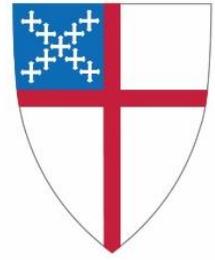




*St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church  
Newsletter August 2025*



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

**IT'S (NEARLY)  
TIME TO SAY  
GOODBYE...**

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”  
– 1 Thess 5: 16-18*



***From Our Rector,  
Rev. Allison Cornell***

Fond Farewells,

Well, we have reached August and my stepping down as your priest at St. Stephen's is nearly here. It goes without saying that this is a bittersweet time. The requirements of our Episcopal Church are that I must distance myself from you all for a year following the start of your new priest to allow that person to establish their own ways of ministering with you.

We don't yet know who will be the next Priest-in-Charge of the church, but you have a capable team in your Search Committee who are working on various steps towards calling your next priest. Additionally, Jeff Speer, your Senior Warden, is working with the Diocese to determine who will be the supply priest or interim. There will also be occasions of having evening and morning prayer, led by your Deacons.

Immediately following my last Sunday, Robin and I, along with Robin's sister Karen, are taking a long vacation in Ireland, Scotland, England, and Paris. We have other travels we are interested in doing in the coming months as well. When we are here in town, we will worship in various other churches, and I may be asked to supply in other Episcopal Churches. I have already been approached to preside over the Eucharist at Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church in October.....

*(continued...)*

*Continued from Page 1*

I know that this can be a stressful time as we patiently and faithfully wait for God's plans for St. Stephen's church to unfold and manifest in the next weeks to come. To assist you with your potential stress and tension, I have a little something for you that I will gift to you during worship the weekend of August 23-24, so, be sure to come to my last weekend leading worship with you.

Until then and after my farewells, please keep praying for St. Stephen's and God's guidance for your next priest and the search process that is ongoing.

And in the words of Paul: "Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, as he works among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21).

In Peace and Faith,  
Rev. Allison Cornell

## **Notices**

### **School Supplies Donations for Bowie Schools:**

Thank you to everyone who has donated supplies for the annual drive to help our more rural schools be better equipped for the coming school year. We loaded Rev. Allison's car and took those to the schools in Bowie on Thursday July 31<sup>st</sup>. The school staff were very pleased to have all these items to distribute to the students who are in need for them to be more successful in the coming year.

**August 1, 5:30pm – First Friday Film Night: We are watching “Oh God!” with John Denver as a modern day prophet and George Burns as God:** in which God asks an unassuming grocery store manager to spread his word of love and his commandment to take care of each other. Witness God making it rain inside a car, testify in court, and change one man's life forever... hilariously. Salad dinner before the movie. Bring your own beverage.

**August 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm - Second Saturday Supper** – Time for our next supper together! Join us at Manda Le Restaurant for a time of fellowship and feasting. Address is 3455 Canyon De Flores B, Sierra Vista, AZ 85650. You can check the menu at this link: [https://places.singleplatform.com/manda-le-restaurant-and-lounge/menu#menu\\_1800362](https://places.singleplatform.com/manda-le-restaurant-and-lounge/menu#menu_1800362).

**August 24<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Allison's farewell lunch at Pizzeria Mimosa in Hereford, 11:30am.** Please see Anne Roth, Deacon Dottie, or Nancy Rea to RSVP and make your monetary contribution.



### *From Our Reverend Deacon*

Well, we are approaching the end of summer---schools have reopened, monsoon is winding down, vacationers are starting to return, the worst heat of summer seems to be ending ---and now we awaiting another change. The life of St Stephen's church is about to, once again, be in the hands of our Vestry and Search Committee as they do diligence with God's Grace to identify the next Vicar in charge. The last years have been both a challenge and uplifting with Reverend Allison leading "her flock". Her leaving at the end of August will leave a large emptiness in many hearts. But we also wish her joy and peace in all her activities of retirement-starting with the grand adventure of travel immediately following the last service and reception on the 24th. We await with patience and willingness to accept whomever God's choice may be for us. I pray that we will meet new challenges with joy, surprise and laughter, compassion, love and increased love of community as we move into the future of our church family home. I ask that you pray with me daily this prayer from page 818 Book of Common Prayer during the search process:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Vicar for St Stephen's Episcopal Church, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN.

Faithfully, Rev. Dottie g

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### *From our Treasurer*

July began with a little rain, and then some more rain, and then some more rain. The land is thirsty - and at least happier. People are on their travels, but the generous people of St. Stephen's are keeping us alive and afloat. Thanks to all of you who have kept up with pledges and gifts. We have a lot to be grateful for in our little church. Stay cool!

Anne Roth, Treasurer

## 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. **Also, I must bring it to your attention, that my attendance at St. Stephens may be quite limited, both whilst I am awaiting surgery and during my recovery time.**

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.

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## August 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

### Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup>

LEM -Tim Holsonback

Lector – TBD

Altar Guild – Tim Holsonback

### Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>

LEM – TBD

Lector – TBD

Altar Guild – TBD

### Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup>

LEM – Jeff Speer

Lector - Jeff Speer

Altar Guild - Jeff Speer

### Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup>

LEM – TBD

Lector- Tim Holsonback

Altar Guild - TBD

### Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup>

LEM – TBD

Lector – TBA

Altar Guild - TBA

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### Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### **BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**

LEM – Nancy Rae

Lector – Ann Crandall

Altar Guild – Nancy Rae

### Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>

LEM – MJ Mahland

Lector – Peggy Brown

Altar Guild – MJ Mahland

### Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>

LEM – Nancy Rea

Lector – MJ Mahland

Altar Guild - Nancy Rae

### Sunday August 24<sup>th</sup>

LEM – MJ Mahland

Lector – Wilma Swartz

Altar Guild – TBD

### Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup>

LEM – Nancy Rea

Lector – Peggy Brown

Altar Guild – Cheryl Stone

## August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)					1 <b>Film Night</b> <b>"Oh God"</b> 5.30pm in the Ed Building. See notices p2	2 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
3 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	4	5 Bible Study 5 pm Via Zoom	6 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	7	8	9 5.00 pm Service followed by Supper at <b>Manda Le</b> <b>Restaurant</b> 6.30pm
10 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	11	12 Bible Study 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 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 <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Articles Due</b> <b>For September</b> <b>Issue</b>	26 Bible Study 5 pm Via Zoom	27 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	28	29	30 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion

Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup> will be **"BIRTHDAY SUNDAY"** celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of August. There will be cheesecake for all to enjoy after worship at about 11:15am.



**Edgar Stone**

**August 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Chester Yancey**

**August 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Doris Millard**

**August 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Joan Strom**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Timothy Ash**

**August 24<sup>th</sup>**

## **From the Editor, Mrs. Diane Yancey:**

Dear Readers, as I am a fairly 'newcomer' to Arizona, I am always interested to find out facts about the area around me. I love this county. It is warm, friendly, safe and diverse. Plenty of outdoor activities and clean air. I am always extolling the beauty of the mountains and clear blue skies to my friends and family in the UK! I found this interesting piece recently. You probably know it but I thought I'd share it anyway.

### **'The Hummingbird Capital of the United States'**

See why Sierra Vista has so many hummingbirds

If you're a birdwatcher and Sierra Vista is not on your list as one of the best birdwatching destinations in the United States, then you are missing out. Officially the Hummingbird Capital of the United States, Sierra Vista is home to at least 15 different species of hummingbird — as well as 300 other bird species - that can be seen throughout the year. This is likely thanks to the year round mild climate that barely fluctuates between 72 and 49 degrees Fahrenheit. These are perfect conditions for hummingbirds, and comfortable bird watching for that matter.

The place to be in Sierra Vista if you want guaranteed hummingbird viewing action is the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. Conserved by Congress in 1988 specifically for the purpose of preserving the natural area surrounding the upper 40 miles of the San Pedro River, it is a fantastic location for hummingbird watching. Team up with the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory for their Spring and Fall hummingbird banding at the San Pedro House in the park. It's a great opportunity to get up close and personal with these strikingly beautiful birds.

The month of August has also been designated as Hummingbird Month by the City of Sierra Vista. Filled with events including poetry readings, rummage sales, and hummingbird-themed metalworking contests, coffee, and pastries, Hummingbird Month is not to be missed when visiting Sierra Vista.

### **'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)  
Christoper Franke (Recovering from Hip Replacement)  
Becky Reynolds (Bone cancer treatment)  
Jenni Hughes (Heart problems, Anxiety and Stress)  
Wilma Swartz (Awaiting Abdominal Surgery)  
Rev. Allison Cornell and Robin StClair (Safe Travels)

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