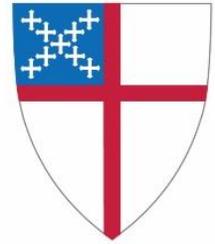




# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Newsletter July 2025



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## From our Rector



*“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”*  
– Deuteronomy 10: 17-19



Summer Salutations to you,

As we begin July, some weather forecasters suggest a monsoon like we had a few years ago may be possible this year with increased rainfall. This would be a blessing after two years of not such good rain in summer or winter. Everyone, do your rain dance, get your car washed, plan some outdoor activities... you know, anything that might encourage rain to happen!

*Continued.....*

*Continued from page 1*

Outside our rain worries, there are other things happening in our world that are worrisome. As I write this, there are concerns for conflicts in Ukraine, Israel, Iran, and tensions are high in several other places. We do not know if there will be more hostilities or retaliatory terrorist attacks from our president's decision to bomb Iran that may put US citizens at risk. We do not know if some of our military will be targeted in places around the world. We do not know if this will escalate into a broader war... It is an anxious time for us.

Within our own country, our government has continued to take actions against undocumented people regardless of their previous protected/asylum status and regardless of their attempts to follow legal and correct procedures to become United States Citizens. As Christians we believe that God instructed us to treat each other – including foreigners/strangers – as we would treat our own citizens.... Exodus 22: 21 says: “You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” Our Presiding Bishop, Sean Rowe, and our Arizona Diocesan Bishop, Jennifer Reddall, have both issued statements condemning these detainments and deportations without following the constitution and laws of our nation.

As Christians we are encouraged to advocate on behalf of people who cannot speak for themselves and to protest injustice and promote fair and equitable treatment of all people. In our Baptism, we vowed to persevere in resisting evil, and to seek and serve Christ in ALL persons, and to strive for justice and peace, respecting the dignity of EVERY human being.

With that in mind, when we witness actions that violate our beliefs, we are supposed to speak out against such mistreatment of others. I encourage you therefore to, at a minimum, pray for our nation to make changes to current practices that will follow our constitutionally defined rights. If you can do more, then contact your elected representatives and voice your concerns to them and ask them to do the right and lawful things necessary to ensure people's rights are observed. Want to do even more? Then join with others in peaceful/non-violent protests to urge our government to act lawfully and compassionately.

To any who think I am being too political, when I was hired as your priest I was asked if I preach politics. I answered, I preach Jesus Christ and that is sometimes political. These are times when, as a Christian, I believe I have an obligation to speak out against the evils I see happening to people around me. I made the previously mentioned vows at my baptism, and I take them seriously. Additionally, Jesus said I am to seek FIRST the kingdom of God, above all other would-be kingdoms. Therefore, my faith in Christ and in God's right ways are sometimes going to contradict the actions and powers of this world in a manner that may seem political. And I will not be ashamed of following Jesus; I will not be ashamed of following God in Christ.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Allison Cornell

### **Update on St. Stephen's petition to move from Parish status to Mission status:**

On Thursday afternoon, June 26<sup>th</sup> the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Arizona and Bishop Reddall met online via video conference call with members of the Vestry and Rev. Allison to review St. Stephen's petition to change from Parish to Mission status. Following the online call, the Standing Committee voted to grant our petition and move St. Stephen's to Mission status. There will be some follow-on details about what we as a church will need to do to complete the adjustment in status and those details will be shared in the coming weeks.

In the life of the church, there won't be much noticeable change. The Rector will become "Vicar" and the Vestry will become a "Bishop's Committee." The new priest position will be advertised as a part-time position with fewer benefits paid by the church. This will allow us to have a more sustainable financial future. Otherwise, we will continue to meet together for worship, fellowship, and loving and serving our neighbors just as we always have.

### **Groceries 4U – Better Bucks Distribution Update:**

Earlier today I had a question about how our Groceries 4U program works for distributing the Better Bucks coupons. Here is a brief description of how it works:

- Our Parish Administrator, Mark, has a database on his computer with which he keeps track of anyone who asks for Better Bucks (BB).
- We allot to individuals a total of \$30/month in BB and families residing at the same address are allotted \$50/month in BB.
- There must be at least 4 weeks between the last allotment and the next allotment of BB.
- And within each 12 month period, persons can only receive a total of 10 allotments.
- Persons asking for BB must provide identification with address and contact info. This is entered into Mark's database, along with the amount of each allotment and the date of the allotment, so as to track when and how much they have received.
- Better Bucks cannot be used to buy tobacco or alcohol products.
- Inside the BB coupon booklet is a list of places in Sierra Vista where BBs are accepted.
- Most of the people who regularly ask for BBs are elderly and disabled people in our community (probably on a fixed income).

We recently received donations of about \$600 to augment our budgeted amount for the year of \$4320. We used \$2502 in March to restock our BB supply. Mark indicated that he thought these would run out by August 1<sup>st</sup>. In mid-July we will re-order more BBs with the \$2418.00 now in our Groceries 4U budget item. This might last until December.

### **Carswell Cabana update:**

We are seeking estimates to build a ramp for easier access into the cabana. If you know of a reliable and skilled construction company who would be interested in helping us with the ramp construction, please forward that information to Pete Criscuolo or Tim Holsonback.

### **Independence Day – National Anthem, a Short History:**

The United States national anthem began as a poem titled "Defence of Fort M'Henry" composed by Francis Scott Key during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812 against the British. Francis Scott Key's brother-in-law set the poem to music using a popular British song written by John Stafford Smith for the Anacreontic Society, a social club in London. Smith's song, "To Anacreon in Heaven" (or "The Anacreontic Song") was already popular in the United States. The combined poem and music were then published under the name "The Star-Spangled Banner." The song was first recognized for official use by the United States Navy in 1889. However, it was not adopted as the national anthem until President Woodrow Wilson made the song the de facto "national anthem" in 1916 and then it was officially adopted by law on March 3, 1931. Other contenders for our national anthem included "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and "America the Beautiful."

**July 4<sup>th</sup> 3pm – Hotdogs on the Grill and showing of the movie “1776”:**

Join us for our all-American Hotdog cookout with chips, tea/lemonade, and ice cream at 3pm Friday July 4<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall. Following our noshing on our cookout foods, we will watch the movie “1776” a musical comedy (1972): Set in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776, it is a fictionalized account of the events leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The film stars William Daniels, Howard da Silva, Donald Madden, John Cullum, Ken Howard and Blythe Danner. We should be finished with the movie early enough for folks to get home or to their preferred fireworks viewing locations before the fireworks begin.

**Also coming in July:**

- **School supply collection for the fall term.** Each year we like to help one of the more rural schools in Cochise county who don't usually benefit from the school supply drives that happen in Sierra Vista. This year we will be helping the elementary school in Bowie, AZ. Please begin collecting supplies to donate by July 30<sup>th</sup>. School starts August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **JULY 6th – Birthday Sunday 11:00am in the Parish Hall!** Come have some cake and wish our July birthday folks a Happy Birthday! Cake will be Red, White, and Blue cheesecake to also commemorate July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Supper – July 12th 6:30pm, Tombstone Brewing West End, 332 N Garden Ave, Sierra Vista, AZ.** 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. Menu link: <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DCwplacx7irWVqd0IaxDAzjbs25kI8XogyEVJ7A0LY/export?format=pdf>
- **Bill Carswell funeral will be Saturday July 26 at 10am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.** A reception will follow the service.



## *From Our Reverend Deacon*

Happy Fourth of July! Hope you all have a good fun day of picnics and fireworks---some of us at St Stephen's will enjoy a barbecue followed by the movie (1974 version of 1776 musical and comedy). Then we will watch fireworks from home or the park, although a few will have to tend their dogs and cats who fear the noise of the celebration.

AND, NOW WE WAIT FOR THE MONSOON TO BEGIN! Of course, I realize that after submitting this to be printed, it may have already blessed us with the much needed wetness from heaven. Don't know about you but my rose bush and other flowers are looking rather sad and dehydrated despite daily water from the hose. I always feel sorry for the ranchers trying to keep their herds and gardens from drying up in this heat. Even more so, I think of all the wild animals who are desperate for a watering hole and food which is scarce in the drought: the deer, javelina, mountain lions, bears, rabbits, quail, deer and, yes, even the coyotes. We know it is against the law to feed them from out kitchens, but a bowl of water set out for birds and small critters can be life saving for them. I keep one on my patio with a rock in middle for the small birds to sit on to reach their drink. Sometimes if I look out at the right time, a lizard will visit it and have his lick at the wetness. Humming birds and bees are all over the blooming Mexican Bird of Paradise and bright purple bushes in my yards. They don't seem to mind the 100 plus temperatures much but then God does dress them to handle the heat.

The stores are filling up with "Back to School" supplies. So, to assist the Bowie Elementary school, grades K-5, we are asking for donations of notebook paper, pencils, crayons, colored markers, 3 ring binders, small scissors for little hands, bottles of Elmer's glue, construction paper etc. There will be a spot on the porch to store your contributions. They will be delivered in early August to the school. Thank you in advance for assisting us in helping our rural Cochise County schools again this year.

### **Here is a little Summer Storms Poem--Enjoy**

The Earth falls silent,  
The wind doesn't breathe,  
A misty wall on the horizon,  
The leaves wail in anticipation,  
A few droplets,  
A blast of fresh air,  
The clouds crack a summer torrent. Author: M. Abel

Peace and hugs to all,  
Deacon Dottie g.



## *From our Treasurer*

"Some of the uniqueness of the Anglican Church has been its utter refusal to bow to Rome. Instead, some of the ancient pagan beliefs were kept - so Happy Solstice. Some of the solitude and memories and meditations of the ancient Druids were kept. Some of the fair-minded humanitarianism of Pelagius was kept. So this summer, while the world is rocking and rolling, find some time to be quiet in nature or in peacefulness or with your families. Feed your Spirit what it needs . . . and don't forget St. Stephen's. We will still be here still wanting your presence, your prayers, your gifts, and your service. ['Scuse me for borrowing a Methodist phrase!]"

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.

## July 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 July 5<sup>th</sup></b>               |                        |                              |
| LEM -Tim Holsonback                               | Lector – TBD           | Altar Guild – Tim Holsonback |
| <b>Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup></b>              |                        |                              |
| LEM – TBD                                         | Lector – TBD           | Altar Guild – TBD            |
| <b>Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup></b>              |                        |                              |
| LEM – Jeff Speer                                  | Lector - Jeff Speer    | Altar Guild - Jeff Speer     |
| <b>Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup></b>              |                        |                              |
| LEM – TBD                                         | Lector- Tim Holsonback | Altar Guild - TBD            |
| <hr/>                                             |                        |                              |
| <b>Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY SUNDAY</b> |                        |                              |
| LEM – Nancy Rae                                   | Lector – Ann Crandall  | Altar Guild – Nancy Rae      |
| <b>Sunday July 13<sup>th</sup></b>                |                        |                              |
| LEM – MJ Mahland                                  | Lector – Peggy Brown   | Altar Guild – MJ Mahland     |
| <b>Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup></b>                |                        |                              |
| LEM – Nancy Rea                                   | Lector – MJ Mahland    | Altar Guild - Nancy Rae      |
| <b>Sunday July 27<sup>th</sup></b>                |                        |                              |
| LEM – MJ Mahland                                  | Lector – Wilma Swartz  | Altar Guild – TBD            |

Sunday July 6th will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of July. There will be cake for all to enjoy.



**James O’Neil**

**July 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Anne Roth**

**July 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Bruce Hardt**

**July 31<sup>st</sup>**

## July 2025

| Sunday                                                                      | Monday | Tuesday                               | Wednesday                                                 | Thursday | Friday                                                                                                                               | Saturday                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.00 am<br>Choral Service<br>with<br>Holy Communion<br>(Live Stream)       |        | 1                                     | 2                                                         | 3        | 4<br><b>Film Night</b><br><b>"1766"</b><br><b>(Musical/Comedy)</b><br><b>*3pm in the</b><br><b>Ed Building.</b><br><b>*See notes</b> | 5<br>5.00 pm<br>Spoken Service<br>with<br>Holy Communion                                                     |
| 6<br>10.00 am<br>Choral Service<br>with<br>Holy Communion<br>(Live Stream)  | 7      | 8<br>Bible Study<br>5 pm<br>Via Zoom  | 9<br>9.30 am<br>Spoken Service<br>With<br>Holy Communion  | 10       | 11                                                                                                                                   | 12<br>5.00 pm Service<br>followed by<br><b>Supper at</b><br><b>Tombstone</b><br><b>Brewing Co.</b><br>6.30pm |
| 13<br>10.00 am<br>Choral Service<br>with<br>Holy Communion<br>(Live Stream) | 14     | 15<br>Bible Study<br>5 pm<br>Via Zoom | 16<br>9.30 am<br>Spoken Service<br>With<br>Holy Communion | 17       | 18                                                                                                                                   | 19<br>5.00 pm<br>Spoken Service<br>with<br>Holy Communion                                                    |
| 20<br>10.00 am<br>Choral Service<br>with<br>Holy Communion<br>(Live Stream) | 21     | 22<br>Bible Study<br>5 pm<br>Via Zoom | 23<br>9.30 am<br>Spoken Service<br>With<br>Holy Communion | 24       | 25<br><b>Newsletter Articles</b><br><b>Due</b><br><b>For August</b><br><b>Issue</b>                                                  | 26<br>5.00 pm<br>Spoken Service<br>with<br>Holy Communion                                                    |
| 27<br>10.00 am<br>Choral Service<br>with<br>Holy Communion<br>(Live Stream) | 28     | 29<br>Bible Study<br>5 pm<br>Via Zoom | 30<br>9.30 am<br>Spoken Service<br>With<br>Holy Communion | 31       |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                              |

### 'Prayer Requests'

If you would like our readers to pray for you or someone you know that is in need of extra prayers for healing or whatever is troubling them, please reach out to us at St. Stephen's Church.

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, in remission from bone cancer)
- Christopher Franke (Recovering from Hip Replacement)
- Becky Reynolds (Bone cancer treatment)
- Jenni Hughes (Heart problems, Anxiety and Stress)

To submit or update prayer requests, please contact [dianepyancey@gmail.com](mailto:dianepyancey@gmail.com) or telephone on 928 304 5377.