

St Stephen's Announcements Nov 21-Dec 4 2024

- **Stewardship Campaign** – Through November we will hold our annual Stewardship season. We so appreciate everyone who provides us with a pledge card with your planned giving for the coming year. It makes it much easier to plan our budget when we have those pledge cards. We ask that you return your card to us by November 30th.
- **THANKSGIVING WORSHIP AND DINNER – Worship time is 10am and Dinner is at 11:15am November 28th at the church.** Join us as we “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart” and share our traditional Thanksgiving meal together. Please RSVP how many people in your party and what you plan to bring. Sign-up Sheet is in Parish Hall.
- **Looking for a Treasurer Assistant** – Primary duties are to create checks to pay our bills, work with our bookkeeper, and prepare an annual budget (with vestry and bookkeeper) and annual report for the Diocese (fill in form sent by Diocese). See Rev. Allison.
- **Celebration of Life for Alan Bole during Saturday 5pm evening worship on Nov 23rd** – Alan was a member of our church for the last several years and he died recently from complications of cancer. We will have some special prayers for him and a time to remember him during the Saturday evening service which he usually attended.
- **DECORATIONS HELPERS FOR ADVENT/XMAS NEEDED:** On Friday morning Nov 29th 10 am: we ask you to help put up our Advent and Christmas decorations for the season. Meet at the church to help us get ready for the holidays! Coffee and donuts provided to give you energy!
- **Thank you for your contributions to Better Bucks.** We are restocking to make these available for people in need in our community. Write “Groceries 4 U” in memo field of checks.
- **Calling for new vestry members** – We have openings for two new vestry members to serve a two-year term. Vestry members meet to discuss and make decisions for the church as leadership of the church. Meetings are once a month for about 1.5 hours each meeting.
- **Advent Devotionals and “Word of the Day”** – We have some items to help you through the Advent and Christmas season with keeping focus on “the reason for the season”: Jesus and our faith life. On the table at the back of the church you can pick up a devotional booklet, an Advent calendar with ideas for observing the Advent season, and a “Word of the Day” with a specific word to reflect upon and what that word means for you and your faith. We will be posting to our church Facebook page about those words each day and invite your own thoughts or pictures for each of those words.
- **Christmas Outreach** – Deacon Dottie is in the process of working with either a school or community agency to identify a family which can use some Christmas love this year in the form of presents for the family. When we have names, ages, genders, etc... we will create an “Angel Tree” with items for our members to purchase and wrap for the family and then we will deliver them to the family or agency in time for Christmas.
- **Birthday Sunday** – Sunday December 1st – Red Velvet Cake! Come celebrate our December birthdays 11:00am after worship on Sunday.
- **Community Chorus Christmas Concert** – Dec 6 & 7 at 7pm at the United Methodist Church – Our members Harriett Kolen, Peggy Brown, and Theresa Emrie will be singing in the various choruses. Come hear a great concert and support a local charity.
- **First Friday Film Night** – December 6th 5:30pm. We will be watching “The Polar Express”: On Christmas Eve, a young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar Express, while learning about friendship, bravery, and the spirit of Christmas. Meet in the Parish Hall. Soup and bread for supper. Bring your own beverage and invite a friend.
- **Second Saturday Supper Dec 14th – 6:30pm Vinny's NY Pizza**, 1977 Frontage Rd, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-4606. Menu Link: <https://www.menupix.com/menudirectory/menu.php?id=827586> . Join us for dinner out together and bring a friend.
- **Third Wednesday Art and Meditation Hour – Dec 18th 11am to noon.** Bring your art/craft project to work on while we have a quiet time of reflection and calm in the midst of our Xmas season. Let your mind be at peace and listen for God's still small voice.
- **Dec 24 Christmas Eve 5pm service and Dec 25 Christmas Day 10am service with light brunch following.**
- **Church office will be closed between Christmas Day and New Year's Day as the staff take this time off during the holidays.**

Coming in January:

- **Annual Meeting of the Church** – January 19th at 11:15am with Pizza Ordered in for lunch. Let us know your preferred pizza flavor/toppings. All members are encouraged to attend for vestry elections, state of the Church address, and presentation of the 2025 budget.
- **Sherry Simon is getting ordained to the Holy Order of Deacons January 25th in Phoenix at the Trinity Cathedral.** Anyone who wants to go, we will carpool up for the service and reception to follow.
- **New Vestry Retreat** – January 31st - Feb 1st in Parish Hall.