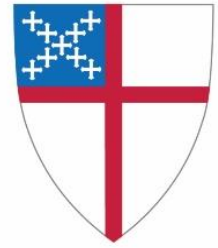




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
November 2024*



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From our Rector



Blessings and Thanksgivings for you all!

We slip into November with thoughts of things we are grateful and thankful for even as we look forward to the coming holidays and the close of the 2024 year. I am so very grateful for all of you who are part of our church and who continue to hold me, our ministries, and our ministers in prayer throughout the year. Many of you have shared how you pray for our leaders and our work to “Love and Serve” the Lord through our various connections to our neighbors near and far.

So much of what we do as followers of Christ is among the “intangible” – kind words, hugs, visits, rides, get well cards, birthday cakes and birthday songs, phone calls, emails, texts, prayers, smiles and helping hands. I believe that we extend the love and peace of Christ when we show our care and concern for others through these simple gestures of kindness... and I believe that they do make a difference for those that we show such kindness towards... There is that famous quote by poet Maya Angelou that says, “At the end of the day, people won’t remember what you said or did; they will remember how you made them feel.” Each of you with your kindness of spirit in word, deed, and thought touches others and makes them feel loved.

May God continue to bless you for those good feelings that you share and offer to each other and the people we meet in our community and everywhere we go. You bless me and you bless God’s Holy Name through your efforts to be like Christ in a world that so appreciates your loving and serving spirits!

Gratefully yours,
Rev. Allison Cornell

November will celebrate several different important observations each weekend.

November is a busy month and we will focus on certain significant events throughout the month.

- **November 2nd-3rd** will celebrate All Saints and All Souls, the last weekend before the national election, and the kickoff of the Stewardship campaign. We will also be looking at creation care during the month of November as autumn gives way to winter.
- **November 9th-10th** will remember our veterans who served our country as part of our Armed Forces for Veterans' Day Nov 11th and also recall Native American Heritage month with special prayers.
- **November 16th-17th** will focus on Creation Care as we notice the changing of the seasons and the beauty that God has entrusted us with in the world around us that we call home.
- **November 23rd-24th** will consider the harvest time of year and celebrate Christ the King.
- **November 28th** is Thanksgiving Day with a worship service and dinner to follow in the Parish Hall
- **November 30th – December 1st** is the weekend of First Advent and we light the first candle on our Advent Wreath.... Christmas is just around the corner. We also close out our stewardship campaign here. Please return your stewardship pledges by this weekend.

Outcome of the Day of Discovery:

Rev. Canon Anita Braden Leads Congregation with Day of Discovery – Sunday October 27th our church welcomed Rev. Anita, the Canon to the Ordinary for the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona for worship and for the initial steps towards the search for a new rector/priest for our church. Rev. Anita preached an animated message during the morning worship in which she reminded us with the image of planting seeds for harvest that when we put our own wishes and prayers (seeds) into the ground of faith that we then need to wait a bit to see anything actually manifest... that there is something happening, developing, growing below the surface and it takes a while for it to begin to break into our visual and knowable world... So it may be with this next year for our search for a new rector... things will be happening to prepare the church for that new person... discussions, discernment, putting together the church profile and position description for the new rector, publishing those and then waiting for resumes and interviewing candidates with the hope and faith that God will be working on that ground preparation and seed growth until the right time to reveal the one St Stephen's will choose.



Following the worship, we shared a potluck lunch and then dove into answering several questions aimed at helping the church begin to imagine the hopes for the next chapter of the life of the church with a new priest. Church members shared their best memories of church activities and worship services, their thoughts on the core values that St. Stephen's holds as most important, and the things that St. Stephen's and Rev. Allison offer that they would like to continue with the next priest. Among the various shared stories, we found some real strengths in the church's genuine love and care for each other, our inclusiveness and acceptance of all people who want to be part of the church, and our enjoyment of each

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other in various social and learning groups. Some areas to be strengthened or expanded in the next priest's term included a desire to reform the choir or music of the church, to add small group gatherings, and of course to continue to reach out to the community and find ways to better involve and invite them to join the church.

After the holidays, in January, Jeff Speer our Senior Warden will be in touch with Rev. Cn. Anita again to begin forming the search committee and putting together the parish profile as the next steps in the process.

First Friday Film Night – November 1st at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall. In honor of Native American Heritage Month, we will be watching the movie “Geronimo: American Legend”. Since Geronimo is a local Native American hero who fought against the United States Army in the westward expansion and occupation of native lands, we will watch this docu-drama western movie of his life. Geronimo and his last band of Apache raiders ended their resistance in surrender in Cochise County at “skeleton canyon” in the Chiricahua mountains north of Douglas on September 4th 1886.

Thanksgiving Day Worship and Dinner:


We will once more hold a Thanksgiving Day worship at 10am followed by a traditional Thanksgiving dinner at 11am in the Parish Hall. Please sign up for the number of people who will attend and what you would like to bring for dinner. Also, please bring some leftover containers if you would like to take some dinner home for later (turkey sandwiches). We ask that whatever you bring at the end of the meal, if anything remains, please take your dishes home with you. Sign-up sheets will be in the Parish Hall. You can also call the church office and RSVP: 520-458-4432.

Memorial for Alan Bole on Saturday November 23rd during the 5pm worship service: We will have some special prayers and celebrate the life of Alan Bole who passed away in September from cancer complications. He tried to fight off the cancer but sadly it won. He is missed among us.

Rev. Allison Cornell away for an autumn break November 5th to 12th – I had back in the summer signed up for a spiritual retreat at the Kanuga retreat center in western North Carolina... and then hurricane Helene hit that area and the retreat has been postponed until next November. Since I already have tickets to make the trip, I will still be away and will visit with family and friends instead of being on retreat. I appreciate your prayers for safe travels.

Rev. Allison's license plate on her new car:

Some of you have asked what Rev. Allison's license plate means. It says “Khesed” which is a transliteration of the Hebrew (see below):

 *chesed lovingkindness, devotion*

The Hebrew letters sound like “kes-ed” and are often shown in English as “chesed” where the “ch” is pronounced like “k”. The word “chesed” means “loving-kindness” and is often used to describe the love of God... God's nature or character as being both loving and kind... God's actions as filled with loving kindness. Rev. Allison's plate is another way of showing “Chesed”.

Groceries 4U needs some donations – Many of you know that we have been buying and distributing Better Bucks for people in need in our community. The people who visit us for these Better Bucks are monitored for frequency and number of household members. The way the program works is that individuals may receive \$30 worth of Better Bucks (6 booklets of \$5 coupons each) and families (more than one person at the same address can receive \$50 of Better Bucks (10 booklets of \$5 coupons). They may get these Better Bucks only once per 28 days (4 weeks) and up to 10 times in a 12 month period. We record their names and contact details to

include their address. The people who have been part of our Groceries 4U program are those who appear to be either on a fixed income or those who struggle financially with making ends meet due to employment and other demands on their budget. Since switching to Better Bucks, we do not see those that outwardly appear to have substance abuse habits, which is good news. In 2024 we have already given out a total of \$3205.00 worth of booklets as of the middle of October. We have no more Better Bucks to give out and would welcome either donations of Better Bucks to give to people or funds to buy more booklets. Better Bucks can be purchased from the library and city offices, and they cannot be used for alcohol, tobacco, or smokers' items (papers, matches, lighters). They are accepted at Frys, Food City, Culvers, McDonalds, Goodwill, and St. Vincent de Paul.

Veterans' Day Fun Fact: We annually celebrate November 11th as National Veterans' Day to honor all men and women who have served honorably in our Armed Forces. The choice of November 11th comes from the ceasefire or armistice during World War I when fighting ceased by mutual agreement between the Allied nations and Germany on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11th was chosen as the date for Veterans' Day to remember those who fought/served in WWI and all conflict since then.



From Our Reverend Deacon



Well, Fall is upon us. The cooler nights and pleasant daytime hours are refreshing after another very hot summer. Last Sunday Canon Anita was with us, to guide us into our Day of Discovery. It was a bittersweet time for all of us to talk about what has to be done by a Search Committee. We will all miss Rev. Allison when the retirement day comes, but we do have to support the Search Team and pray that they can identify someone we all can agree on. During the afternoon, we all thought deeply about how we see our Parish and a new Rector in the near future.

We continue to hear and see all the devastation from the 2 hurricanes. And the election is foremost on our minds. Prayers are being offered for all victims and the aid workers assisting with the cleanup. We also pray that the aftermath of whoever is elected will be a calm one---not the chaos so many will strive for. Whoever is elected

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President of the USA should be treated with respect for the office. No matter what our personal feelings are about the choice, that person will be our leader for 4 years and we should support the winner. God Bless America that we make the choice for the betterment of our country.

God of everlasting love, you have called us to fellowship with one another across the lines of difference and diversity that you intentionally seeded into the earth. Grant us the strength to resist polarization, the grace to sustain fellowship and the wisdom to build each other up. AMEN

Reverend Dottie G. Deacon



From our Treasurer

The Stewardship campaign will be taking place this month and letters and pledge cards will be available soon. We hope to have received all your pledge cards returned to St. Stephen's by the end of November.

Anne Roth

November 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 November 2nd		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Jeff Speer	Altar guild – Tim Holsonback
Saturday November 9th		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Alter Guild – Jeff Speer
Saturday November 16th		
LEM Robin StClair	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Alter Guild – Robin StClair
Saturday November 23rd		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Jeff Speer	Altar Guild – Tim Holsonback
Thursday November 28th	10am Thanksgiving with Potluck to follow	
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Wilma Swartz	Altar Guild – Robin StClair
Saturday November 30th		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Jeff Speer
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Sunday November 3rd	BIRTHDAY SUNDAY	
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Wilma Swartz	Altar Guild – Deb Ash
Sunday November 10th		
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Robin StClair
Sunday November 17th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild - Nancy Rea
Sunday November 24th		
LEM – Wilma Swartz	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild – Deb Ash

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Film Night Geronimo: An American Legend 5.30pm in the Ed Bldg	2 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
3 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	4	5 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	6 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	7	8	9 5.00 pm Service followed by Supper at Gunny's BBQ 6.30 pm
10 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	11	12 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	13 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	14	15	16 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
17 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	18	19 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	20 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	21	22	23 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
24 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	25 Newsletter Articles Due For December Issue	26 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	27 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	28 Thanksgiving Worship and Dinner	29	30 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion



Joseph Ash	November 2nd
Alverita Egbert	November 4th
Dinah McCreery	November 20th
Courtney W. Pitts	November 22nd
Priscilla Burrows	November 22nd
Gretchen Lamberth	November 24th

Sunday November 3rd will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of November. 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

And here by popular demand is Mark Soward's recipe for the breakfast casserole he served at his recent House Blessing -

Sausage Egg and Cheese Breakfast Casserole

Delicious Sausage Egg and Cheese Breakfast Casserole, also known as Christmas breakfast casserole, is not only delicious but also low carb.

Ingredients

- 1 lb. Breakfast sausage
- 2/3 cup minced onion (I prefer a mixture of red & sweet) & 2/3 cup Bell Peppers
- 1tbs each of olive oil and butter
- 1 dozen eggs
- 2 tbs of margarine & ¼ cup of creamy mozzarella
- Salt & black pepper to taste (or 1/2 tsp each)
- 1 cup of grated cheddar cheese (I prefer mild, your choice mild or sharp)
- ½ cup of grated Monterey Jack cheese
- *(optional)* 2.5 oz bag of precooked chopped bacon



Utensils/tools

- Skillet
- Spatula(s)
- Whisk
- Large bowl
- Large baking dish
- Cheese grater

Instructions

1. Using the olive oil Sauté onions & bell peppers in 10 – 12" skillet until the onions just start to turn translucent add in butter when melted add sausage to skillet breaking up as it cooks and becomes fully brown. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl. Add 1 dozen eggs, the margarine and the mozzarella; whisk until all egg yolks are broken and the mixture is slightly frothy.
3. Spray baking dish with non-stick spray and Pre heat oven to 350°F.
4. Add 3/4ths of the sausage mixture to baking dish
5. Top with ¾ cup of cheddar cheese.
6. Pour egg mixture over sausage and cheese (*optional*: sprinkle precooked chopped bacon over mixture)
7. Bake for 30 min or until mostly set
8. If set (not too watery) sprinkle the remaining sausage with the chesses mixed together over the casserole.
9. Return to the oven and bake another 15 min or until the cheese is golden brown.

From the Editor

Dear readers,

Well, the weather certainly has cooled down a bit now. I even had to dig out a cardigan this morning. Reminiscent of early mornings on a fine summer's day in the UK! It's been a much wetter summer there according to friends and family but nothing like the rain and flooding in parts of the US and now Spain, once one of my favourite holiday destinations. So sorry for all the people affected.

With Thanksgiving not far off and I shall have to start looking for traditional Thanksgiving recipes again. Since living here I've only attended these special meals that have been prepared by other people although I did contribute mashed potatoes and gravy to the pot luck meal at St. Stephen's last year. I was put off mashed potato as a child having to have school dinners. It was the only kind of potato they served us in those days and it was always full of hard, grey lumps! Shouldn't complain – there are people in this world of ours that would be glad of even a spoonful.

I shall be happy to make a fully traditional meal this year and give thanks for the many blessings I have received.

Diane (dianepyancey@gmail.com)

