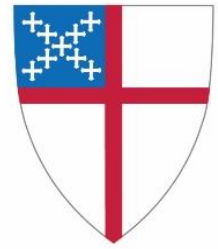




*St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Newsletter
November 2026*



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



From Our Reverend Deacon Dottie

In honor of Veteran's Day, November 11th, I offer the following:

Oh God, our Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with brave men and women who are willing to defend our freedom. May Your protection and grace surround them each day. Let Your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries. May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice rest forever in Your Holy Presence. Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember the precious lives of their loved ones. Help us to honor and support them. Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people by our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers and friends. Amen.

Thanksgiving Day, November 26th, at 10am, we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and then gather in the fellowship hall for our annual Turkey and fixings together. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please tell us what dish/dessert you are bringing and how many guests. Our potlucks are always fun, and NO ONE ever leaves still hungry. Maybe you will want to bring a container to take home leftovers.

The following weekend is the end of our 2027 Stewardship Campaign. If you have not already turned in your "giving pledge" for 2027, please remember to bring it on Sunday November 30th. There are extra cards on the table by front door if you did not receive one in the mail.

Happy Fall and looking forward to seeing you all on Thanksgiving Day (AHHH the fragrance of roasting turkey during the morning service!!!)

Reverend Dottie G., Deacon

From Our Bishop's Warden



Bishop's Warden's report for October 2026

The end of September saw Father JJ Bernal's last day with us. He is now serving in the Diocese of West Texas and living in McAllen, Texas. We wish him God's speed and a joyful life there.

Almost all members of the Bishop's Committee completed the Anti-Racism Training the first week in October. We found the training illuminating and helpful to our interactions with peoples different from ourselves to grow into the Beloved Community Bishop Curry envisions.

Stewardship letters went out to all members of the congregation the first week of October. We are receiving completed pledge cards each week.

Our bookkeeper, Sandra Calhoun, and I met and are working on accounts she has for income purposes. We should soon have a new list for the Tellers to work with to enter income for each week. We are also working to simplify the accounts she works with so that it will be easier to keep track of income and expenses for specific categories.

The First Aid and NARCAN boxes are installed in the Parish Hall and the Education Building thanks to Michael Powell. However, the first aid kit and NARCAN box are missing. Anyone who has any information about what happened to them, please contact Mark Sowards.

I had an informative conversation with Bishop Jennifer Reddall on the 9th. She and several staff members will be visiting Cochise County Churches on November 19th and all Church Members are invited to a meeting at 1:00 pm in the Education Building to meet with her. Following the meeting we are invited to have dinner at St John's Church in Bisbee at 6:00pm. We can meet at our Church and carpool to Bisbee for the dinner with other congregations in the Church.

The 2nd Saturday Supper was at Vinny's Pizza. There were about 8 persons attending. We hope to see more friends join us on November 14th at The Orient Express following the Saturday evening service.

The Stewardship luncheon was a great success after the Sunday service on October 10th. The food was delicious and we had about 30 friends attending. Clyde Kuntz spoke about his experience of Stewardship, encouraging us to remember that we become more interested and participate in those activities where we invest our money.

The Search Committee met as a result of the bishop suggesting we might be interested to follow up on a possible candidate from Tucson for our half-time priest position. The Committee is following up on the suggestion and more information will be forthcoming as their work progresses.

Nicholas Sowards and Anne Roth were our delegates to the Diocesan Convention on the 17th. Deacons Dottie Gutwein and Sherry Simon as well as myself were also there to vote. Deacon Sherry and Renee Olejnicak monitored the EFM table among many interesting vendors. St Barnabas in Scottsdale is a beautiful church and we enjoyed an inspiring communion service, lunch and a successful annual meeting.

On Monday, October 19th we celebrated Joan Strom's Memorial Service, followed by a finger-food reception.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Rea
Bishop's warden
St Stephen's Episcopal Church

From our Treasurer



Property News – All of the air conditioners have come up for service in the last month. The one inside the church stopped working in August – just about the time you still need it – and the estimate we had from one company was outrageous. I called the company that services my home, and the guy was there in an hour. Mountain View fixed both the units in the church for about 10% of that first estimate, and now are working on the 3 units in the Education Building. Meanwhile, Dan the Yardchitect tackled the worst of the monsoon overgrowth for us. And if you haven't seen the new sign yet, you haven't been to church in too long!

Property Team [Junior Warden]



Treasurer's News – We held a Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday, October 11 with a guest speaker from the Diocesan office. Clyde Kuntz came to share with us about his childhood lesson in “investment”, and the buffet provided by Mike Coder was very enjoyable. Mr. Kuntz was elected to the Standing Committee of the Diocese the following Saturday at the Convention in Phoenix, so we can now say “we have a friend in high places.” Nick Sowards and I were Lay Delegates to the Convention, and it was Nick's first time at such a gathering.

Pledge cards were mailed to everyone along with an invitation to the luncheon, and we hope to gather those back by the end of November. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me or Nancy Rea about the state of the church. Yes, we are small – but we are mighty! And the might comes from you and your generosity. Thank you for keeping us going.

Anne Roth, Treasurer.

Notices and Upcoming Events

Sunday November 1st Birthday Sunday.

Saturday November 14th at 6.30 pm. Second Saturday Supper - We will be meeting at The Orient Express, inside the Clarion Inn, Fry Boulevard. Please RSVP to Deacon Dottie so reservations can be made early. Telephone: 520 737 5025.

Thursday November 19th 1.00pm. All church members are invited to a meeting with Bishop Reddall in the Education Building, and afterwards we are invited to have dinner at St John's Church, Bisbee at 6.00pm. We can meet at our church and carpool to Bisbee to meet with other congregations attending. Please contact the office by November 5th to reserve your place.

Thursday November 26th Thanks giving day. 10 am service followed by dinner in fellowship hall. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board. Please tell us what dish you are bringing and number of guests.

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.

Deacons 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.

November 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 November 7 th		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday September 14 th		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Eva De-Bono	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday – November 21 st		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Saturday – November 28 th		
LEM - Tim Holsonback	Lector – Philip Griardin	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday November 1 st	BIRTHDAY SUNDAY	
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Sharon Lake	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday November 8 th		
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – MJ Mahland	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday November 15 th		
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday November 22 nd		
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Philip Griardin	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM
Sunday November 29 th		
LEM – Renee Olejnicak	Lector – Anne Roth	Altar Guild – Deacon or LEM

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Birthday Sunday 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	2 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	3	4 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	5 Last day to say that you wish to attend the dinner in Bisbee on November 19 th	6	7 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
8 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	9 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	10	11 Veterans Day 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	12	13	14 5.00 pm Service Followed by 2nd Saturday Supper at The Orient Express 6.30 pm
15 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	16 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	17	18 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	19 1pm meeting with Bishop Reddall in Ed bldg. And then 6pm for dinner at St John's Church, Bisbee. See notices.	20	21 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
22 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	23 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom	24 Newsletter Articles Due For November Issue	25 9.30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers	26 Thanksgiving 10am Worship and dinner in Fellowship Hall	27	28 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
29 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	30 Bible Study 3 pm Via Zoom					

Sunday November 1st will be “**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**” celebrating everyone who has a birthday in the month of November. There will be cake for all to enjoy.



Joseph Ash
 Alverita Egbert
 Norman Watkins
 Linda Milgrom
 Alison Martin
 Courtney Pitts
 Gretchen Lamberth

November 2nd
 November 4th
 November 11th
 November 12th
 November 14th
 November 22nd
 November 24th

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 (now living at Hummingbird Senior Resort)

Theresa Emrie (Mending at home)

MJ Mahland (For pain relief)

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

Wilma Swartz (For God's healing of her legs)

Remember our departed sister Joan Strom, may she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please keep Marietta Conley in your prayers. While visiting family in Phoenix, her house was badly damaged during one of our more violent recent storms.

Construction continues to repair the damage as she awaits and prayers they are finished soon.

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