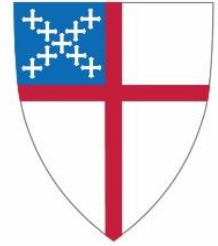




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
June 2026*



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From Our Reverend Deacon Dottie

As I write this, we are just entering the season of Pentecost. I am so filled by so much of Jesus' Ministry as told by the readings assigned at this time. The telling of the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit today followed by the celebration of the Trinity, May 31st so clearly defined the essence of what and how to live out our lives following Jesus' examples. Recently I was reading some notes in my ledgers concerning how to energize and rebuild our congregation. Although it's from a seminar taken years ago, but so relevant today. Our normal Sunday attendance is now 20 to 25, Saturday evening is about 12 to 15. Compared to before the pandemic, when we had 50 to 60 total at the 2 services, that is quite a drop. How can we regain the attendance? Thru the Holy Spirit working in those who come to gather for worship, fellowship, joy, grief, faithfully celebrating Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Weddings, Christenings, even the fear of disasters or impending assault by terrorists. The Peace and Love of St. Stephen's Church should be felt by all who come here to visit us and stay with them so they will return and be a part of us. After all, we can all be telling our stories of being a Christian to spread the word of our faith among those we meet throughout our daily life. It is not hard, just listen when if someone asks "where do you get so much joy in this depressing time". Your story may just be what they need to become our next church visitor! Let us all pray to God to energize us by spreading the words that will fill our halls and grounds with the flowers of Creation - both human and seeded by the earth. As the old song says, "They will know we are Christians by our Love, by our love----".

With Faith and Grace, we CAN achieve the goal.

Reverend Dottie Gutwein, Deacon

From Our Bishop's Warden



Hello St. Stephen's Family!

Did you wear RED for Pentecost? My sister, Marilyn, who was visiting to help me with driving & errands while recuperating from surgery, did on the 24th. It's a lovely color & I wear it frequently, but the symbolism for the day is a bit gloomy. Ask Deacon Dottie or Deacon Sherry for the full interpretation if you are interested.

We now move into "ordinary time" with green colors on the altar. This is the longest season in the Church calendar, a time to get ready for all the activities that begin in the Fall and Winter seasons.

Your Bishop's Committee met on the 19th and the Minutes are posted in the Parish Hall for you to read, so I won't elaborate them here. Just know we have contributed to the Bishop's Appeal, gave kudos to Anne Roth & Sandra Calhoun for the good work they are doing with our accounting, approved business items on the agenda, and changed the meeting dates to Tuesday's until Father JJ returns from Vacation in late June. Be sure to thank you Bishop's Committee members for their dedication to doing this work on your behalf!

We also discussed possible activities for the congregation to join in as the year progresses. Let us know your ideas, too!

Volunteering for small jobs that are essential to the Church functioning takes only a few hours a month at most. We are in need of people in the Altar Guild, Lay Eucharist Ministers, Lectors, Tellers & Hospitality Committees. Let me or Deacons Dottie and/or Sherry know if you would like to learn more about what the time commitment is for each area.

If you are travelling for vacation in June & July, be sure to let us know so we can keep you on the Traveler's Prayer List while you are gone. And, please keep up your pledges!

Sincerely,
Nancy Rea
Bishop's Warden

From our Treasurer



From the Treasurer: We have two new Tellers on the team, which eases the burden for the rest of us. Welcome to Ann Crandall and Nick Santanocito/Sowards! They have been brave enough to tackle the computerized portion of logging in the gifts. [I can't do it!] We always need two people to count on Sundays, and the second one recounts the cash, stamps the checks, and prepares the deposit slip.

Thanks to all of you for your faithful giving to the church. We have been able to repair and manage a number of things on top of keeping up with our bills.

For the Property Team: Each member has had a project to work on this past month. Gretchen invited the SV Fire Inspector onto the campus to review everything, and we made a couple of adjustments per his advice. Tim H worked on the Wilder window repair, and we were able to get investment interest money to cover the replacement of one whole section. That work should be done by June 1. Tim Ash was researching the replacement of the exterior door from the Fellowship Hall, and Pete C has been following up with High Desert Signs for our new sign out front. Half of their estimate was paid, and we are waiting for an ETA from them. Meanwhile, Tim H cut the grass, and Dan Torres, the Yardchitect, did some weeding for us.

Anne Roth, Treasurer.



Notices and Upcoming Events

June 13th at 6.30pm. Second Saturday Supper - We will be meeting at the Olive Garden, 1720 E 16th Street.

Please contact Deacon Dottie asap to reserve your place.

June 14th – Birthday Sunday.

June 19th - Juneteenth

June 21st - Father's Day.

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

June 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 June 6th		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday June 13th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday June 20th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday June 27th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
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Sunday June 7th		
LEM – Nancy Rae	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday June 14th	BIRTHDAY SUNDAY	
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – Sharon Lake	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday June 21st		
LEM – Nancy Rae	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
Sunday June 28th		
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – Nancy Rae	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	2	3 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	4	5	6 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
7 Birthday Sunday 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	8 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	9	10 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	11	12 6	13 5.00 pm Service Followed by Supper at the Olive Garden 6.30 pm
14 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	15 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	16	17 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	18	19	20 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
21 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	22 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	23	24 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	25 Newsletter Articles Due For July Issue	26	27 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
28 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)						

Sunday June 7th will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of March. There will be cake for all to enjoy.



Christopher Bateman

Allison Cornell

Mary Lowe

Sherry Simon

Donne Puckle

June 6th

June 10th

June 11th

June 14th

June 17th

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:

Alverita Egbert (For healing and God's continuing blessings)
Doris Millard (on going at Via Elegante for comfort and peace)
MJ Mahland (Having some post op problems)
Jerry and Susan Fine (Continuing prayers for healing and peace)
Sandra Dushensky (For healing)
Bill and Mindy Saunders (Continuing prayers for healing)
Fr Henry Capdeville (For his upcoming heart surgery)
Fr JJ Bernal's brother Manny (as he deals with an amputation of leg)

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.

Thanksgiving for all the Junior Wardens assistance in replacing the sign and cross damaged in October. Although they are not yet reinstalled, progress is being made and prayerfully done soon. Also, for the replacement of a large window glass behind the altar (believed to be a stone causing the crack which has spread since it happened)

Our Parish Administrator, Mark Sowards, has finally gotten a new desk and file cabinet installed. The old furniture was literally falling apart and was believed to be the original one since the 1960's.

We welcome our newly Episcopal Church members: Sharon Lake, confirmed; Renee Olejnicak and Doreen Oberg received into the Episcopal Church from other denominations. Deacon Sherry and I enjoyed sponsoring them and pray this is only the beginning of our church presenting newly confirmed and received members.

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 25th day of the preceding month. Materials received after that date cannot be guaranteed inclusion.

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