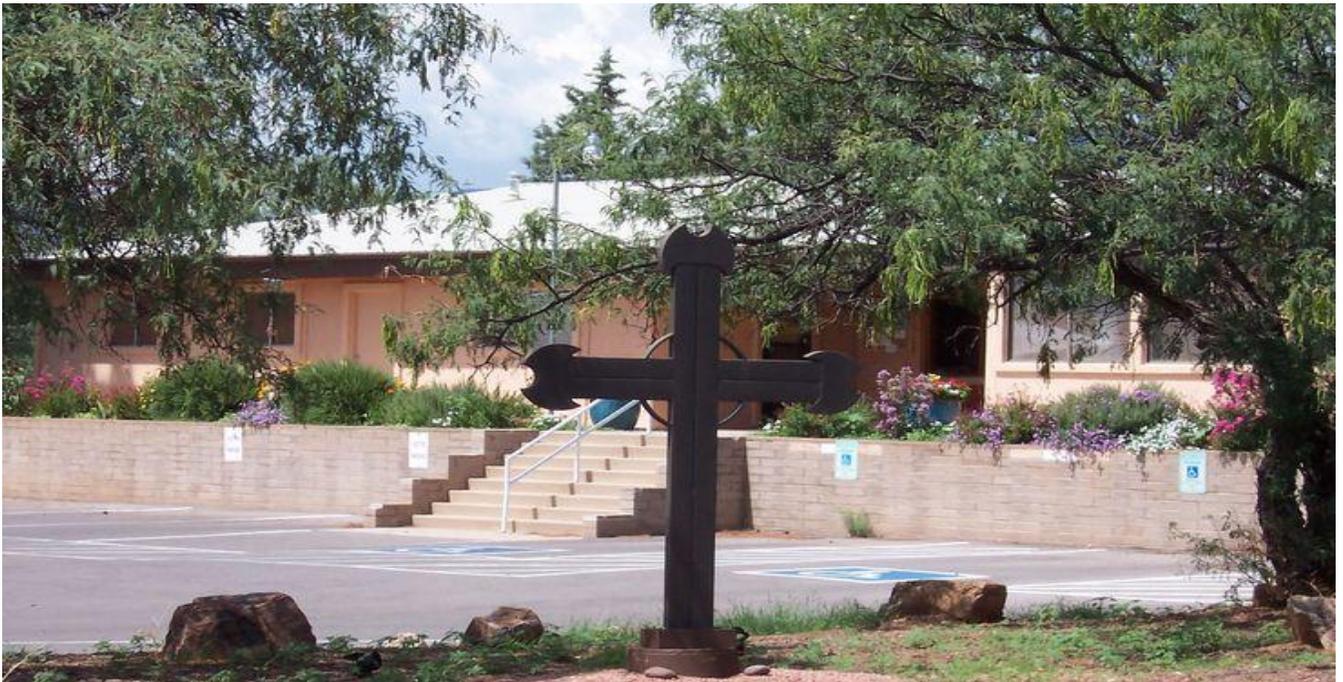


# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Mission Profile

August 2025



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## 1 UPDATED SANCTUARY

# Invitation

The Search Committee of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Sierra Vista, Arizona, is seeking a part-time Vicar. Please review the following document and respond to the listed [email](#) to apply for this position.

## Our Slogan

"We Are Called to Love and Serve"

## Our Mission Statement

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

## Our Church

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Sierra Vista, Arizona has a small but vibrant, generous, and supportive congregation. We embrace the liturgical traditions of the Episcopal Church and encourage the use of a variety of liturgical styles. We are a welcoming church and embrace the diversity of our parishioners. We offer three weekly services and numerous outreach programs.

SOME ANONYMOUS CHURCH MEMBER QUOTES...

*"I remember one of the first times being at St. Stephen's and feeling at home and knowing we were needed there."*

*"I love our love for each other..."*

*"The feeling that all are welcome.... This church is a good example of loving thy neighbor."*

*"We not only accept diversity, we celebrate diversity."*

*"This is a safe and open place of worship. I love that no one is turned away."*

# Our Values

Exhibiting fellowship and companionship

Offering unconditional love and acceptance

Being calm and gentle in all matters

Incorporating activities with goals, both social and educational

Encouraging sermons that lead the congregation towards forgiveness, wisdom and renewal

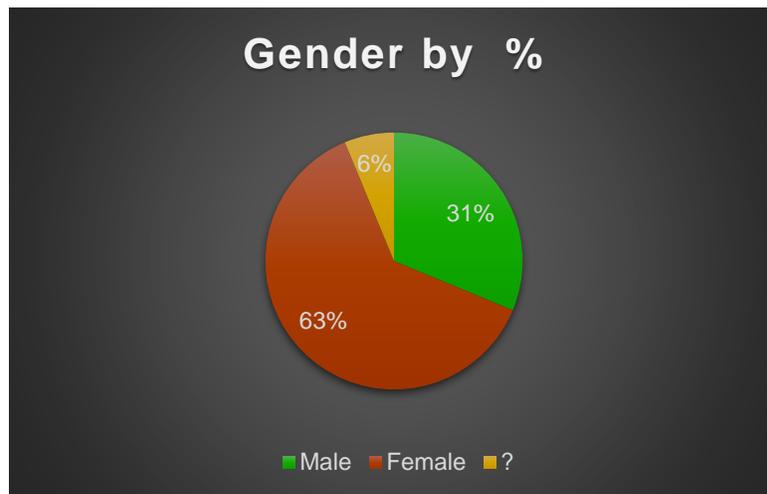
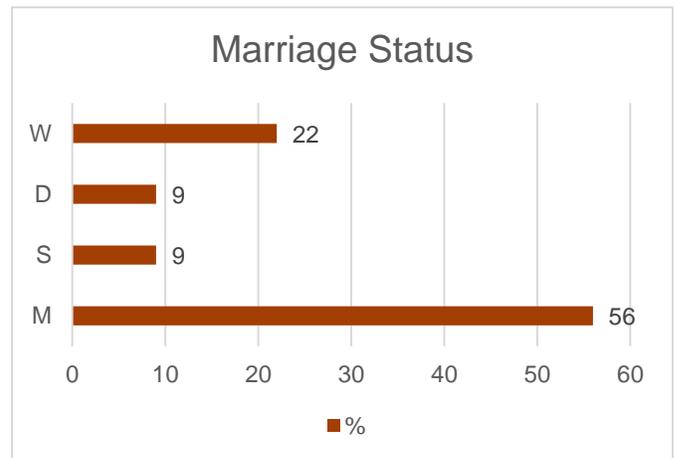
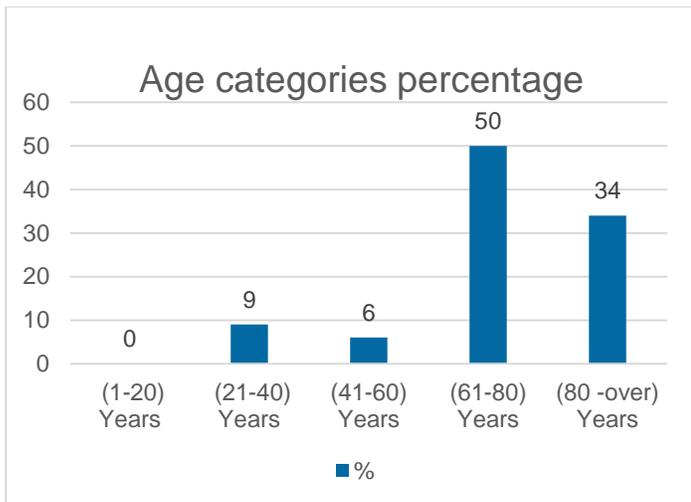
Providing pastoral services to those who request or need care

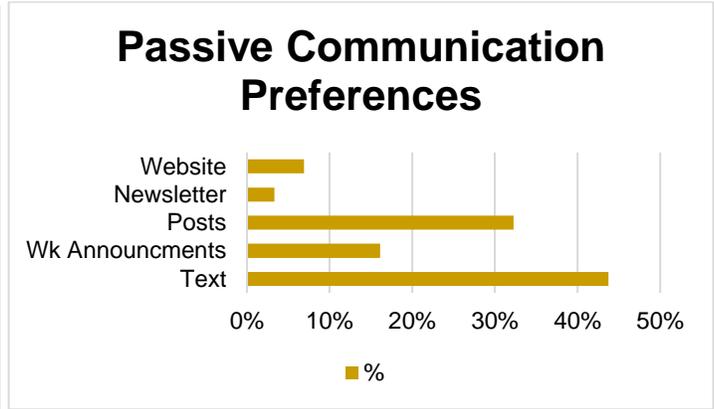
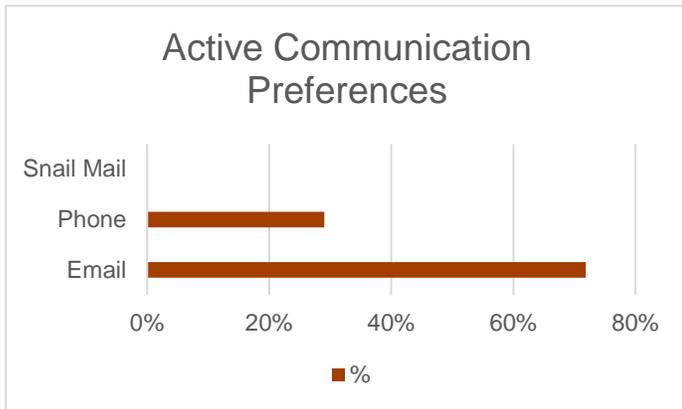
Encouraging inclusiveness and mutual respect

Demonstrating love and service

Discouraging political partisanship

## Our Church by the Numbers





## Our land and buildings

We are proud to affirm that through hard work and dedication, our two buildings (the sanctuary and education building) are in fine condition and are debt-free. We have a new kitchen in the parish hall, new floors in the sanctuary, sacristy, music room, and library; an expanded columbarium, also new central air conditioning in the sanctuary. Both buildings have been recently painted. The parking lot has been resurfaced and painted with parking space lines and is lit by new LED lights.

## Our Ministries

- Three weekly services
- Bible Study in person and online
- Education for Ministry
- Adult Education
- Many different 12-step group meetings
- Altar Guild
- Piano/Organist, Choir
- Sharing our Sanctuary
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors
- Stewardship Program
- Parish Treasurer
- Teller Committee
- We contribute to the support of:
  - Sierra Vista Unified Schools' Better Meals Program
  - A “Groceries 4U” program providing “Better Bucks” to help feed and clothe local people (and their pets)
  - A Vicar’s Discretionary Fund to help people meet unexpected expenses
  - Community Non-profits, support, and service Organizations
  - And many, many more

# Our History

## A RECENT HISTORY OF ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

The push for a mission in Sierra Vista started in the mid-1950s. Officially founded and built in 1960, St. Stephen's became a Parish in 1992. We have returned to mission status as of June 2025 and are looking for a vicar to guide us toward being a parish again. St. Stephen's has enjoyed a rather stable period since the mid-2000s. We have had 12 official vicars and/or rectors since 1958, with an average stay of a little more than 4.5 years per priest. In 2005, Father Victor Sarrazin replaced Father Ben Somerville. Father Sarrazin saw some of our largest growth; we replaced the roof and added an Education Building, both of which have no mortgage due to an aggressive payment plan initiated by the then-treasurer.

Rev. Allison Cornell took charge of the parish in 2018 and initiated a series of church property repair and improvement projects. These include new central air conditioning, resurfaced floors, new ceiling fans, a new emergency exit door in the main church building and a complete Parish Hall kitchen remodel donated by the Episcopal Church Women's group (ECW). The interior and exterior of the sanctuary were painted. Rev. Cornell also secured the donation of an electronic organ that greatly enhanced the music for worship services and eliminated the need to raise thousands of dollars to repair our aging pipe organ. During the COVID pandemic, the Columbarium was expanded.

Rev. Cornell introduced the congregation to new and more progressive services. We experimented with the women's lectionary and other contemporary versions of our standard services, prayers and hymns. She initiated activities to enhance opportunities for the congregation to reach out to the community and to engage in classes, events and involvement with each other.

In addition to the advanced age and passing of members of our congregation, the pandemic and national political divisions have been contributing factors to membership gains and, especially, losses in recent years.

We look forward to the new leadership and guidance of a Vicar who can navigate the difficult aspects of balancing Christ's teachings and our modern world. Amen!

## Our Paid Staff

We have two ordained Deacons, Dorothy Gutwein and Sherry Simon. Our parish administrator is Mark Sowards, Tracy Gamez is our Sexton, and Doreen Oberg is the accompanist at our Sunday services and our Bookkeeper, Pam Collins.

# Our Area

Also known as “The Hummingbird Capital of the United States” or “Sky Island”

## Over 2500 businesses in Sierra Vista

Healthcare, entertainment, education, and retail center of Cochise County  
Elevation 4600 feet

## Average daytime temperature of 74 degrees

Breathtaking Huachuca Mountain views, Hiking, biking, and walking trails & Stunning sun sets!

## Restaurants

Applebee’s, Native Wings, Buffalo Wild Wings, Denny’s, McDonalds, Burger King, Chilis, Culver’s, Texas Roadhouse...

## Numerous locally owned and Operated restaurants, Bars, and Diners

American, Asian, German, Italian, Mexican, Greek. To name a few: High Heat, Pitt Stop, Country Kitchen & Pizzeria Mimosa

## Major Retailers

Target, Walmart, Fry’s, Safeway, Food City, Home Depot, Lowes, Hobby Lobby, Ross, Marshalls, Dillard’s, Hibbett’s, Famous Footwear, Dollar Tree, Dollar General, Ace Hardware, Maurice’s, Best Buy, Big O Tires, Discount Tires, Jiffy Lube, Ed Morse Automotive Dealerships, Sierra Toyota, The Mall at Sierra Vista

## Major Employers

Fort Huachuca US Army  
Canyon Vista Medical Center  
Chiricahua Community Healthcare  
Walmart, Cochise College  
Cochise County  
Arizona Department of Corrections  
Sierra Vista Unified School District 68 K-12  
Numerous private/religious and charter schools

## **Cultural Activities**

Arizona Folklore Preserve  
Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering  
Sierra Vista Symphony  
Huachuca Art Association Gallery  
and Art Center, 3 Museums, Cars in the Park, Art in the Park, Oktoberfest

## **Educational Opportunities**

University of Arizona College of Applied Science and Technology, University of Arizona South,  
University of Phoenix, Cochise College,  
Wayland Baptist University, Sierra Vista Unified School District K-12  
Numerous private, religious, and charter schools K-12

## **Outdoor Activities**

Disc Golf Course  
Golf Courses/Driving Ranges  
Hiking and Mountain Biking Trails  
Shared-Use Paths  
Skate Park  
Sport Fields and Facilities  
The Cove (Indoor Aquatic Facility)  
Twenty Parks, Bike Paths

## Nearby Attractions

Bisbee, Tombstone, Kartchner Caverns State Park, Coronado Cave Trail, Mexico, Ramsey Canyon Hummingbird Preserve,  
Huachuca Mountains,  
Parker Canyon Lake,  
Chiricahua National Monument  
San Pedro Riparian National  
Conservation Area

## Arizona Professional Teams

Arizona Cardinals (NFL)  
Diamondbacks (MLB)  
Phoenix Mercury (WNBA)  
Arizona Coyotes (NHL)

## **Transportation**

Tucson International Airport - 70 miles;  
Railroad from Benson - 30 miles  
Sierra Vista Airport.  
Private Plane Services & Runway -

## **Sierra Vista Stats:**

**Median Household Income** \$69,783  
**Housing: Median Value** of owner-occupied housing Units \$239,000  
**Average Rent** Two-Bedroom Apartment \$1095/month  
Single Family home Average \$1200/month  
**Poverty Level** Persons in poverty 10.9%  
**Median Age** 37.3  
**Race and Ethnicity**  
White 66.4% , Hispanic 22.3% , Black 8.0%  
Two or More 16.4%