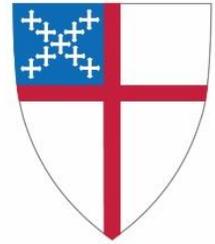




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
September 2025*



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



From Our Reverend Deacon Dottie

Well, schools are back in session again. Thank you all for the wonderful donations of school supplies. Rev. Allison's car was packed full when she and Ann Roth took the ride to Bowie Unified School District the first week of August. The delivery was very much appreciated and the items were being divided up to help elementary students as well as some of the older classes.

It was a lovely Farewell Service and luncheon for Rev. Allison and we are now all getting into the new temporary normal way for worship each week. Fr. Henry, who led us in worship one weekend in late July, has been suffering with a bad case of asthma. So, I led the Aug 27, 30 and 31 Morning and Evening prayer services. Until Bishop Reddall or the Search Committee announces otherwise, Deacon Sherry and I will be alternating the lead of weekly services.

Changes are sometimes quite difficult depending on what kind it is: there are changes in weather, changes of clothes, changes in weekly hymns, changes in baby diapers, even changes in our daily routines. Most of the time, folks can deal with the "normal" changes life throws our way. But, the change from one priest to another can be a long process. This may be tough on some people who don't LIKE changes of this sort. And the not knowing who and what to expect next may cause some parishioners anxiety or stress---you do have that stress ball Rev. Allison gave you, RIGHT? But if we all hold our memories of the last 7 years in our hearts; accepting that the retirement was inevitable when one reaches a certain point in life. We will get through this time of discernment trusting in God to send us the one HE chooses for our beloved Church. On the lighter side: we will continue with the 2nd Saturday night suppers. On September 13th at 6:30 PM we can meet at the Native Grill & Wings, 3950 Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy. Let me know if you plan to be there and I will make reservations.

Peace and hugs to all,
Deacon Dottie g.

From Our Reverend Deacon Sherry



Hello, potential Education for Ministry participant,

The University of the South, Sewanee's Education for Ministry program celebrated its 50th Anniversary in June 2025. Along with that is the 5th revision to the program where there are new textbooks!

Sewanee is one of the Episcopal Divinity Schools. In EfM, with the "Classic" Course of study, we explore the **Hebrew Bible** (Old Testament), **New Testament**, **Christian History** over the past 2000 yrs and a look at **current theories of ethics, theology and orthodoxy**. Along the way, we explore how these foundations of our faith interact with our daily lives through a process called **Theological Reflections** (TR's). There is also a new program called, "**Wide Angle**". This program is a continuing 5th year program designed for those who miss their EfM community, lively discussions and TR's. Also, Wide Angle is a one-year commitment for those who would like to try EfM in only a one-year commitment. Wide Angle can be accomplished alongside the Classic sessions.

In both, we explore Lectio-Divina, Centering Prayer, the Anglican Rosary, the labyrinth and many other new, exciting things.

Preparation for EfM sessions involves logging onto a website with your smartphone, tablet or computer for a weekly assignment and then 1-2 hours of targeted reading, journaling or watching prepared videos, prior to joining others also in community, each week for nine months. The group may be only in-person, only on-line, or hybrid where in-person and on-line occurs simultaneously. Whatever the method, all are face to face.

EfM is truly life changing as it opens up new ways for you to interact with God! It is a one-of-a-kind program with fifty years of experience and so much more than bible study.

The Program costs \$367.50 each year.

If this looks like something you'd like to try, kindly send me an email or text to tell me you are interested. Sessions usually begin in September, although some begin in January.

In the interim, to help you discern whether EfM may be what you are looking for, I invite you to check out this link.

<https://efm.pathwright.com/library> or <https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/>

Additionally, we are also looking for mentors, if you believe you might be great at mentoring,

Blessings to all,

Deacon Sherry s.

Sherry Simon, AZ EfM Coordinator and Mentor

stsimon2749@yahoo.com



From our Treasurer

With Rev. Allison's last Sunday on August 24, the gathered church heard her speak, heard the official acceptance of her retirement from the Diocesan Canon Anita, heard the parting prayers from our Senior Warden Jeff Speer, and had a chance to greet and hug her on her way out the door. Fifty people gathered at Pizzeria Mimosa for a buffet luncheon and had a chance to leave messages for Allison on colored leaves that were then attached to a poster of tree branches. She will have a chance to unroll the poster later on and read all the messages. The church's gift to her was a pair of gift cards for Ace Hardware to help her with a tree-planting project at their home, and the generous balance of gifted money was given to pay a landscaper for help and anything else she needs or wants. Meanwhile, she and Robin and Robin's sister, Karen, are off to Ireland, Scotland, England, and Paris. Safe travels to them, and a new future for St. Stephen's. At the closing Vestry meeting last Tuesday, the Bible lesson was about "building a house on the rock" instead of the sand. Where do YOU see St. Stephen's now, and is our foundation secure?

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.

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

September 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 September 6th

LEM -Tim Holsonback	Lector – TBD	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
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Saturday September 13th

LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – TBD	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
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Saturday September 19th

LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector - TBD	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
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Saturday September 27th

LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector- TBD	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
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Sunday September 7th **BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**

LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Renee Olejnicak	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
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Sunday September 14th

LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Wilma Swartz	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
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Sunday September 21st

LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
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Sunday September 28th

LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
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Sunday September 7th will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of September. There will be cake for all to enjoy.



Linda Watkins	September 1st
Deacon Dorothy Gutwein	September 9th
Anita Hancock	September 11th
Nicholas B Santanocito	September 14th
Adina Benford	September 23rd
Jeff Speer	September 25th

September 2025

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

* [Native Grill& Wings, 3950 Martin Luther King PkWy, Sierra Vista AZ](#)

‘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:

- 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

My apologies for the lateness of this Newsletter, I am recovering from what was initially presenting as a stroke but as the MRI scan showed no brain damage, I shall be undergoing further tests. Diane (Editor)