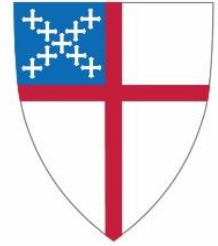




*St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church  
Newsletter  
April 2026*



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



*From Our Reverend Deacon Dottie*

### An Easter Prayer

Good and gracious God, our most glorious Creator, as we greet the signs in nature around us: Spring once again regaling us in bloom, in songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted, we give you praise for an even greater sign of new life the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time. The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality. For the resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason. Light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death. As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us, by imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalised, the least among us, as we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet. We ask your special blessings on all the world leaders as they strive to make peace for this our island home, Earth. We Praise you in this Easter Season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope. All this we ask in your name through Jesus Christ, Our risen Lord forever.

AMEN

*Paraphrased from prayer by Jesuit Priest, Fr Larry Snyder, April 8<sup>th</sup> 2013.*

HAPPY EASTER

Reverend Dottie Gutwein, Deacon

## From Our Bishop's Warden



Easter is here! He is RISEN! Our Alleluias are back! Join us for the annual Easter Brunch...sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall. Welcome Spring!

Your Bishop's Committee March meeting was a bit long as we had LOTS to do. But we accomplished a LOT. Several items will come up again in April, but we appointed, with the Bishop's approval, three new members, Andy Anderson, Juanita Schmidt and Catherine Foy. Feel free to contact me or any of the Bishop's Committee members with your suggestions and/or concerns.

We are still missing someone to volunteer to be the Junior Warden, i.e., someone who will facilitate and coordinate the building & property maintenance. Anyone, male or female, so inclined (called!) to help out with this position, please contact me, Father JJ or one of the Deacons. We have a list of resources to use for various jobs, so the work isn't all that time consuming.

All but one member of the Bishop's Committee were able to attend the Discipleship Day with the Bishop & her staff in Tucson at St Michael's and All Angels on March 14th. We had a great day of learning, sharing and fellowship. It was a positive experience for everyone with a tasty lunch included. The best part may have been travelling together in a 15-passenger van!

As we are a Mission now, we will have to revise our By Laws and other official documents. Again, I am asking for volunteers to serve on the Committee. Sharon Lake, elected to the Bishop's Committee in January, will head this committee, so she will coordinate with those on the committee when to meet.

Hope more of you join us for the Second Saturday Dinner. We want to see your shining face & get to know you better! Please check with Deacon Dottie or the announcement sheet for date and location.

I will be having surgery on May 1st, so please keep me and others in the Church in prayer for quick healing.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Rea*

*Bishop's Warden*

*Cell & Text: 520-227-3817*

[NancyR.realtor@yahoo.com](mailto:NancyR.realtor@yahoo.com)

## *From our Treasurer*



We have a collection of celebrations in this last week of March and beginning of April. It has been Equinox and Nawruz, meaning “new Day” in Persian, is the Iranian New Year, a 3000 year old spring festival celebrating the vernal equinox, renewal and nature’s rebirth. And Eid ul Fitr, one of two major holidays celebrated by Muslims and commemorates the end of the holy month of Ramadan, in which Muslims fast daily from dawn until sunset. We have Passover in the middle of Holy Week, and then Easter. And yet it is very hard to feel “celebration” in the midst of war and geopolitical stress everywhere.

All I can offer is that St. Stephen’s is doing well. We have a community of willing souls who serve as best they can. We have a new bookkeeper in our own Sandra Calhoun, and she is working hard to understand our collection of investments and bills and balancing acts. And I have a “new hat” in that we are without a “Junior Warden” at the moment. I am being a pipeline of information between the people who are willing to work our property and the Vestry/Bishop’s Committee.

We have had the property sprayed with herbicide for the spring, but some of the leftover grasses are still there. We will pull a map of our four acres and try to create some plans as we go forward.

And we have found a crack in one of the panels of the Wilder window that will need replacement, so we’ll look at that estimate.

As this season of renewal goes forward, may you find moments of real joy in your life and hold them as nuggets in the dimmer times.

Anne Roth, Treasurer.



## Notices and Upcoming Events

April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm – Second Saturday Supper. We will be meeting at Manda Le Bar and Grill, 3455 Canyon de Floris Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ 85650.

April 12<sup>th</sup> - Birthday Sunday

**Thanksgiving** for all those who volunteered to help with readying the sanctuary for Holy Week and Easter and with the Easter Pot Luck luncheon.

**We welcome** the new folks joining us since late March and hope they will continue in the fellowship of St Stephen's Church.

**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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## April 2026 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 April 4<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Jeff Spear	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Jeff Spear	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BIRTHDAY SUNDAY</b>	
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – Sharon Lake	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
<b>Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup></b>		
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – Nancy Rea	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM

# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	2 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6.00 pm Holy Eucharist	3 <b>Good Friday</b> 7.00 pm Quiet Remembrance of Jesus' Last Day	4 <b>Easter Vigil</b> 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
5 <b>Easter Day</b> 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	6 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	7	8 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	9	10 6	11 5.00 pm Service Followed by <b>Supper at Manda Le Bar and Grill</b> 6.30 pm
12 <b>Birthday Sunday</b> 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	13 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	14	15 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	16	17	18 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
19 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	20 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	21	22 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	23	24 <b>Newsletter Articles Due For May Issue</b>	25 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
26 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	27 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	28	29	30		

**Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>** will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of March. There will be cake for all to enjoy.



<b>Ginny Gisvold</b>	<b>April 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Eduardo (Eddy) Masga</b>	<b>April 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Esther L Wyatt</b>	<b>April 20<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Peggy Donovan</b>	<b>April 20<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Linda S Hunter</b>	<b>April 30<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Carol Roselli</b>	<b>April 30<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Patricia Wick</b>	<b>April 30<sup>th</sup></b>

# Prayer Requests

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:

Doris Millard (on going at Via Elegante for comfort and peace)  
Alverita Egbert (For healing and God's continuing blessings)  
Jerry and Susan Fine (Continuing prayers for healing and peace)  
Bill and Mindy Saunders (For continue prayers of healing for both)  
Pat Wick's niece Morganna and her family (Prayers for healing)  
MJ Mahland (Recovering from hip surgery)  
Sandra Dushensky (For healing)  
Nancy Rae (For upcoming surgery on May 1st and for a speedy recovery)  
Family of Martin McKinley (In the repose of his soul)  
Juan Ignacio (For the repose of his soul and the comfort of his Family, Dale and Hermila Elliot)

We pray also for:

St Stephen's Church Search Committee, that they will soon be interviewing prospects for our new Vicar Position.

All who have been affected by unreasonable violence, weather, and struggling to make ends meet/care for self and families worldwide.

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



If you wish to submit an article for publication, please make sure it reaches me by the cut off date which is the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the preceding month. Materials received after that date cannot be guaranteed inclusion.

Thank you, Diane Yancey, editor: [dianepyancey@gmail.com](mailto:dianepyancey@gmail.com)