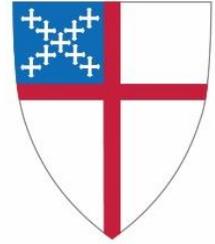




*St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church  
Newsletter  
January 2026*



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



*From Our Reverend Deacon Dottie*

Well, by now all packages have been opened and maybe those Christmas cookies are gone now too. But, remember: the 12 days of Christmas started on December 25<sup>th</sup> and does not end until January 6<sup>th</sup>. And what is the 12<sup>th</sup> day? Epiphany. It is the day we remember the Wise Men travelling from the East, following a star, to find the Christ Child. Myrrh, Frankincense, and Gold were his gifts. They signified Jesus' royalty, and the traditional items to prepare for his eventual body for burial. Now there may have been more than three wise men but only ones known by name are mentioned in the story. Now, the Christmas trees and other decorations will be packed away until Advent 2026. As I saw on a sign near one of our neighbour churches: Christmas is not about presents, but about presence. Let us never forget that it is our presence with God that counts more than any other present or gift we could offer HIM at any time of the year. There is a brief time again for ordinary time – Green season – before we enter the Penitential Season of Lent.

Let us remember that the past Nativity story will soon become the Passion of Christ, and the ultimate sacrifice toward Resurrection Day.

Oh, and by the way, please keep in your prayers the search committee as they continue their work toward finding our new Vicar.

Reverend Dottie g., Deacon

## *From Our Reverend Deacon Sherry*



### **10 New Years Facts**

1. Approximately 40-45% of Americans make New Year's resolutions.
2. The most popular resolutions are to exercise more, eat healthy, save money and spend more time with family and friends.
3. The top three excuses for not keeping your resolutions are lack of motivation, lack of time and lack of willpower.
4. It takes an average of 66 days to form a new habit.
5. Only 8% of people actually achieve their New Year's resolutions.
6. The most successful resolutions are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely.
7. The tradition of making New Year's resolutions dates back to the ancient Babylonians.
8. New Year's resolutions typically last an average of six weeks.
9. There is evidence that suggest that making New Year's resolutions can lead to increased happiness and life satisfaction.
10. Studies show that people who make resolutions are 10 times more likely to achieve their goals than those who do not make resolutions.

Courtesy of [Breathetoinspire.com](http://Breathetoinspire.com)

Wishing you all a happy and blessed New Year,  
Deacon Sherry Simon

## From our Treasurer



Wishing everyone a Happy New Year, knowing full well a lot of things are very insecure right now. At least we have each other and a commission from Christ to be the best we can be! Thanks again for the generosity of the people of St. Stephen's who have brought us enough pledges to keep us going. Thanks also for those of you who (I know why) do not want to "pledge", but who support us anyway. The Vestry usually takes half of the "Non pledge Giving" figure to carry to the next year's budget. We are still working on the budget, knowing some things are going up. We are also trying to value the staff people who keep this place going. We welcome Fr. JJ Bernal, who has joined us as Interim Vicar, leaving behind a position on the Border helping people. We have six groups who are using our facilities, plus a second church family. Income from their offerings is paying our utilities. We are trying to be "good stewards" of the church. May we all come out of the dark times of Solstice into a New Year with the determination to survive.

Annual Meeting will be Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Double check that in case I'm wrong!

Anne Roth, Treasurer.

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### **January 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 Rev Deacon Sherry or Rev Deacon Dottie of substitutions and record substitution on the document posted in the sacristy***

<b>Saturday January 3<sup>rd</sup></b> LEM -Tim Holsonback	Lector – <b>TBD</b>	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup></b> LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup></b> LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Jeff Speer	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup></b> LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup></b> LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup></b> LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup></b> LEM – MJ Mahland	<b>BIRTHDAY SUNDAY</b> Lector – Renee Olejnicak	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup></b> LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup></b> LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday		Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			3	1 <b>Happy New Year</b>	2 <b>Film Night TBD 5.30 in the Ed Building.</b>	3 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
4 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	5 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	6	7 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	8	9	10 5.00 pm Service Followed by Supper at <b>Olive Garden</b> 6.30 pm
11 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	12 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	13	14 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	15	16	17 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
18 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	18 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	20	21 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	22	23 <b>Newsletter Articles Due For February Issue</b>	24 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
25 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	26 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	27	28 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	29	30	31 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion

Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup> will be **“BIRTHDAY SUNDAY”** celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of January. There will be cake for all to enjoy.



**Donna Saville**  
**William Saunders**  
**Charlotte Summers**

**January 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**January 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**January 17<sup>th</sup>**

## **Notices and Upcoming Events**

**January 2<sup>nd</sup> 5.30pm - First 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 suggestion for February, please let Mark know.

**January 10<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm – Second Saturday Supper.** We will gather at the Olive Garden Restaurant.

**January 11<sup>th</sup> – Birthday Sunday** – Please note that Birthday Sunday will now be celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

**Saturday mornings at 10am, we are studying the Book of Common Prayer.** If anyone would like to join us, please feel free to come to the Parish Hall.

**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:

Ed and Cheryl Stone (For continued healing and comfort)  
Alverita Egbert (For continued healing and comfort)  
Doris Millard (For continued healing and comfort)  
Jerry and Susan Fine (Continuing prayers for healing and peace)  
Carol Roselli (For continued healing and comfort)  
Mary Jane Mahland (For upcoming knee surgery)  
Bill Saunders and Dennis Gallus (For upcoming heart surgery)  
Harriet Kolen (As she heals from a broken ankle)  
Deacon Robin Hollis (Recovering at home)  
Andy Anderson (For continued healing and comfort)  
Paula A Jones, (For the repose of her soul, may she rest in peace)

We pray also for:

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

\*For the safety of our military involved in all conflicts outside of the USA.

\*All those military and government workers who were laid off or working without pay as they struggled to make ends meet and care for families. Their pay has now been reinstated.

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

