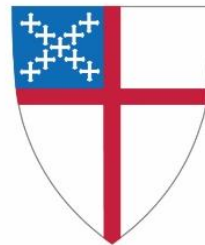




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
September 2026*



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



From Our Reverend Deacon Dottie

Going through some of my files, I came upon a couple of nice poems and want to share one, in particular, with you. It was written by one of my "Companions of the Holy Cross" friends. Kathy S. wrote it during one of our retreats' workshops.

REVELING

Prayer, Teresa said, will finally be
A simple conversation between friends.
Beyond the drama and the wilderness
The dry places and the upwelling springs at last, or
Intermittently, we settle to daily conversation.
That is all.

And sometimes, as today, the conversation lapses.
Nothing, really, now, to say and even though the
Silence might appear to be an invitation into some
Dramatic mystic moment, it is not exactly that.

Rather, a simple revelling: Contentment without content: Resting in the quiet being-here that long
love brings.

Faithfully submitted, Reverend Dottie G. Deacon

From Our Bishop's Warden



We are delighted to see Anita Hancock & her mom Harriet Kolen back at the Saturday evening services. We celebrated Michael Simon's Memorial Service and placing his ashes in the Columbarium on Saturday August 1st. Michael was Rev Sherry's former husband and father to their daughter Chelsea.

Rev Dottie Gutwein and I attended Rev Frank Bergan's Memorial Service & burial of his cremations at St Matthews in Tucson on July 18th. Fr Bergan was our interim priest several years ago.

I have confirmed with Clyde Kuntz, Canon for Stewardship at the Diocese, to be our speaker at the Stewardship Luncheon on October 11th, Anne Roth and her committee will be engaging a caterer and planning the luncheon to be in the Education Building after the Sunday Service on that day.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS LUNCH!

The Rev Robert Phillips, Canon for Deployment from the Diocese, met with the Search Committee on July 31st to go over our Profile and help us to refine it to help in our search for a new half-time priest for our (now) mission church. The committee is working diligently to meet expectations and hopefully be interviewing prospective priests soon. Unfortunately, there are 7 churches in our Diocese looking for a priest as well as 2 vacancies at the Diocese as well. It may be a while longer than we had hoped.

On July 18th Fr JJ performed a house blessing for Dale and Meela Elliott. Several members attended and the Elliott's provided us with tasty treats after the service. Happy Home, Dale and Meela!

On August 23rd Sandra Calhoun and I drove to be at the service with Bishop Jennifer Reddall at St Stephen's, Douglas. I was honoured to not only serve as the Bishop's Chaplain (for the 1st time!) but to also be able to present Philip and Deborah Griardin to be received into the Episcopal Church from our St Stephen's here in Sierra Vista. They are fairly new, attendees at services on Sunday mornings. Be sure to welcome them the next time you see them at Church or in the community!

Daniel, our Sexton, repaired the loose brass holder for the cross pole in the Narthex area, the broken hinge to the lazy-susan in the kitchen and adjusted the entry door from the porch to the Parish Hall. (Daniel was also received last Sunday in Douglas) Thank you, Daniel!

Have a wonderful, blessed September!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Rea
Bishop's Warden

From our Treasurer



As always, our summer income has dropped some. I am hoping people will be able to catch up as we go into the fall.

*Mark Sowards, our Administrator, reported an update on our Better Bucks Outreach program:

We currently have \$140 in registered booklets, 125 unregistered booklets for a total of \$765 in booklets available to help people in need. Additionally, we still have over \$1,200 available to assist with rent & utilities for those unable to pay those bills. The people asking for help are limited to just a few times per month or year to apply for help. These funds come from your generous donations to the Priest's Discretionary Fund & the monthly rebate we receive from the Diocese for outreach.

Thank you one and all for contributing to these causes.

Other news:

*An Award! St. Stephen's has been named "Best of 2026" - Best Episcopal Church in Cochise County based on reviews.

*We will be having a catered Stewardship luncheon in October with a guest speaker from the Diocese. It will be October 11th, so do put it on your calendar.

Anne Roth, Treasurer.

Property Team news: We are hoping the High Desert Sign Company will begin work on our big sign out front this week. The original cement base has to be replaced, including the electrical connections for the lighting, and then the sign has to be installed.

Notices and Upcoming Events

September 12th at 6.30pm. Second Saturday Supper - We will be meeting at Buffalo Wings, Hwy 92, Sierra Vista. Please RSVP to Deacon Dottie so reservations can be made early. Telephone: 520 737 5025

September 13th – Birthday Sunday.

September 13th – Grandparents Day. Join us after our service to celebrate Grandparents Day, a day that is near and dear to all of us. If you can, please take a look at the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to sign up to bring an item for our potluck. All are invited and welcomed, thank you!

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.

September 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 September 5 th		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday September 12 th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday September 19 th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday – September 26 th		
Sunday September 6 th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Sharon Lake	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday September 13 th	BIRTHDAY SUNDAY & GRANDPARENTS DAY	
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – MJ Mahland	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday September 20 th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild - Deacon or LEM
Sunday September 27 th		
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – MJ Mahland	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
6 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	7 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	8	9 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	10	11	12 5.00 pm Service Followed by 2nd Saturday Supper at Buffalo Wings 6.30 pm
13 Birthday Sunday 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	14 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	15	16 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	17	18	19 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
20 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	21 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	22	23 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	24	25 Newsletter Articles Due For September Issue	26 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
27 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	28 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	29	30 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers			

Sunday September 13th will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of September. There will be cake for all to enjoy.



**Dorothy Gutwein
Anita Hancock
Nicholas B Sowards
Adina Benford
Jeff Speer**

**September 9th
September 11th
September 14th
September 23rd
September 25th**

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 (Who fell and broke her femur and is in rehab at Life Care)

Alverita Egbert, Alice Priller and Theresa Emrie (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 healing and comfort)

Linda Hunter (At Haven for rehab)

Anita Hancock (For healing and physical therapy)

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

Peggy Brown (For comfort and sympathy after the passing of her mother, Ester Wyatt)

For the family of Patricia Hickey who passed away recently. May her soul rest in peace.

For the family and friends of Sandra Dushensky who passed away on August 29th. There will be a wake at Hatfield Funeral Home on Wednesday September 2nd from 4pm to 7pm.

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

Breaking News:

Fr JJ Bernal will be leaving to be a priest in the Diocese of West Texas. He will be living in McAllan to be closer to his family in Mexico. His last service will be on Saturday September 26th. Please hold him in your prayers.



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