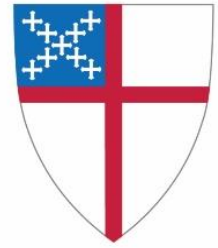




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
October 2024*



Office manager: Email: mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org Phone: (520) 458 4432



From our Rector



Happy Autumn!

Our temperatures begin to move into a more comfortable range, the monsoon rains have finished for the season, and pumpkin spice is everywhere. It must be fall in Sierra Vista. Our October is full of various events noted below in our newsletter.

Additionally, we are a month from our next national election. In all election cycles there are those who have a preferred candidate and those candidates often use whatever information they have about their opponent to influence public opinion. That tendency, sadly, often makes for very corrosive and divisive interactions among us as fellow citizens. For that reason, our church joins with others around the nation in praying for our next few weeks leading up to and including the actual election and the days that follow.

Jesus and his example and teachings may help us in this emotional time. If he were present among us today, I think his first point that he would make would be to remember the true leader in our lives, God. And that we should look to God to determine how we should react and behave towards our neighbors... with loving-kindness... even when our opinions differ. Jesus says, "Just as I have loved you, so you should love one another."

Secondly, to remember that we in our love for one another should try to lift everyone up, build each other up, support each other like the Good Samaritan. When we are in a position to help another person, we don't need to ask where they are from, what religion they practice, or what political party they belong to. We offer our help because it is someone in need and we would hope that, if we were the ones needing help, someone would help us... do unto others as you would like to have done unto you...

Continued ...

Rector's greeting continued ...

Lastly, we should be ready to accept the legal results of the election when it is concluded. We may be disappointed by the outcome, however the way that our democracy works is that the majority determines the vote result... so when the majority has spoken, and the election officials have tallied the legal votes, we need to peacefully accept the legal conclusion of the vote. If our preferred candidate legally does not win, we do not rise-up in rebellion, we do not take up weapons against our government or fellow citizens, we do not demand the vote to be altered, we do not attack our neighbors who support the other candidates. Instead, we accept graciously the outcome and uphold the peace and law and order of the nation. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God." When we uphold the peace, we are acting according to God's will for all of his children.

This month and up to the election, please join me in praying for our nation, the candidates, and the election process and election officials. May we rise to be our best selves in the face of the challenges that we may face in the next month or so, and may God guide and protect us all.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Allison Cornell

St. Francis and the animals – October 4th is the feast day for St. Francis of Assisi who is most noted for his love of nature and the animals ... the creation and God's creatures. We often find statues of St. Francis in gardens, frequently with a bird on his shoulder or in his hand. Who is this saint that loved nature so well?



Francis was born into a wealthy family but in his early adulthood he grew uneasy with his family's money and privilege through several life events that led him to renounce his inheritance and to live according to the vows of piety, poverty, and chastity. He wandered the country around Assisi preaching about Christ and drew others to want to join him. After petitioning the Pope to allow Francis to start a new religious order, the "Friars Minor" or "Franciscans" were initiated. As the order grew, some women also wanted to join Francis and one named Clare gave rise to the women's parallel order the "Sisters of Poor Clare". From these humble beginnings the Franciscans and Poor Clares spread throughout Italy and Europe.

When it comes to Francis and animals, he believed that nature itself was the mirror of God. He called all creatures his "brothers" and "sisters", and supposedly persuaded a wolf in Gubbio to stop attacking some locals if they agreed to feed the wolf.

He even preached to the birds one day when journeying with his companions. Legend has it that he came upon a flock of all different kinds of birds and approached them saying: "My brother and sister birds, you should praise your Creator and always love him: He gave you feathers for clothes, wings to fly and all other things that you need. It is God who made you noble among all creatures, making your home in the air. Without sowing or reaping, you receive God's guidance and protection."

At this the birds began to spread their wings, stretch their necks and gaze at the saint, rejoicing and praising God in a wonderful way according to their nature. Saint Francis then walked right through the middle of them, turned around and came back, touching their heads and bodies with his tunic.

Then he gave them his blessing, making the sign of the cross over them. At that they flew off and Saint Francis, rejoicing and giving thanks to God, went on his way. **

There are other stories of Francis showing love and caring for various animals including other birds, a rabbit, lambs, a wolf, his donkey, and even fish.

Here is a prayer for St. Francis and the blessing of animals:

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

** Accessed from <https://www.monasteryicons.com/product/Saint-Francis-and-the-Animals/did-you-know#:~:text=The%20townspeople%20promised%20in%20a,a%20sign%20of%20the%20pact> on 23 September 2024.

Upcoming at Church and in the Community:

Community Arts in the Park October 5th and 6th – Enjoy a weekend of arts and crafts at Veterans Park this weekend.

First Friday Film Night – Join us Friday October 4th at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall for the viewing of the movie “Zorro the Gay Blade”: A romantic comedy in which the twin sons of Zorro take up their father’s legacy as defenders of the people in 1800s California against the tyranny of the Alcalde. Full of slapstick and puns, this will have you laughing throughout the movie. Soup with bread for dinner. Invite a friend!

Friday October 11th – National LGBTQ Coming Out Day – 5:30pm in the Parish Hall. We will celebrate this day set aside for any LGBTQ and their family and friends who are ready to be their truest selves and come out of hiding their sexual/gender orientation. We are showing the movie “In& Out” with Kevin Kline, a romantic comedy about this very topic in which a high school teacher finds himself at the center of public discourse on his sexuality and must accept for himself his own identity as a gay man. Another funny one with a tender ending. Popcorn and lemonade/tea. Invite a friend.

Second Saturday Supper – On October 12th at 6:30pm, we will enjoy dinner at Orient Express restaurant, address 391 E. Fry Blvd, Sierra Vista. Menu link: <https://www.orientexpressaz.com/4qp14s97/orient-express-sierra-vista-85635/order-online#menu> . Join us for dinner out and a chance to spend time catching up with each other. Bring a friend.

HOUSE BLESSING – Everyone invited! October 13th 12 noon at Mark and Nick’s home, address: Come help bless and pray good things for Mark and Nick’s home and fill it with good vibes and good times. Bring an appetizer to share as a hospitality gift. We will go from room to room with a candle for the presence of God, holy water, and prayers for each room, concluding with Eucharist and snacks and fellowship.

Art and Meditation Hour – Wednesday October 16th 11am to Noon in Parish Hall. When our lives are filled with things to do and constant noise, it is good to set aside some time for quiet and calm. Our monthly hour provides that space and time to relax with some creative or artistic practice such as coloring, drawing, painting, cross-stitch, needlepoint, etc.... Join us for an hour of peacefulness to de-stress and relax.

Diocesan Annual Convention Saturday October 20th at St. Phillips in the Hills, 4440 N Campbell Ave, Tucson, AZ 85718 from 9am to 5 pm: It is almost time for our annual diocesan convention in which the leaders and members of the Episcopal Church in Arizona gather to conduct the business of the diocese, worship, fellowship, and have opportunities to grow through hearing and sharing with each other. For this one day convention the theme is Rising Joy and artists—amateur or professional—are invited to exhibit their art in the Murphey Art Gallery at Saint Philip’s in the Hills, Tucson. All are invited to attend.

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!

Easy Apple Coffee Cake Recipe: As the apples are harvested from the orchards, now is a perfect time to use them in different recipes. Here is an easy to make coffee cake with apples:

Ingredients:

- 1 (15.25 ounce) package yellow cake mix
- 1 (3.4 ounce) package instant vanilla pudding mix
- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 6 apples - peeled, cored and sliced
- ½ cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ cup chopped walnuts

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour a 10-inch Bundt pan.
2. Stir together cake mix and instant pudding mix in a large bowl. Add eggs, sour cream, and oil; mix until well blended.
3. Combine sugar, cinnamon, and walnuts in a small bowl.
4. Pour 1/2 of the batter into the prepared pan, then place a layer of sliced apples over the batter and sprinkle with 1/2 of the cinnamon-walnut mixture.
5. Pour the remaining batter over the top and repeat with the remaining apples and cinnamon-walnut mixture.
6. Bake in the preheated oven for 60 to 70 minutes. Cool for 30 minutes before removing from the pan to cool completely



From our Treasurer

Happy Equinox! The kids are back in school, folks are coming home from summer journeys. The church is in pretty good shape financially: bills are paid. As we look forward, a couple of things are happening. The Sierra Vista Symphony will open its season the end of October, and this will be our first season as Sponsor with them. Come and listen – and you will see St. Stephen’s on the light board! They are really very good. Take it from an old Music Major!

Also looking forward to November when we will begin our Stewardship season. We have some faithful and generous people who have been supporting us without wanting to “pledge”, and all I can say is: pledging would help us create next year’s budget. Think about it, please.

Anne Roth

October 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 October 5th		
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar guild – Robin StClair
Saturday October 12th		
LEM –Tim Holsenback	Lector – Jeff Speer	Alter Guild – Tim Holsonback
Saturday October 19th	CONVENTION EVENING PRAYER	
	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	
Saturday October 26th		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Jeff Speer
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Sunday October 6th BIRTHDAY SUNDAY		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Deb Ash
Sunday October 13th		
LEM –Robin StClair	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Robin StClair
Sunday October 20th		
PICNIC AND COMBINED SERVICE with SIERRA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH at 10am In VETERANS PARK for National LGBTQ Coming Out Day		
Sunday October 27th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild – Nancy Rea

OCTOBER 2024

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



Debra Ash	October 13th
Harriet Kolen	October 20th
Marietta Conley	October 21st
Doris Millard	October 21st
Jill Holsonback	October 24th
Maryjane Mahland	October 30th

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

From the Kitchen Koordinator

Every week in the parish hall and Kitchen there are free items for anyone to take. On the table there may be food, pet food, and household items etc. In the 'Free for anyone' drawer on the right hand side in the fridge you can find fresh fruit and vegetables plus fresh farm eggs. Plastic bags are available for your use. The products change frequently so might not always be the same.

Feel free to bring in your spare items that are still in date. If you are bringing home made food for the Fellowship hour and/or for the Pot Luck meals, please either list the ingredients or inform your me, so that members and guests who are gluten/lactose intolerant or have other food allergies will know in advance.

Wilma Swartz

From the Editor

Dear readers, last month I apologised for the mistakes I'd made in the previous newsletter. I came across this recently and I thought I'd share it with you. Hope I never get this bad!

These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services supplied to us from around the country:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference - includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. Is done.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours'.

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