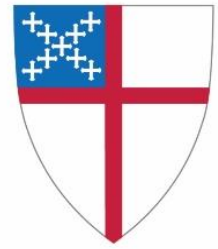




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
October 2026*



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From Our Reverend Deacon Dottie

Here we are another month already!

Well, first, a little catch-up on the Ash Creek School Supplies delivery. Thanks to all the generous donations from everyone, we managed to deliver many different items to the students. As I mentioned before, there are only 28 students in the whole school. It is a far-out, really remote location, tucked away in lovely farmland where the 4 buildings are located. On September 14, the drive there with the Cochise County School Superintendent, Dr. Jackie Clay, was quite the journey, passing by large and small ranches. When we arrived, we were greeted by the Principal, Sue Shepherd, who was absolutely delighted to see how packed full the county van was with all the supplies. She and her staff helped us to unload the boxes into her office for later distribution. We were then taken to the building which also housed the 3rd–5th grade class and the 6th–8th grade class. Pictures were taken of each room, and we chatted with the students and their teacher for a while. A short walk to the building housing the K–2nd graders through a shaded grassy lawn, was welcome on a hot sunny day. The little ones were the most animated when we walked in. They wanted us to play with them, so we sang a few songs and then, again, pictures taken. I am hoping to be able to send some of the photos to Mark for the Websites. The fourth building was a cafeteria and kitchen area but we did not enter there. After saying our good byes we travelled back to Sierra Vista in time to enjoy a truly hard downpour. I am grateful that Ash Creek was the choice for this year's visit. The experience was both grounding and deeply moving. Seeing the resilience and joy in those children was truly a blessing.

This month is full of activities: Oct. 12th is our Stewardship Luncheon with guest speaker David Chavez. The following weekend is the annual Diocese Convention our clergy and delegates across Arizona will meet and conduct business for the upcoming year. No worries—we will still have Saturday and Sunday services.

We honor Joan Strom on Oct. 19th with a memorial service followed by a reception in the Education Building. She was head of our Altar Guild for many years and a faithful servant to our parish. When later, as the month fades to more fall-like scenery, Halloween will be upon us again. Don't forget to stock up on goodies for all the little trick or treaters who will surely be knocking on the doors on the 31st. But also, bring a picture of whomever you would like to have remembered during the All Saints Day services on Saturday, Oct. 31st and Sunday Nov. 1st. The photos will be placed on a table near the altar for the duration of the weekend so we can collectively hold them in our prayers.

Peace and blessings to all. Reverend Dottie. Deacon

From Our Bishop's Warden



Joyfully, on August 23rd, Sandra Calhoun and I joined Father JJ, Philip & Deborah Girardin & the Elliott family at St Stephen's Church in Douglas where the Girardins were received into the Episcopal Church followed by a wonderful buffet lunch prepared by Rosario Bernal. Later that day Anne Roth & I met with Michael Coder, Caterer to discuss a menu for the Stewardship Luncheon on October 11th. It's going to be YUMMY!

Linda Hunter has moved from Life Care Center to Hummingbird Resort.

Deacon Dottie has been visiting her this past month. Sharon Douglas is now recovering at home and attending the Saturday Service again.

Sandra Duchensky's passing was honored with a service at Hatfield's in early September. Joan Strom, very active former member, will be honored with a memorial service on October 19th. Look for more info in the Announcements.

Second Saturday Dinner guests met at Buffalo Wild Wings on the 12th & all had a fun time. See the Announcements to know where to join us in October!

September 13th celebrated Grand Parents Day & September Birthdays after church with a pot-luck lunch. Alverita had multiple family members join us as she is a great-grand-mother as well!

Sadly, Father JJ Bernal will no longer be with us to serve as our Interim Pastor/Priest. He left this past Sunday for a new calling with the Diocese of West Texas and will be living in McAllen, TX to be nearer his family in Mexico, several of whom are in ill health.

JOIN US! For a catered luncheon to kick-off our Stewardship Event on Sunday, October 11th in the Education Bldg. The menu sounds delicious! Clyde Kuntz, Canon for Stewardship from the Diocese, will be with us. Let's give him a rousing welcome!

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rea

Bishop's Warden

From our Treasurer



Property Team [Junior Warden]

- 1) Thanks to Bill Roth for pruning the sagging mesquite trees by the driveway and parking edge.
 - 2) Thanks to Tim Holsonback and Pete Criscuolo for mowing and trimming the overgrown grass and weeds out front.
 - 3) High Desert Signs has installed the new sign, and said they would adjust their bill because they didn't have to create a new base. I still have not gotten a bill from them. [I forwarded a photo from my phone to Allison, and she said "Yay!"]
 - 4) Cochise Lock came to look at our exit door from the porch area of the hall, and you now have the many pages of an estimate from them for a push-bar and/or handle/lock repair.
 - 5) Air conditioner in the church shut down before Labor Day weekend, and Mark called Rite Way to check it. Their report was that all four units were improperly installed, and that the filters had never been changed. [8 years?] Their estimate for repair was high, so we will pursue a couple of other bids. [It turns out Allison was replacing the filters.]
- Meanwhile, I called Mountain View A/C [who has maintained our home for 6 years], and they sent someone within the hour. He replaced a capacitor in the downed unit, and ordered another part for us. He will be here on Tuesday afternoon to install that part. And the whole job cost us \$407.40.
- 6) I have not called Dan the Yardchitect about the weed situation. He cleaned us up in July. Do you want that done?

AND:

We have an estimate from Mike Coder for the Stewardship Luncheon on October 11th for less than \$400. [45 people at \$8/each] I have the menu from him, and you can see the list

Treasurer

Our summer income dropped a little, and we have lost a couple of members to illness or death. The balances will change how we cope with the repairs and the rest of the year.

Please consider what we may be able to spend for Better Bucks for the rest of 2026. Mark is now out of booklets to give away. I contacted Jim Howe, and he can get us 300 booklets for \$1800. Sandra dug through the records and unearthed one oddball line item called "Outreach – Other" with some money in it. We have no idea where that came from (one of Pam's add on line items?) If you are willing to close that line item partially or fully for Better Bucks, please vote for that.

Anne Roth

Notices and Upcoming Events

Saturday October 10th at 6.30pm. Second Saturday Supper - We will be meeting at Vinnie's Pizza, Frontage Road, Please RSVP to Deacon Dottie so reservations can be made early. Telephone: 520 737 5025

Saturday October 10th I will need 3 people to and arrange and set up chairs etc., in the Education Room ready for tomorrow's Stewardship lunch Please contact Deacon Dottie if you are able to assist.

Sunday October 11th – Stewardship lunch and Birthday Sunday.

Sunday October 18th – Another day for arranging tables etc., in the Education Room, after the morning service. The family of Joan Strom have requested that the reception following the memorial service for Joan may be held there. If you can assist, please contact Deacon Dottie.

Monday October 19th at 10am – Memorial service for Joan Strom, followed by a reception in the Education Room. The family only, will go to The Old Fort Cemetery for Military honors and interment.

Our kitchen is in need of a Sunday Morning helper. Linda Hunter is no longer able to set up the coffee pots and put out snacks for fellowship time after service. So, if anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Deacon Dottie.

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.

October 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 October 3 rd		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday September 10 th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Eva De-Bono
Saturday - October 17 th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – LEM
Saturday – October 24 th		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Philip Griardin	Altar Guild – LEM
Saturday - October 31 st		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – LEM
Sunday October 4 th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Susan Fine
Sunday October 11 th	BIRTHDAY SUNDAY	
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – Andy Anderson	Altar Guild – Renee Olejnicak
Sunday October 18 th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild – Susan Fine
Sunday October 25 th		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Philip Griardin	Altar Guild – MJ Mahland

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	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 2nd Saturday Supper at Vinnie's Pizza 6.30 pm
11 Birthday Sunday 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)	19 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	20	21 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	22	23 Newsletter Articles Due For November Issue	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

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



Brent J. Milgrom

October 13th

Debra Ash

October 13th

Harriet Kolen

October 20th

Marietta Conley

October 21st

Doris Millard

October 21st

Jill Holsonback

October 24th

Maryjane Mahland

October 30th

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:

Sharon Douglas (as she heals and rehabilitates at home)

Alverita Egbert (For healing and God's comfort)

Doris Millard (at Via Elegante for comfort and peace)

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

Bill and Mindy Saunders (Continuing prayers for healing and comfort)

Linda Hunter and Theresa Emrie (now moved to Hummingbird Senior Resort)

Sam (for God's healing after suffering a stroke)

For the family and friends of Sandra Dushensky who passed away on August 29th

For the family and friends of Joan Strom who passed away on August 30th

Please remember in your prayer, all those known to us, that they may rest in peace and rise again in God's eternal glory.

We continue praying for our church to receive a faithful Pastor to lead us in Worship and guide us to a fuller understanding of God's Word in our lives together.

We pray also for all those affected by the recent enormous storms, devastating fires and earthquakes around the world, and for the safety of all the first responders.

We pray also for all the Armed Forces who are in harm's way to be safe and return home soon.



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