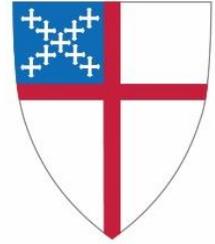




*St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church  
Newsletter  
November 2025*



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



*From Our Reverend Deacon Dottie*

Our church sign and large cross have not yet been repaired after the October accident destroying the sign and uprooting the cross and cement base. Senior Warden Jeff Speer and Mark Sowards are working with the Church Insurance Company for restoration. They are also checking with the installers and suppliers for both items.

I continue as Chaplain one day a week at Canyon Vista Medical Center, here in town. It is most rewarding to visit patients and pray with them and for them. Have met such interesting people and some who are residents of various nursing homes have asked me to continue conversations about the Bible with them after discharge.

A few weeks ago, Deacon Sherry's twin grandchildren visited us for Sunday Worship. They are 4 years old and cute as anything. They played quietly in the children's corner ---- so many toys and books: What will we play with next? No interruption noises the whole time, and a lot of folks did not even know they were there until "coffee and snack time". After so long not having families in our congregation, it was a real treat to have the little boy and girl join us for the morning.



**A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING to our St. Stephen's family**

God Bless you all today and always,  
Reverend Deacon Dottie G.

## *From Our Reverend Deacon Sherry*



Dottie and I are still alternating homilies on Wednesday mornings, Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. We have received permission from our Bishop's to offer communion from the reserve sacrament on Sundays.

We recently interviewed a potential candidate for Interim Priest. Dottie and I know the individual well and believe they would be a wonderful fit in our parish. The Bishop's committee seemed to agree with us. All documentation has been forwarded to Phoenix for review. Maybe we will hear something positive soon.

Our sign, cross and culvert were severely damaged in the wee hours of October 9<sup>th</sup>. Mark was notified and subsequently notified everyone else. An insurance claim has been filed. Currently though we are virtually signless.

Ann Roth, Nancy Rea, Renee Olejnicak, Dottie and I attended the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention in Phoenix, on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup>. The Keynote speaker was the Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D., who is a professor at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX. She is the author of a "Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church". It was very interesting to hear her speak about women who prophesied in ancient Israel and the ancient Afro-Asiatic world.

Additionally at the convention, there were workshops and each of us attended a different work shop. Personally, I attended "Walking the Dogma" which is a pod cast with hosts Rev. Cn. David Benedict Hedges, BSG and the Rev. Dominic Moore where they explore the faith and teaching of the Episcopal Church with their listeners. You are sure to enjoy the series, which is available totally free on any pod service you may use. As you listen, you will enjoy the banter between these two fellows and learn everything about the Episcopal Church, to include the "Book of Common Prayer" and how we came to be today. Please check it out.

Our Education for Ministry group is in its 8<sup>th</sup> week of the season of 36 weeks. We have participants who live local and some not so local who are able to join through our Zoom link, all face to face. If this intrigues you, please contact me for the link so you can sit in one of our sessions, which meet on Thursdays at 4 pm.

Additionally, if you are free on Monday afternoon at 3 pm, join us for a Zoom bible study on the book of "Jeremiah". Please contact me for the zoom link if you are interested.

Also, there are two book studies, one on Saturdays at 4 pm, and another on Sundays at 12 pm. If God is calling you to learn more, please check out either one.

Blessings to all,  
Reverend Deacon Sherry.



## *From our Treasure r*

This has been a transition month for St. Stephen's. The Search Committee and Vestry have been working hard to document and envision a future. Meanwhile, the administrative duties to keep us going have been picked up by the Senior Warden, the Parish Administrator, and me. The two Deacons have picked up the entire responsibility for our worship times. We hope you will "hang in" with us as we put together the next steps for our parish. The financial end of things seems to be keeping pace, and I can't tell you how much I appreciate that. Welcome to the autumn coolness!

Anne Roth, Treasurer.

### **November 2025 Lay Ministry Teams Schedule**

***NOTE: If you are unable to sere at the appointed time and day, you are responsible for finding a replacement. Please notify Rev Deacon Sherry or Rev Deacon Dottie of substitutions and record substitution on the document posted in the sacristy***

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

<b>Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup></b>		
LEM -Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector - Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup></b>		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector - Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector - Jeff Speer	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>BIRTHDAY SUNDAY</b>	
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Renee Olejnicak	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup></b>		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Renee Olejnicak	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM - Nancy Rea	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM

# November 2025

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

Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup> will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of November. There will be cake for all to enjoy.



<b>Joseph Ash</b>	<b>November 2<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>Alverita Egbert</b>	<b>November 4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Norman Watkins</b>	<b>November 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Linda Milgrom</b>	<b>November 12<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Alison Martin</b>	<b>November 14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Courtney Pitts</b>	<b>November 22<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>Gretchen Lamberth</b>	<b>November 24<sup>th</sup></b>

## **Notices and Upcoming Events**

**Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup>** The Rev. JJ Bernal has been appointed Interim Vicar, half time, at St. Stephen's Sierra Vista.

**Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup>** is the day which we keep in remembrance of those who have passed from this life to the Eternal Joy of meeting God.

**Friday November 7<sup>th</sup>** Friday Film Night, choices for movie is found on the link in your announcement sheet. Please vote for the one you hope to win. We start at 5:30 with soup or salad supper and ask that you bring your own snacks/drink. Also, if you have a favorite movie for December, please let Mark know.

**Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>** at 12noon, a Memorial for Dinah McCreery will take place with reception following. Dinah and Ron were members of St Stephen's for well over 40 years. Her ashes will be placed in the Columbarium alongside of Ron's urn.

**Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>** 6.30pm Supper at Vinny's Pizza, 1977 Frontage Rd, off Hwy 92 S.

**Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>** is Christ the King Sunday when we honor God's Son, Jesus, who by dying for our sins, leads us to final redemption.

**Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup>**, Thanksgiving Day, we will celebrate with worship at 10am followed by a Turkey Dinner, pot luck style. Sign-up sheet is available to show who is bringing what and how many so we can better plan seating for all. Please remember to list all ingredients in dishes made at home to ensure the safety of anyone with food allergies.

**Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>** is ADVENT 1. I have it on good information that day we will celebrate with a Hymns and Prayers Reading worship service at 10am.

**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.

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### **'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 (For healing and God's continuing blessings)

Doris Millard (For joy and peace while suffering with ongoing health issues at Via Elegante)

Andy Anderson (Recovering from a fall in October)

Jerry and Susan Fine (Continuing prayers for healing and peace)

Deacon Robin Hollis (Recovering and in rehab)

Family & Friends of the late Rev. John Lutton (Grieving)

We pray also for:

\*All victims of recent vicious storms throughout the US recently, especially Phoenix area, Globe, Miami AZ and Eastern Seaboard Coastal states.

\*For all those military and government workers who are laid off or working without pay as they struggle to make ends meet and care for families.

\*Thanksgiving for the recent release of Israel hostages held by Hamas and prayers that the Peace continues.

To submit or update prayer requests, please contact editor: [dianepyancey@gmail.com](mailto:dianepyancey@gmail.com)



Orange pumpkins full and round...  
Cornstalks gathered on the ground...  
Blue skies clear and autumn-bright...  
Harvest moons and frost at night...  
Leaves raked high in great big piles...  
November sights bring thankful smiles.