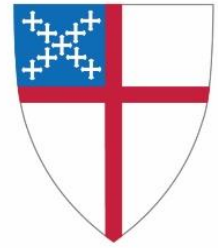




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
August 2024*



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From our Rector

Hello Friends!

As you read this our local schools will have just returned from summer break and begun the new school year. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our school supply drive this year. We collected an impressive amount of school supplies. I know that they will be much appreciated in San Simone among the students and teachers.

I hope you had a chance during the summer to take a break from the routine stuff and find an opportunity to relax and do some enjoyable activities (or nothing at all)! I know several of our members took vacation trips to see sights or to visit with family or friends. Some took cruises and some went abroad to other countries. Other folks went camping or to summer camp or took road trips to closer destinations. Still others had “stay-cations” remaining at home but doing less routine stuff. Whichever fits your experience, I hope you found some de-stressing time and peace and fun to recharge your soul and spirit. As we know Jesus himself would take time away from the disciples and crowds to do much the same... It is healthy self-care to do so.

August and September for our church are relatively calm by way of any upcoming events; however, our October is shaping up to be a busy month. See the rest of the newsletter for some events that we are asking you to be actively engaged with. One last topic I want to address for the next several months is our election cycle. Sadly, a lot of people can be antagonistic and mean-spirited about the election and the candidates who are running for the various offices. As Episcopalians, we truly mean it when we say that everyone is welcome in our church and that extends to political points of view. We may have among us differing opinions and desires for the upcoming election and I encourage us all to not let that lead us into impoliteness or disrespect for one another or for others around us. We find our commonality in our desire to listen to and follow Jesus and his teachings as the example for our lives. Jesus encountered all kinds of people during his ministry and was willing to talk and hear from others. We will hopefully embrace Jesus’ willingness to hear various thoughts and opinions with acceptance of difference and courtesy.

May you have an amazing August and end of summer,
Rev. Allison Cornell

School Supplies for San Simone:



Counter full of donated supplies (above)



Representative sample of donated items

Thanks to all who contributed to this impressive collection of school supplies for San Simone's schools and start of a new school year! The students and teachers are sure appreciative of our help.

Personal Hygiene Items:

We continue through August to collect travel size personal hygiene items for the Good Neighbor Alliance Shelter as several folks are still taking summer vacations and may have some donations when they return. We have collected quite a bit already and our Community Connections Ministry team will be soon sorting these and putting them into individual baggies for distribution to folks at the shelter.

Diocesan Convention News:

Our annual Diocesan Convention is scheduled for a one day in person event at St. Philip in the Hills Episcopal Church on Saturday October 19th with a worship service, business meeting, and exhibit hall. Some of the business of the diocese will happen before Oct 19th via Zoom meetings. The people from our church who are expected to attend the convention are your clergy (and clergy in formation), your Senior and Junior Wardens and your delegates. St. Stephen's is allocated two delegates: Nancy Rea and Renee Olejnicak are our delegates. Anyone who is interested can also attend the Diocesan Convention as a guest/visitor. It is a great way to see people from all around the Diocese and also learn about the different things that are happening in ministry at the various churches in the diocese and with the Diocesan ministries. More information and registration can be found on the Diocesan website here:

<https://azdiocese.org/2024-diocesan-convention/>

Newly Refreshed Church Website:

If you have not yet checked out our updated website, we encourage you to do so. We are still at our same website address: www.ststephensaz.org We have updated the whole website with a new look and hopefully easier to navigate menus. Let us know if you have any comments after you explore it.

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Arts in the Park October 5-6:

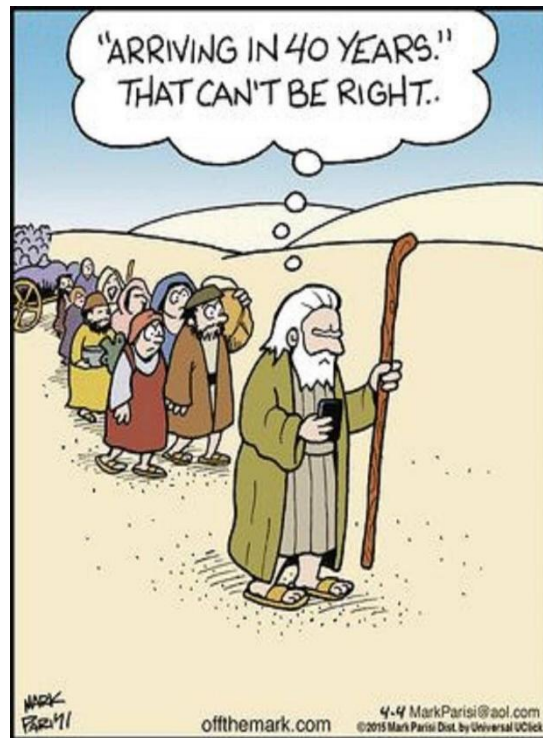
This year our church has reserved a table/canopy/space for our church to be present at Arts in the Park for Saturday and Sunday October 5-6. We will be asking the congregation to sign up for 3-hour shifts to offer brochures and answer questions and invite people to come try our church out. Anyone who would also like to be a “prayer partner” or “Blessing bestower” should sign up to offer to pray with any who want prayer or a blessing.

Joint Outdoor Service with Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church Sunday October 20th:

On this Sunday we will meet at Veteran’s Park to worship outside together with our friends from SELC in a joint service followed by a picnic/cookout. We will have an opportunity to get to know each other and share time in devotion and fellowship. No worship in the church on that Sunday morning and no livestream. More details coming soon.

Rev. Canon Anita Braden preaching and visiting St. Stephen’s Sunday October 27th:

Rev. Anita is our Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary and she oversees all our Diocesan clergy. She is a dynamic preacher, and we are excited to have her with us for Oct 27th Sunday’s worship. More info soon.





From Our Reverend Deacon

I am very pleased to have our Deacon in Formation, Sherry Simon, assist with the setting of the table whenever she can do so for weekends and Wednesdays' services. It is part of her learning experience to be able to tend the altar setting before her January 2025 ordination. We all keep her in prayer as her studies continue. Sherry is also mentor for the Education for Ministry study group. It is, besides becoming a Deacon, her passion to share the knowledge of the bible, church history and how it applies to today in participant's lives.

On a serious note, I am quoting part of a letter from St. Phillip's, Tucson, Fr. Robert Hendrickson on July 14, 2024:

“Over the coming days there will be much expression of expert opinions within the mass media, commentary, blame, and recrimination over the political violence we see unfolding. In a culture where politics has become our identity and new religion, every election cycle becomes a crusade, every rally a battle, every candidate a potential messiah, and violence an acceptable means to some end. The Church must pray first and join a nationwide discussion on how we both help change the rhetoric making this feasible and change the laws making this, and so much more, violence possible. We Christian do not have enemies. We only have neighbors, made in the image of God, in whom we are to seek and serve Christ.” With these thoughts in mind, Fr. Robert offered several prayers from our own tradition in the hopes, that, in the weeks ahead as we continue in this heated time of our common life. The hope is that we pray each day over the course of this election cycle. I have paraphrased one of the prayers which may sum up the thoughts and concerns we share, no matter what political party we as individuals support.

“Dear Lord, we are not bystanders in our national discourse, we are not voiceless nor powerless to help make change possible. But our power, as Christians, comes from your Christ and our voice must be his too preaching peace and promoting justice across the sad division of this hour. We know that the work must be so grounded in prayer that it has the firmest footing in the Rock of Ages through these unstable days. And so, God, grant your holy and lifegiving Spirit to move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen.

In joy and thanksgiving for the rains which continue to give our plants and wild animals the nourishment they need, I remain your faithful Deacon Dottie



From our Treasurer

Half year reports for those who are pledging to St. Stephen's have been distributed and/or mailed now. As usual, we see a dip in income during the summer months when people disappear. Hopefully, we will catch up come fall. Meanwhile, the Vestry has been given a break in July, so we will not meet again until August to see how everything is going. Rev. Allison took advantage of the holes in meetings to have Stanley Steemer come in and clean our tile etc. floors, so you will be coming back to a "clean house."

Anne Roth

August 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

Saturday August 3rd LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar guild – Robin StClair
Saturday August 10th LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Jeff Speer	Alter Guild – Tim Holsonback
Saturday August 17th LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Robin StClair
Saturday August 24th LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Jeff Speer
Saturday August 31st LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Jeff Speer	Altar Guild - Tim Holsonback
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Sunday August 4th BIRTHDAY SUNDAY LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Deb Ash
Sunday August 11th LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Ann Roth	Altar Guild – Robin StClair
Sunday August 18th LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild – Nancy Rae
Sunday August 25th LEM – Wilma Swartz	Lector – Doris Millard	Altar Guild – Deb Ash

AUGUST 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	1	2 Film Night Whose Life Is It Anyways 5.30pm in the Ed Bldg	3 5.00 pm Spoken Service With Holy Communion
4 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	5	6 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	7 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	8	9	10 5.00 pm Service followed by Supper at Hana Tokyo 6.30 pm
11 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	12	13 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	14 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	15	16	17 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
18 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	19	20 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	21 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	22	23 Newsletter Articles Due For September Issue	24 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
25 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	26	27 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	28 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	29	30	31



Greg Lamberth	August 10th
Chester Yancey	August 18th
Joan Strom	August 23rd
Timothy Ash	August 24th

Sunday August 4th will be **“BIRTHDAY SUNDAY”** celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of August. There will be cake for all to enjoy!

From the Editor – Hello again! I hope you're all enjoying your summer and that you have a better monsoon season than last year's which a lot of people referred to as a nonsoon! Until I came to live in Arizona almost five years ago, I had no idea that rain could feel and smell so wonderful. Today we're having a mini heatwave – may even reach 30/31°C further south, for today only though, then thunder storms! It's great for people who grow their own produce though. Here's a little something for you –

THE GARDEN OF LIFE
Adapted from 'Garden' by Eugenie Prime
For best results this garden should be planted every day:

Five rows of 'P'eas:

Preparedness,
Promptness,
Perseverance,
Politeness,
Prayer.

Five rows of squash:

Squash gossip,
Squash criticism,
Squash indifference,
Squash grumbling,
Squash selfishness.

Five rows of Lettuce:

Let us love one another,
Let us be faithful,
Let us be loyal,
Let us be patient,
Let us be truthful.

Four rows of Thyme:

Thyme for God,
Thyme for each other,
Thyme for family,
Thyme for friends

Three rows of Turnips:

Turn up for Church,
Turn up with a new idea,
Turn up with a new determination
to do a better job tomorrow than
you did today.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. You will reap what you sow.

With very best wishes to you all,
Diane
(dianepyancey@gmail.com)