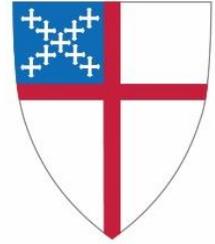




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
October 2025*



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From Our Reverend Deacon

Our Senior Warden, Jeff Speer, has announced that the St. Stephen's Profile and other documents have been sent to the Diocese offices. As soon as he gets the "OK" for the Search Committee to begin advertising our need for a new Vicar, Jeff will let us know. He is also trying to negotiate either a supply priest or an interim to lead our services, with Eucharist, until a new permanent priest is found. Let us continue praying for God's Grace on all those in charge of searching for our new pastor.

In the meantime, Deacon Sherry and I are always available to bring communion to anyone wanting a home visit or at the nursing homes. We are also here for those who want to continue bible study. Deacon Sherry leads one on Isaiah and I have one on Genesis. Newcomers are always welcome to join either one.

Fall season brings less rain and cooler temperatures. Our Treasurer Ann Roth is working on having one of the local landscapers come to clean out the weeds and prepare the other bushes for the winter. Some of the flowering roses and bushes will soon finish for the year and need cutting back. Many thanks to Tim Holsonback and his fellow mowers who kept the grassy areas looking nice all season. Fall also brings out the colored trees up on the mountainsides--- the Aspen trees shine like Gold up there. If you travel up to Carr or Ramsey Canyon, you might even see the red and yellow of Maple and Oak trees.

Stewardship time is also upon us. You will be hearing more about this campaign in the next few weeks. We would like to wrap it up by Christ the King Sunday, November 23. Please begin thinking about what to pledge for 2026. A new budget will be calculated from the results of all new pledges for presentation at the January Annual Meeting.

Some of us have been tracking Rev. Allison's trip on Facebook and the pictures have been wonderful. Speaking of pictures: if anyone has some photos taken at church functions during the last year, please offer them to Mark Sowards for the church website.

God Bless you all today and always,

Deacon Dottie G.

From Our Reverend Deacon Sherry



Reflections on the Transition to Fall

As we continue to enjoy the lovely monsoon weather, it's clear that the season will eventually shift. The coolness of fall is already making its presence felt at night, reminding us that autumn is just around the corner.

Commitment to Services

Deacon Dottie and I have had meaningful discussions about our ongoing commitment to the community. We are dedicated to continuing the ante-communion services on Wednesdays at 9:30 AM and our Saturday evening service at 5:00 PM, even in the absence of a Vicar.

This continuity is vital for our community, and we are committed to ensuring these services remain a source of support and spiritual nourishment. These regular gatherings provide a space for reflection and connection, and we look forward to welcoming everyone.

Planning for the Future

At the beginning of the year, we established a calendar using the Revised Standard Lectionary that included a regular rotation for preaching duties among Deacon Dottie, myself, and our Priest, who filled the majority of the slots.

Before our beloved Priest retired, we proactively placed our names in the empty spaces to ensure there would be no gaps in coverage.

Looking ahead to 2026, another calendar will be created to ensure our community continues to have consistent spiritual guidance and support as we search for a new Vicar. This planning reflects our dedication to serving our congregation and maintaining the vibrancy of our services.

Blessings to all,

Deacon Sherry S.

Sherry Simon, AZ EfM Coordinator and Mentor



From our Treasurer

The Farewell Luncheon for Allison was possible with your generosity, and we were able to give her a sizable gift as well. With our Rector officially “gone” – and currently wandering loose in the British Isles – the work load has had to be shuffled among several of us. Jeff Speer, as Senior Warden, is carrying the responsibility of the parish and the Search Committee. Mark Sowards is doing even more than he already did, now also covering the calls for help from people in need. Doreen is playing Sunday services and shoring up the few voices we have who come when they can. I am paying bills and payroll – and now signing time sheets for the staff. And the two Deacons are carrying the whole load of worship services, preaching, doing all the calling – which they were already doing, and taking communion to the shut ins. What you may not realize is that Deacons never got paid until a couple of years ago. And I have now gotten permission from the Vestry to pay them a little more for their gas and the extra time they are putting in. It’s nowhere near “enough”, but it is something to let them know that we value what they do for St. Stephen’s.

Anne Roth, Treasurer

October 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 Deacon Sherry (520 210 2026) of substitutions

ALL SUNDAYS – DEACON DOTTIE GUTWEIN and/or DEACON SHERRY SIMON

Saturday October 4th		
LEM -Tim Holsonback	Lector – TBD	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday October 11th		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – TBD	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday October 18th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector - TBD	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday October 25th		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector- TBD	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday October 5th	BIRTHDAY SUNDAY	
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Renee Olejnicak	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday October 12th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – TBD	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday October 19th		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
Sunday October 26th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Film Night TBD 5.30 in the Ed Building.	4 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Ante- Communion
5 10.00 am Choral Service with Ante- Communion (Live Stream)	6 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	7	8 9.30 am Spoken Service	9	10	11 5.00 pm Service Spoken Service with Ante- Communion
12 10.00 am Choral Service with Ante- Communion (Live Stream)	13 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	14	15 9.30 am Spoken Service	16	17	18 5.00 pm Service Followed by Supper at La Casita Restaurant 6.30 pm
19 10.00 am Choral Service with Ante- Communion (Live Stream)	20 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	21	22 9.30 am Spoken Service	23	24 Newsletter Articles Due For November Issue	25 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Ante- Communion
26 10.00 am Choral Service with Ante- Communion (Live Stream)	27 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	28	29 9.30 am Spoken Service	30	31	

Sunday October 5th will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of October. There will be cake for all to enjoy.



Debra Ash	October 13th
Brent J Milgrom	October 13th
Harriet Kolen	October 20th
Doris Millard	October 21st
Marietta Conley	October 21st
Jill Holsonback	October 24th
Maryjane (MJ) Mahland	October 30th

Notices and Upcoming Events

October 3rd – First Friday Film Night - Don't forget to vote for your choice of movie! There is a three-way tie at the moment. We want you to choose which movie to see. Follow this link (<https://ststephensaz.org/first-friday-movie-vote-page/>) and vote on one of the four choices. The winner will be announced on the Sunday before. Bring popcorn or other snacks and drinks to enjoy during the movie.

October 18th - Saturday Supper – Please note the date change - Join us at La Casita Restaurant & Cantina, 465 Fry Blvd, Sierra Vista, at 6.30pm.

You can check the menu via this link: <https://lacasitarestaurant&catering.com>

Our Stewardship Campaign begins this month – Pledge cards are available.

Date for your Diary – Thursday 28th November – 10am Service followed by Thanksgiving Dinner in the Fellowship Room. A sign up sheet will be displayed over the next few weeks. Please remember to list all ingredients in dishes made at home to ensure the safety of anyone with food allergies.

Thank you to everyone for the ongoing donations of (clean) crushed aluminum cans and separated pull tabs. They will be donated to the Animal Shelter. Thank you also for your donations to Huachuca City UMC of dry laundry sheets or laundry powder in Ziplock bags and other personal care items, to assist the needy in our area. We are still collecting no-longer needed pairs of eye glasses and their cases. We donate them to the local Lion's Club. Please drop them in the box located on the refreshment table in the Parish Hall.

'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:

Edgar Stone (Serious back surgery)
Debra and Jack Murphy & Family (Suffering bereavement)
Alverita Egbert (Ongoing health issues)
Doris Millard (Ongoing health issues)
Jerry Fine (Ongoing health issues)
Becky Reynolds (Bone cancer treatment)
Jenni Hughes (Heart problems, Anxiety and Stress)
Rev. Allison Cornell and Robin StClair (Safe Travels)

To submit or update prayer requests, please contact editor: dianepyancey@gmail.com

