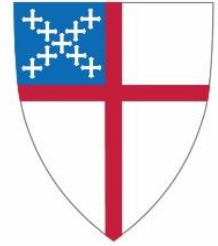




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
May 2026*



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



From Our Reverend Deacon Dottie

HAPPY MAY. This month brings many different celebrations:

Mother's Day on the 12th and Memorial Day on the 25th, also Cinco de Mayo, May 5th right after Star Wars Day. One day I don't think is remembered much anymore is May Day, the first day of the month. It used to be a special day when folk put flowers on the front door. Dancing around the May Pole was the day's activity for school children. It was to commemorate the beginning of summer and the joy of the new season.

My favorite is Pentecost, 50 days after Easter with joy and Holy celebration of the beginning of the Christian church. Every year the readings from Acts telling of the Holy Spirit coming down upon to so many from every nation is so profound. To me it is one of the most wonderful passages in the bible. Imagine being there in that crowd! Magnificent and mysterious! Everyone understanding in their own language that God is among them through the Holy Spirit. Wouldn't it be terrific if the whole world could be together the same way today? Let us show solidarity and wear red to church on May 24th in celebration of the Christian NEW YEAR.

Happy Pentecost Everyone!!! Deacon Dottie g

From Our Bishop's Warden



Hello St. Stephen's Family!

Your Bishop's Committee met on April 15th and worked hard on your behalf to move forward on several issues:

1. The cracked window behind the altar will be replaced with funds from the Wilder Endowment.
2. The cost for the damaged/destroyed sign & cross at the parking lot entry has been approved for High Desert to do the work & to be paid for from funds received from the insurance company.
3. The Treasurer & bookkeeper say, financially, we are in good shape for the present.
4. The Junior Warden has been asked to get estimates for the following items:
5.
 - a. Purchase of 2 defibrillators
 - b. Installation of push bars on all exterior doors
 - c. Replacement of the entry door to the enclosed porch
 - d. Cost to add EXIT signs to all exterior doors
 - e. Cost to re-key all exterior doors
 - f. Obtain 2 containers of NARCAN for possible emergency use to reverse opioid overdose
Approved annual cost of display ad in the Herald-Review on Worship and Spirituality weekly page (very inexpensive).
6. Approved expenditure of up to \$2,000 to replace Administrator's desk.
7. Approved expenditure of \$700 from previously approved donations (where funds were reimbursed) to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Look for a fun time creating multi-colored Origami Cranes in honor of Pacific Rim Christians. Hopefully, we will have enough to sway from the ceiling of our Parish Hall! ([See further info P6](#))

Father Bernal will be on his annual vacation from May 16th thru June 27th

REMEMBER TO WEAR RED ON PENTACOST SUNDAY MAY 24TH. It is early this year!

I hope to be well enough after my surgery to be with you by the middle of May.

Blessings to you all!

Nancy Rea, Bishop's Warden

From our Treasurer



It may seem odd to have Property Team reports from me, but a lot of this had to do with the long wait for insurance money on our big front sign, and then retrieval of interest income for the repair of the Wilder window. Both will be taken care of now. We are also looking at upgrading the safety of the property with proper Exit signs and push-bar doors in certain places.

Beyond that, my experience so far with St. Stephen's is your deep generosity that makes it possible for us to go on, to pay our bills, to repair things that need repair. The Vestry/Bishop's Committee has agreed to let Mark Sowards find a new desk. His old one – which is probably 50-60 years old – has literally fallen apart.

Some of the rest of us feel like “falling apart” too – but we are doing our best to fill the roles that need filling. Every functional department needs help right now, so if you have a little energy to help with the Altar Guild setting up and cleaning up before or after worship, if you are willing to train to become a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) and serve the altar, if you have a little time after a Sunday service to help us count the money (we always need two), please let someone know. We need people simply to read the Lessons at the services as well. Take a turn. Try it out. It's not a “lifetime commitment.” Talk to one of the Deacons. Talk to Nancy about being a Teller.

On the other hand, we are lucky enough to have two Priests now. Fr. JJ is here for Wednesday and Saturday services, and one Sunday a month. Fr. Henri Capdeville has celebrated for us on Sundays when Fr. JJ is not here. He preached on Easter Sunday and got some applause. They are quite a contrast! Whatever else is happening, St. Stephen's goes on. Thank you for YOUR support.

Anne Roth, Treasurer.



Notices and Upcoming Events

May 9th at 6.30pm. Second Saturday Supper - We will be meeting at the Bright Spot Restaurant on Hwy 92, Hereford. Please contact Deacon Dottie asap to reserve your place.

May 10th – Birthday Sunday.

May 12th - Mothers Day.

May 24th - PENTECOST!!!! DON'T FORGET TO WEAR RED TO CHURCH

Date to be arranged -Making Origami Cranes with Bill Roth – Watch this space!

May 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

Saturday May 2nd		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – TBD	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday May 9th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday May 16th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday May 23rd		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday May 30th		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector - Sandra Calhoun	Alter Guild – Deacon or LEM
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Sunday May 3rd		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Renee Olejnicak	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday May 10th	BIRTHDAY SUNDAY	
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Sharon Lake	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday May 17th		
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
Sunday May 24th		
LEM - MJ Mahland	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday May 31st		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector - Sharon Lake	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	5	6 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	7	8	9 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
10 Birthday Sunday 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	11 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	12	13 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	14	15 6	16 5.00 pm Service Followed by Supper at the Bright Spot Restaurant 6.30 pm
17 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	18 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	19	20 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	21	22	23 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
24 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	25 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	26 Newsletter Articles Due For June Issue	27 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	28	29	5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
31 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)						

Sunday May 10th will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of March. There will be cake for all to enjoy.



Jerry Fine	May 4th
Joe De Paul	May 10th
Timothy Holsonback	May 14th
Alesia Ash	May 16th
Tony Rosselli	May 18th
Mark Sowards	May 22nd

Origami cranes

Church's Asiamerica Ministries invite Episcopalians to make origami cranes for detained immigrants.

Origami cranes hang over the nave of St. Peter's Episcopal Parish, a historically Japanese church in Seattle, Washington.

Making each crane is an act of prayer for healing and wholeness.

In Japanese culture, the crane, or “Tsuru” in Japanese, symbolises transformation, healing and nonviolence. Origami “tsurus” are called “orizurus,”

The Episcopal Church's Asiamerica Ministries is calling on Episcopalians to make origami cranes for immigrants in detention as a symbol of peace and solidarity.

It is thought that making ‘tsurus’ would be a great symbol for us of our solidarity and prayers and presence. Through the wider Episcopal Church, many of goodwill are praying and present hope for much better things. Episcopalians participating in the project are encouraged to write prayers on the origami paper before folding the cranes.

Dates and times to be arranged – Nancy Rea, Bishop’s Warden.

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)

MJ Mahland (for healing)

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

Morganna (Prayers for healing)

Sandra Dushensky (For healing)

Nancy Rae (For healing and speedy recovery)

Ed and Cheryl Stone (Prayers during this difficult time)

Fr Henry Capdeville (For successful surgery and speedy recovery)

Safe travels for Fr JJ as he travels to Mexico to visit his ill brother.

Special prayers for all who are being conformed or received into the Episcopal church at Trinity Cathedral on May 16th including Doreen Oberg (our organist), Renee Olejnicak, and Sharon Lake.

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 or the editor.

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

Thank you, Diane Yancey, editor: dianepyancey@gmail.com