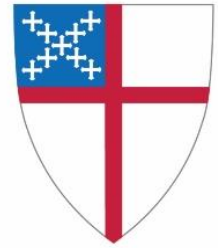




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
July 2026*



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



From Our Reverend Deacon Dottie

First, I want to thank Tim and Jill Holsonback for their assistance in changing our banners and altar dressings. Between Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday to the now season of Pentecost (Ordinary Time/Creation Care) they faithfully came all 3 times to hang banners, etc. We also have a new fair linen donated by them for the altar. Jill has redone the cloth which holds some of the altar frontals with Velcro. She also made copies of the Altar Guild instructions for caring for the altar linen. Their dedication to St Stephen's is inspiring and gratefully appreciated.

Our donations to the Naco Sonora school were delivered to a representative from St John's Church, Bisbee, during the first week of June. Also, the latest donations for Huachuca United Methodist Church have been taken to Pastor Sara Evans for her disposition. Our congregations have always come through when we ask for help for the surrounding area churches when there is a need. Many thanks to all who contributed.

In the past, we chose a rural school to collect supplies and deliver when schools open in August. I will contact Jackie Clay, Superintendent of Cochise County School District for a list of the neediest schools. As soon as one is identified, I will put it in the announcements so we can start gathering paper, pencils, etc.

Because the month of May and June have been very busy with vacations and hospital visits, I have not had much time to do anything on a more personal level. Please forgive the brief message this month.

Hope you all have a SAFE and Blessed Fourth of July, Happy 250th Year USA!!!!

Respectfully yours, Deacon Dottie g



From Our Bishop's Warden



Hello St. Stephen's Family!

Welcome Summer!

Monsoon rains have started! We had 3 heavy downpours yesterday (6/24/26) that filled my rain barrels. Hope your summer is just warm and not temperatures too hot wherever you are!

The last Bishop's Committee meeting was sparsely attended, but we had a quorum and were able to conduct business. Not much new, mostly just updating old business & making an attempt to recognize important dates & plan for the rest of the year.

One of the major activities is our Stewardship Campaign for the fall. The Bishop's Committee would like to have a catered lunch for the whole congregation in October with a guest speaker. I have contacted Clyde Kunz, Stewardship Chair for the Diocese. He has agreed to come join us in October to kick off our Campaign. There are funds in the budget for the luncheon, so now all we need is a generous volunteer to plan the event.

Won't YOU step up to help plan this fun event where we can all share a lovely catered lunch? Other suggested events are: Grandparents Day in September, Thanksgiving Lunch in November and, of course, the Christmas Holidays in December. Then there's the Annual Meeting in January, just to name a few.

We don't have a date yet, however, Bill Roth, Anne's husband, has volunteered to teach us how to fold Origami Cranes that other congregations have made to honor immigrants in our communities. Let me know if you are interested and we will set a date...it should be a very pleasing activity to get together to learn this skill!

Happy Independence Day for the 250th time! Enjoy the fireworks and special events!!

Warm regards,
Nancy Rea
Bishop's Warden



From our Treasurer



Property Team report:

Thanks to Tim Holsonback for supervising the replacement and installation of the new piece of the Wilder window in the church. We were able to cover the majority of the cost with interest income from the invested Wilder account with ECF. There was a little extra for the tinting to match the existing windows.

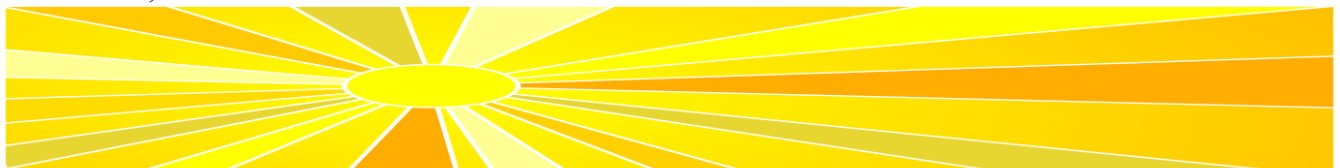
Thanks to Mark Sowards for running interference while Anne was out of the state for a few days.

Thanks to Pete Criscuolo for following up with High Desert Signs about our replacement signage out front.

From the Treasurer:

At the summer turning of the seasons, we are seeing people come and go on various journeys. This is often a time when people forget that the work of the church goes on, so please don't forget your pledge when you take a break. Beyond that, our "bottom line" looks like it is dropping sharply because some of the money we have been sitting on was insurance repayment for the damaged sign out front. Needless to say, it is costing more to replace it than it cost some years ago. Some of what we spent on repairing the Wilder window came in as "interest income" from the invested funds, and that has gone out. And some of the change of Rector/Vicar took months to straighten out with the Diocesan Finance Department. We are also paying our Sunday celebrant for serving our community on the weeks when the Vicar is not present. Otherwise, "the beat goes on, on, on . . . Have a lovely summer!"

Anne Roth, Treasurer.



Notices and Upcoming Events

June 11th at 6.30pm. Second Saturday Supper - We will be meeting at Vinny's Pizza, off Hwy 92. Please RSVP to Deacon Dottie so reservations can be made early. Telephone: 520 737 5025

July 12th – Birthday Sunday.

Deacon Sherry and I are looking for someone (or 2 or more) who would like to join the Altar Guild.

*The Altar Guild is sometimes known as the quiet service because the work is done behind the scenes: caring for the soiled linens, washing the chalice and other elements used during worship, assisting with changing of seasonal altar colors and keeping the brass and wood polished. We will train you and work alongside as needed. Please let either of us know.

***We are also in need of volunteers** to read the lessons on Saturday 5PM and others to be trained as Lay Eucharistic Ministers who process with the Cross and assist the deacons and priest at the altar, and lead the Prayers of the People. LEM's are especially needed for both Saturday and Sunday services. Please contact Deacon Sherry with your preferred service so she can schedule you accordingly.

July 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 of substitutions and record the substitution on the document posted in the sacristy.

Saturday July 4th		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday July 11th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday July 18th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday July 25th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
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Sunday July 5th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday July 12th	BIRTHDAY SUNDAY	
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – MJ Mahland	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday July 19th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
Sunday July 26th		
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – MJ Mahland	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	2	3	4 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
5 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	11 5.00 pm Service Followed by 6.30 pm Supper at Vinny's Pizza, off Hwy 92
12 Birthday Sunday 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 Newsletter Articles Due For August Issue	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 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	30	31	

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



James O'Neil
Bruce Dockter
Anne Roth
Patricia Hickey
Cheryl Stone

July 9th
July 15th
July 20th
July 24th
July 28th

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 and Harriet Kolen (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)
Anita Hancock (at Life Care for Rehab of broken bones)
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)
The family of Peggy Brown whose mother, Ester Wyatt, recently passed away.

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

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