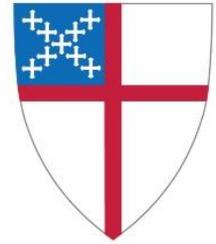




*St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church  
Newsletter  
June 2025*



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



*From our Rector*



*“The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there was a storm of hail and fire, mixed with blood, and it was hurled to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.” – Revelation 8:7 AMP*



June Greetings to all of you,  
 For us in Southern Arizona, June brings us the hottest month of the year. There are many who dismiss climate change but the reality of the years becoming warmer year after year cannot be denied. The past five years set records for “hottest June on record” with each new year exceeding the previous year. This year may again set a new record. I mention this for a couple of reasons. First, be careful when spending time outside in the heat. The “dry” heat may trick us into thinking we are not perspiring and becoming dehydrated when in fact we are. So, be sure to keep hydrated and cover skin to avoid sunburn. Secondly, continue to ask our elected officials to support efforts to reduce and correct global warming. This is our only planet upon which we depend for life-giving resources and we believe God has asked us to be good stewards of this magnificent world... to care for it and help it to be healthy. We are not doing a great job of stewardship and we can do better. Let us push our elected officials to make wise decisions to care for this world.  
 Lastly, we too can take action to help combat global warming and I have included below some of those actions that we can work with so that we practice what we preach about stewardship of God’s creation.

With “Warm” (hahaha) regards,  
 Rev. Allison Cornell

**How do we know if what we are doing is what God would want us to do?**

Do you ever have something happen to you and you need to either say or do something in response and you wonder what the right thing to do or say is? To react in ways that God would approve of? This is where knowing the character of God and Christ comes in handy. Jesus emphasized in his teaching and in his own actions that God is love. God is the purest, most encompassing, perfected love there is... and we are asked to behave in ways that try to copy that love for God, one another, and ourselves. So, when we are faced with a situation that needs our response, we can ask ourselves... how would God or Jesus handle this situation and can I do the same thing?

**We have our Carswell Cabana!**



It was delivered on May 20<sup>th</sup> and it is available for any who wish to sit under its shady roof, enjoy the breezes and gaze upon the mountains and God’s creation around the church. We will be seeking estimates to build a ramp for those who are unable to climb the steps into the cabana, so know that we are working on making it accessible for all.

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**SEAGO – South Eastern Arizona Government Organizations and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** - is holding a presentation on elder abuse indicators and scams to help people be more aware of both these situations. It will be from 11am to 3pm on June 10<sup>th</sup> in Douglas at the Visitor Center, 345 16<sup>th</sup> St., Douglas, AZ. Attorney General Kris Mayes is the special guest speaker. Lunch is provided.

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**Happy Father’s Day!**

We thank all those in our lives who are fathers or who have been like a father for us to include grandfathers, uncles, cousins, and even close friends of the family. We hope that our Dads and father-figures will be celebrated and given love and special attention for the many ways they care for their families not just on Fathers’ Day but every day.

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**Search Committee Begins Its First Steps**

The search committee has started its first steps or tasks toward identifying a new priest to lead St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church upon Rev. Allison’s retirement in August. Among those first steps is to review the publicly available church profile of St. Stephen’s and to update it with information about who we are as a church. The last update was performed in 2018 when Rev. Allison was selected as the new priest following Rev. Victor Sarrazin. Please keep the search committee in your prayers as they conduct this important work on behalf of the church.

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**St. Stephen’s to move from Parish to Mission Status:**

We have initiated the process for changing St. Stephen’s from “Parish” to “Mission” status with the submission of a petition to Bishop Reddall and the Diocesan Standing Committee. This has been received by Bishop Reddall and the Standing Committee will be meeting soon to review and discuss our petition. The next steps would include an interview with Rev. Allison and the Vestry leadership for any questions the Standing Committee may have about our request.

If you missed last month's newsletter with details about this process, the summary is that Bishop Reddall suggested that it may be beneficial for the church to switch to mission status for now as we seek a new priest as that will give the Bishop greater flexibility in helping St. Stephen's secure the next priest for the church. Also, given the way that the Diocesan bylaws are written, we would be in compliance with those directives as to the definition of what constitutes a "Parish". If the new priest successfully increases membership and contributions to the extent that St. Stephen's again meets the requirements of a "Parish" then the church can petition to return to "Parish" status.

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**Ways we can help reduce global warming on a personal level (and save some money on utility bills at the same time):**

The greatest contributor to global warming is the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide which is a byproduct of burning fossil fuels for energy. To reduce carbon dioxide everyone can take certain steps to conserve energy and thereby reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the world. Here are some steps each one of us can take to make that happen:

1. Recycle, reuse, reduce waste – In our community of Sierra Vista, "Recyclops" is a company that will recycle aluminum, cardboard, plastics, and glass wastes. Look for ways that you can reuse items more than once, using a refillable water bottle for instance instead of disposable ones. Try to find items with limited packaging – powder laundry detergents in cardboard boxes eliminate the plastic jugs and the cardboard is more biodegradable.
2. Insulate your home to use less heat and air conditioning – set your thermostat higher in summer and lower in winter. Use the cooler temperatures overnight to cool your home before the heat of the day sets in. Close the curtains to keep the inside cooler during hot days. Wrap your hot water heater with an insulation blanket to hold the hot water longer.
3. Switch to LED bulbs for lighting where possible. They require a fraction of electricity to work and last longer than incandescent bulbs. Look at investment in solar or wind power to offset fossil fuel energy production.
4. Drive less – combine errands into one trip, ensure tires are properly inflated to save on gas mileage.
5. Time to replace an appliance or car? Look for energy efficient new models. Install low flow showers, toilets, sinks.
6. Change your use habits inside the home. Wash clothes in cold water. Turn off the faucet when brushing teeth, washing dishes, giving the dog a bath, or even in the shower. Use less hot water in the shower or bathing.
7. Turn off lights, tv, stereo when not in use. Unplug appliances when not in use (such as coffee makers, air fryers, etc...).
8. Plant trees - they absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen, but there are too few to counter the carbon dioxide produced by human activity. Support the Arbor Day Foundation to plant trees or plant trees around your home or in your community. Look for those that are habituated to our climate for greatest success.
9. Get an assessment from your electric company – they will evaluate your home for other possible ways to conserve energy.
10. Encourage others to follow these steps.

These steps can make a difference when we all work together to improve our energy use habits and doing so enables us to be better stewards of this fragile planet, our island home, that God has entrusted to us.

## St Stephen's Latest Announcements

<b>Ongoing Weekly Discipleship Opportunities</b>		
<b>Education for Ministry (EFM)</b> – Discipleship program meets August to May in person or on zoom. See Deacon Sherry for information on joining this program. The program will start again this coming August.		
<b>Adult Forum</b> – Sat 4pm & Sun 12pm “Sermon on the Mount” by Emmett Fox book study	<b>Bible Study on Zoom</b> – Tues 4pm Book of Isaiah See Deacon Sherry for Zoom connection	<b>March 8<sup>th</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup> Saturdays 10-11am</b> “Women of the New Testament Bible Study on hiatus, Dottie out of town

- **Bishop Reddall recently remarked about having a “Rectory”- a house for the Priest of the church to live in, would be helpful in attracting candidates for the position of Rector/Vicar of St Stephen’s.** This would ensure new Priests (and family) would have housing provided by the church
- **Call for articles for June newsletter** – please send your funny stories, jokes, or informational tidbits to Diane Yancey at [dianepyancey@gmail.com](mailto:dianepyancey@gmail.com) by June 25<sup>th</sup>
- **Birthday Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>** – Join us for cake and wishing our June birthday people Happy Birthday!
- **First Friday Film Night – June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm “Footloose” (1984) w Kevin Bacon.** Ren tries to fight back and win the hearts of the town. Salad supper before the movie. Bring a friend.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Supper – June 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm, Bright Spot, Hereford, 10989 E Highway 92, Hereford.** We invite you to join us for dinner! Once a month our church has dinner out together for fellowship and fun. Come meet with us and let us get to know each other better.
- **Happy Fathers’ Day – Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Juneteenth – June 19<sup>th</sup> is known as Juneteenth,** a celebration for the last enslaved people finding out that they were now free. The proclamation took place in Texas on June 19<sup>th</sup> 1865.
- **Donations for Huachuca City UMC distribution to people with needs:** We are starting a collection bin for toothpaste, toothbrushes, powder laundry detergent or detergent sheets to assist Lay Pastor Sara Evans with folks in Huachuca City. Please put powder detergent into smaller Ziplock sandwich bags for easier distribution to people with needs.
- **FREE TABLE – Please check each week for items on the Free Table or in the fridge Free Drawer.** If you put something out for others and those items are not taken after two weeks, please take them back and donate them to other organizations in our community.

**Tellers needed!** If you are willing to spend a few minutes after church once a month or so, we are in need of more people as Tellers. The job is easy. You need to be able to count. If you can manage a computer program, we need one person to enter information into the Teller Database in the office, and the second person to co-sign and be back up. Nancy Rea is Head Teller (Tel 520 227 3187) and will be happy to train you. If you have questions, you can also talk to Anne Roth, the Treasurer.



## *From Our Reverend Deacon*

As I write this, it is Memorial Day weekend. It is to honor all who gave their lives so that we could live in freedom. It is usually spent with summer's first barbecues and trips to a river or lake to swim or go boating. However, I plan to spend some time at the Southern Arizona Veterans Cemetery where a number of my military friends are interred. Perhaps I will see some of you there for the prayer service.

Now June is here, and again we have a special day: June 6, D-Day. When our troops travelled to the Normandy Beaches to invade the German Army throughout France. Although there is not a lot of folks who honor this day, we should remember those who never made it off the beaches or from anywhere during the World War 2. Even if you just take a moment of silence about 11AM and pray for the souls of those lost and their families who still miss them.

June is traditionally our hottest driest month, assuming the monsoon actually begins in July. I was in New Hampshire and Indiana recently where there was little sunshine and LOT of rain. The temperature was a cool, wet 70 degrees. And it felt wonderful! But returning home to high 70 degrees and all sun---and wind, of course---felt even better. I am not usually thrilled with rain all day, but coming from dry Arizona it was a pleasure.

In my daily reading of scripture, I came across this from Philippians 4.4, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say Rejoice." It reminds me that when we feel happy at one given time, we know happiness is fleeting. Happiness depends on a temporary situation, **is fickle and unpredictable. But Joy in the Lord is forever. So, let us rejoice always in the Lord, who he is and all he will ever be. Because of Him, I say REJOICE.**

Happy summer time!!!

Respectfully submitted, Deacon Dottie G.



## *From our Treasurer*

Updates on the Diocesan Audit are in process.

We got a draft report from the Auditor and it took a few days before both of us - Rev. Allison and myself - could respond to the report.

As always, someone who is outside of the parish will not have a clear idea of how we do things, so there were changes to be made.

We actually have a very good - and safe - process for monitoring the money that comes to us, how it is logged in, how it is paid out, and how an outside bookkeeper reports to the Vestry.

Along with that, we are looking at the need to make some funds available to a new Rector in the fall. I met with our investment person at Edward Jones on Friday, and we have taken a roll-over CD and put it into a 3-month CD account for now. If needed, that money - which was originally Emergency Funds from the Diocese during Covid - can be pulled to help cover travel and/or moving expenses for someone new.

Be safe and hydrated this summer!

Anne Roth, Treasurer

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## **From The Kitchen Koordinator**

I would like to remind everyone that I am still in need of an assistant to help me to set up the refreshments etc., before the service and to help clear away afterwards.

Please also put your name on the sign-up sheet if you would be willing to either bake or purchase a cake for a Birthday Sunday.

If you do bring home-made cakes or any other dish made at home, please list **all** the **ingredients**. Some people may have severe allergies and knowing in advance would help them steer clear of having a potentially dangerous reaction.

**The Lion's Club Eyeglasses and Cases Donation Box** – We have a box for no-longer needed eyeglasses and cases that we donate to the Lion's Club locally. Check your office or junk drawers at home and see if you have some old pairs of glasses that you no longer need and drop them in the box located on the refreshment table in the Parish Hall.

Please also bring in your **crushed aluminum cans** and the **pull tabs** (placed in a sandwich bag) and put them in the tub by the patio door. They will be donated to the animal shelter.

Thank you, Wilma Swartz.

## June 2025 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 Cheryl (520 732 6052) of substitutions**

ALL SUNDAYS – DEACON - DOTTIE GUTWEIN

<b>Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM - Jeff Speer	Lector – Jeff Speer	Altar Guild – Jeff Speer
<b>Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – TBD	Lector – Tim Holsenback	Altar Guild – TBD
<b>Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup></b>		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild - Tim Holsonback
<b>Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector- Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild - Tim Holsonback
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<b>Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY SUNDAY</b>		
LEM – Cheryl Stone	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild – Cheryl Stone
<b>Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM –Nancy Rae	Lector – MJ Mahland	Altar Guild – Nancy Rae
<b>Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Wilma Swartz	Altar Guild – Deb Ash?
<b>Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup></b>		
LEM – Nancy Rae	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Nancy Rae
<b>Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Nancy Rae	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Nancy Rae

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



**Paula Jones**

**June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Allison Cornell**

**June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Mary Loew**

**June 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Sherry Simon**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Donne Puckle**

**June 17<sup>th</sup>**

## June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Film Night "Footloose" 5.30pm in the Ed Building.</b>	7 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
8 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	9	10 Bible Study 5 pm Via Zoom	11 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	12	13	14 5.00 pm Service followed by <b>Supper at Bright Spot, Hereford.</b> 6.30pm
15 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream) <b>Fathers' Day</b>	16	17 Bible Study 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	24 Bible Study 5 pm Via Zoom	25 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	26 <b>Newsletter Articles Due For July Issue</b>	27	28 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
29 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	30					

### Introducing a 'Prayer Request' section.

If you would like our readers to pray for you or someone you know who needs extra prayers for healing or whatever is troubling them, please reach out to us at St. Stephen's Church. ([ststephensaz.org/parish-life/prayer-request/](http://ststephensaz.org/parish-life/prayer-request/))

Lord, we ask you to comfort and sustain all who in this transitory life are in sickness, or any other adversity. Open their hearts to know your love and feel your presence.

We pray for:

Robin StClair (Healing)

Henry Jackson (age 15, fighting bone cancer)

Christoper Franke (Recovering from Hip Replacement)

To submit or update prayer requests, visit the prayer request link above, or contact [dianepyancey@gmail.com](mailto:dianepyancey@gmail.com).