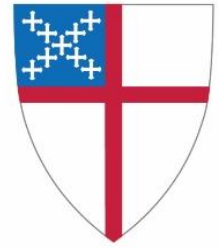




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
September 2024*



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From our Rector

Dear people of St. Stephen's Sierra Vista,

I am so thankful for all of you who belong to our faith family. You are such a blessing to minister with and to share our faith life with. Robin and I love you and treasure our time together with you all, which makes this announcement bitter-sweet.

I will be retiring from parish ministry in August 2025, a year from now. Robin and I would like to travel and do many things together that we have put off for years and now are able to take the time to go and to do such things. We want to do these things while we are capable health and ability wise.

In discussions with Bishop Reddall and The Rev. Canon Anita Braden, you, the members of St. Stephen's, will begin the process of selecting a new priest-in-charge in the coming year. The hopeful result of your process would be that come August of 2025, I will retire, and the new priest will assume leadership of St. Stephen's in my stead without the need for an interim.

To begin this process The Rev. Canon Anita Braden will be coming Sunday October 27th to lead our members in the first steps towards identifying the desired characteristics of our church as we move into the next chapters of the life of the church. This will then help describe the type of person to be the next rector of the church.

During this coming year, your wardens and vestry will be coordinating the information and advertisement of the open position for a new rector. There will also be a "search committee" who will also have as its primary mission the evaluation of candidates and interviews towards a selection of your new priest-in-charge.

Following my departure next year, Robin and I are planning to retire in Sierra Vista; however, for the first year of my retirement I am required by The Episcopal Church directives to distance myself from the church and you all as your pastoral minister. Much of that time, Robin and I anticipate being involved in travels around the country and to other places outside the US. When in town, we will need to worship in other churches for that year as well. After a year with your new priest, we can attend worship again at St. Stephen's.

Continued

Rector's Greeting continued -

In closing, it has been my privilege and honor to journey with you through these past seven years. Know that I love you and look forward to new opportunities to see where God's Holy Spirit leads this church in its next chapters of its faith life.

I ask that all of you actively participate in the upcoming process for helping to identify the next rector of St. Stephen's beginning with the Day of Discovery on October 27th from 12pm to 3pm in the Education Building.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Allison Cornell

No Arts in the Park Booth for St. Stephen's: I was able to finally speak with a coordinator for the Arts in the Park organizers and they informed me that they will not have booths for churches or other organizations that are not affiliated with "Art" at their upcoming festival. They want to keep the focus on Arts, Crafts, and similar endeavors. So, we won't need to staff a booth during that weekend... Feel free to enjoy the festival and peruse the various offerings.

First Friday Film Night – Join us Friday September 6th at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall for the viewing of the movie "Babel": Four interlocking stories connected by a single gun converge at the end to reveal a complex, tragic story of the lives of humanity around the world and how we truly aren't all that different. Salad supper before and short discussion following about "co-incidences" that can happen in life... Invite a friend!

Second Saturday Supper – On Saturday Sept 14th at 6:30pm, we will enjoy freshly made Mexican dinner at Guadalajara Tacos and Sonoran Hotdogs, 1100 Az-92 Ste 1, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635, corner of Foothills and Hwy 92. Order at the counter and then find a seat and they will bring to your seat.

Art and Meditation Hour – Wednesday September 18th at 11am in the Parish Hall. Join us for a quiet hour of art or craft as we make time in our busy and noisy lives to relax and enjoy some silence and peaceful practices to relieve stress and perhaps be inspired by God's still small voice. Bring your own arts/crafts (drawing, painting, coloring, needlepoint, cross-stitch, etc...) or use coloring supplies provided. Snacks and water available.

Day of Discovery – Save the Date: Sunday October 27th with Rev. Canon Anita Braden who will preach and preside over Sunday worship and then lead our congregation in discussion and determination of the next chapters of our church... who do we want to be, what do we want our church to focus on, what changes do we wish to see. These discussions will then inform the type of pastor we hope to have help us become that church we imagine us to be. ALL members of the church encouraged to participate. Potluck lunch.

Trunk or Treat in our parking lot again this year – October 31st from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. Decorate your car and fill your trunk with candy for the kiddies. Dress up in costume to add to the fun! Invite your friends to come and be part of our Trunk or Treat festivities



From Our Reverend Deacon

I offer the following quote for the month of September's newsletter:

“Sometimes the bravest and most important thing you can do is show up”

(Brene Brown, American professor, author, and social worker.)

Respectfully submitted:
Reverend Dottie G, Deacon



From our Treasurer

Our summer income is down a little, as usual, but we are managing to keep everything going. We have another group that will be using our facilities, and that little bit of income helps to keep the lights on for them. And I have been in touch with Josh Sunday of Sunday's Landscaping about another project to clean up the corner at Martingale/Cardinal in the fall when his schedule starts to slow up. Anyone interested in donating some ground lighting for the edge of the parking lot?

Anne Roth

September 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 September 7th		
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar guild – Robin StClair
Saturday September 14th		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Alter Guild – Jeff Speer
Saturday September 21st		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Jeff Speer	Altar Guild – Tim Holsonback
Saturday September 28th		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Jeff Speer
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Sunday September 1st BIRTHDAY SUNDAY		
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Robin StClair
Sunday September 8th		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Wilma Swartz	Altar Guild – Deb Ash
Sunday September 15th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Nancy Rae
Sunday September 22nd		
LEM – Wilma Swartz	Lector – TBA	Altar Guild – Deb Ash
Sunday September 29th		
LEM - Nancy Rae	Lector – Doris Millard	Alter Guild – Nancy Rae



SEPTEMBER 2024

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



Dorothy Gutwein	September 9th
Anita Hancock	September 11th
Nicholas B Santanocito	September 14th
Jeff Speer	September 25th

Sunday September 1st will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of September. There will be cake for all to enjoy.

From the Editor – Dear readers, firstly an apology. I noticed a few mistakes I'd made in last month's issue of the newsletter – especially with the calendar and also the lack of right-hand margins! Perhaps all the UK rain and lack of sunshine had something to do with it, but hey – we're back and I hope to do better this time!! I love Arizona, and especially the horizon-to-horizon blue skies during the day and the star filled night skies.

Following Reverend Allison's announcement regarding her decision to retire next year. In giving us advance notice we'll all have time to reflect on the differences she has made to our lives. Her strong sermons that make us feel that she's talking to each one of us individually, her energy and enthusiasm, her kindness and never ending willingness to help out where she sees a need. I could go on and I'm sure you could add to the list also, but for Chet and me, Allison made a life changing sacrifice and we will always be grateful that she opened up the church during Covid for us and officiated over our wedding. We will never forget her kindness and the lovely words spoke during the ceremony.

PASTOR APPRECIATION

The only time a pastor should receive any praise,

Is when the bible is reflected in her ways.

A pastor is called by God and is used to feed God's flock,

Therefore, her faith should be as Jesus; solid as a rock.

She does not fear anything or anyone but the Lord,

When tempted she uses the word as a two-edged sword.

The flock should follow the pastor without question or doubt,

They must be led by the Holy Spirit if they are expected to shout.

Amen, amen, to acknowledge that God's word is always true,

They back it up in their daily walk as the Holy Spirit

reveals to them what to do.

This is a pastor, who preaches the word without compromise,

in God's sight this is a pastor that is very wise.

Therefore, it is alright to encourage God's servant to stay strong,

while she continues to preach the gospel and bring sinners to Christ

where they belong.

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