for these folks who completed four years of seminary level education covering Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Christian Ethics, and more. They have made the time commitment, the financial commitment, and the personal commitment to grow deeper in their knowledge and love of God. Well Done!

*Continued .....*

**New Education for Ministry Students wanted for next year!** This course of study often referred to as EfM, is for those who are ready to delve deeper into understanding more about our faith as Christians. We may come to a place where Sunday School left us with too simplistic answers and weekly worship doesn't have enough time to get as deep as we may want to go. EfM may be what you are looking for. Participants in EfM not only study our faith, they also learn how to think theologically, learn about liturgy and prayer, consider their own gifts from God and how to live into those gifts to hopefully make earth a bit more like heaven. If interested, See Sherry Simon for more information or use this link to visit the EfM website:

<https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/about/>

### **School Supply Donations:**

As kids take the summer off, they will be returning to school at the end of July this year... Seems early to me, but hey, they don't ask me about setting the school calendar. That said, last year we collected school supplies for two elementary schools in the rural part of Cochise County and they were very much appreciated. We would like to do the same thing again this year. Please collect some of the following in the coming weeks for donations to our rural and more needy schools: paper, notebooks, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, crayons, coloring pencils, kid scissors, rulers, glue sticks, and pouches to put pencils and things in. We will make arrangements to get them to the schools at the start of the school year.

### **Personal Hygiene Items for the Good Neighbor Alliance Homeless shelter:**

If you are going on trip(s) this summer and staying in hotels where there are travel/small size soaps and shampoos for your use, please consider bringing those home to put into personal hygiene kits for the homeless shelter, Good Neighbor Alliance, who can then distribute them for the folks who stay overnight at the shelter. Likewise, when you are shopping and see a good deal on travel size items in the store, maybe pick up a couple of items to donate. See Dottie for more information.

**Thank you to Michael Powell** for recovering our chairs for the Parish Hall. We had some chairs that had torn seatbacks and seats and Michael offered to help by recovering those so that they look brand new. Thank you for your contribution of fabric and time to work on our chairs.

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### **Coming Up:**

- **July 4th - Veterans' Park Pet Parade.** Come see pets dressed up for July 4th and help out with offering of Pet Blessings from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. See Rev. Allison to volunteer to be a "Pet Blessor".
- **Saturday 27th July – Lunch and Learn opportunity to hear a speaker from the organization "Veterans for Child Rescue"** explain ways to keep kids safe from child trafficking and how to watch for and report suspected child traffickers. Open to the community. Salad lunch provided.
- **Wed July 17 – NEW! Starting an hour of artistic meditation 11am to 12 pm on 3rd Wednesdays of the month.** Bring your art supplies to do Rock painting, coloring, mandalas, zen tangles, drawing, writing poetry, whatever you want to do for about an hour. First 15 mins will be silent or listening to soft music. Next 45 mins will be open to sharing thoughts (or not) as you are inspired.



## *From Our Reverend Deacon*

A thoughtful piece to ponder from Deacon Dottie

Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
All things pass away.  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things.  
She who has God  
Finds she lacks nothing  
God alone suffices.

May God Bless all of us with a safe, happy, restful summer!

Reverend Dottie Gutwein, Deacon

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## *From our Treasurer*

Our office software for the bank accounts was changed because the parent company has refused to continue to support the version we have been using. We are now using their Online version, which is quite different from what we had. Not being a "computer person", I am having trouble doing the check writing now. At least the bills are paid and the church is doing well financially. The landscaping company has begun the cleanup of our entry way and we hope to look much better in time for the Bishop Reddall's visit in two weeks.

Anne Roth

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## June 2024 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***

### ALL SUNDAYS – DEACON - DOTTIE GUTWEIN

<b>Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup></b>		
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar guild – Robin StClair
<b>Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> - No Service</b>		
<b>Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Keith presiding.</b>		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Jeff Speer
<b>Saturday June 22<sup>th</sup> Rev. Keith presiding.</b>		
LEM – Sherry Simon	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Sherry Simon
<b>Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Jeff Speer	Altar Guild - Tim Holsonback
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<b>Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup></b>		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Robin StClair
<b>Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> - Bishop Reddall visit.</b>		
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Nancy Rea	Altar Guild – Robin StClair
<b>Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Keith presiding.</b>		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild – Nancy Rae
<b>Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Rev. Keith presiding.</b>		
LEM – Wilma Swartz	Lector – Doris Millard	Altar Guild – Deb Ash
<b>Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Robin StClair

## July 2024 Lay Ministry Teams Schedule

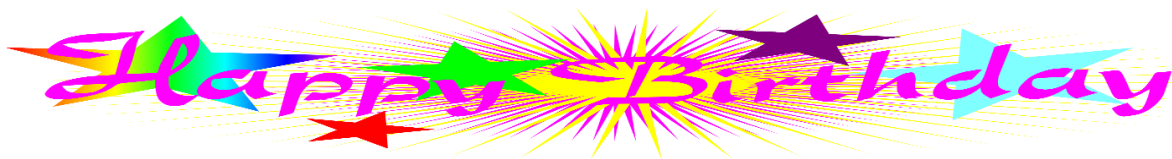
***NOTE: If you are unable to serve at the appointed time and day, you are responsible for finding a replacement.  
Please notify Robin of substitutions***

### ALL SUNDAYS – DEACON – DOTTIE GUTWEIN

<b>Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM - Jeff Speer	Lector -Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Jeff Speer
<b>Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM - Robin StClair	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Robin StClair
<b>Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector - Jeff Speer	Altar Guild – Tim Holsonback
<b>Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Sherry Simon	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Sherry Simon
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<b>Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Wilma Swartz	Altar Guild – Deb Ash
<b>Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Wilma Swartz	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild – Deb Ash
<b>Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup></b>		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Doris Millard	Altar Guild – Nancy Rea
<b>Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Robin StClair

## JUNE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)						1 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
2 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	3	4 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	5 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	6	7 <b>Film Night 'Gattaca' 5.30pm In the Ed Bldg.</b>	8 5.00 pm Service followed by <b>Supper at Pizza Hut Café 6.30pm</b>
9 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	10	11 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	12 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	13	14	15 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
16 <b>Father's Day</b> 10am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	17	18 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	19 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	20	21	22 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
23 10am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	24	25 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	26 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	27	28	29 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion



<b>Paula Jones</b>	<b>June 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Allison Cornell</b>	<b>June 10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Sherry Simon</b>	<b>June 14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Rev. Donne Puckle</b>	<b>June 17<sup>th</sup></b>

Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> will be **“BIRTHDAY SUNDAY”** celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of June. A cake will be present for all to enjoy!

## JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	3 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	4	5 <b>Film Night</b> <b>TBA</b>	6 5.00 pm Spoken Service With Holy Communion
7 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	8	9 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	10 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	11	12	13 5.00 pm Service followed by <b>Supper</b> <b>TBA</b> 6.30 pm
14 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	15	16 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	17 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	18	19	20 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
21 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	22	23 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	24 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	25 <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Articles Due</b> <b>For August</b> <b>Issue</b>	26	27 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
28 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	29	30 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	31 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion			



**James O'Neil**  
**Anne Roth**  
**Bruce Hardt**

**July 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**July 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**July 31<sup>st</sup>**

Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of June. A cake will be present for all to enjoy!

**From our Kitchen Koordinator** – More celebrations coming up during June and July. Bishop Reddall’s visit, Father’s Day, and of course the Birthday Sundays. If you are able, please consider offering your help before, during and after the Fellowship time. Alternatively, make a donation to the ‘Koffee Kitty’ so that we can continue to refresh our stocks of snacks and drinks for you to enjoy after the service.

Wilma Swartz

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**From the Editor** – We arrived safely in England, though whether it was the three-day drive before the long flight, or our ages, but jet lag certainly took a long time to diminish!

We have accomplished some things that were on our list. I sold my old Camper van that had been standing for at least four years! Not for very much but more than if it had to be scrapped!! I felt a teeny bit sad as it was towed away.

On Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> we drove down to My eldest daughter’s home in Horsham, West Sussex for my grandson, Oscar’s Confirmation the following day at Worth Abbey. The weather was kind and the whole service was wonderful. The candidates were all from four parishes in the area. Forty-seven 14/15yr olds, plus their families and sponsors were present. Also, the priests from the various parishes, altar servers, a large choir and an orchestra. Spectacular!!The weather continued to be kind and we were able to enjoy an al fresco meal once we got back to Horsham.

The following day was spent exploring and learning some of the history of the surrounding area. Lunch in a local very English pub was enjoyed by all.

On Tuesday, Claire insisted that we should visit a Stately Home while we were there and she chose Petworth House. I hope, if you are interested, you might google it. It won’t be as awe inspiring as actually experiencing the famous artworks and sculptures etc., but it is worth taking a look.

We didn’t start our homeward journey until 5pm that day. We couldn’t stay another day as I had an appointment booked for the following morning. It’s about a three and a half hour or so drive on a normal day! The first 3 hours went well .... then we were halted by 4 lanes of the motorway (M6) stacked with absolutely totally still traffic. It remained that way for over 6 hours. They were eventually able to clear one carriageway and we inched our way as best we could past the accident site that took up the other three lanes. We arrived back around 4am. Thankfully there were no fatalities though four people were taken to hospital. It took 9 hours altogether before the motorway was opened again. Phew! Adrenalin was still running high so didn’t get much sleep before the alarm went off!

We cut the grass (and weeds) back soon after we arrived here and now it wants doing again. (It’s all part of the English culture, that and talking about the weather!)

Diane  
(dianepyancey@gmail.com)