

St. St. Stephen's E-Scene

Electronic News of the Episcopal Church in Sierra Vista, Arizona

April 17, 2008

New Building Update

From Father Victor

We have received our Site Plan back from the City of Sierra Vista. They have given us some more "home work" to deal with before they will grant final approval. Most of these items have been taken care of already: they wanted numbers on our average daily occupancy and to insure that we install the air conditioning units in a place that will keep them out of sight. The item that will drag out the project a bit longer is a "Geotechnical Report." I do not know the details, but I do know that this study is more detailed than the work usually done prior to the creation of a septic system. We have been referred to Western Tech for this work and the cost should be just under \$2000.00. Stay tuned for more tid-bits and this process develops.

Vestry Retreat - A Brief Report by Father Victor

Joe Ladensack, a member of our congregation for the past year and a half, led us in a tremendous retreat. Joe was trained in leading these kinds of discernment/planning retreats by the same people who designed the processes which led up to the "Camp David Accord" during President Jimmy Carter's administration. Joe has led many different parishes and church organization through this process and I am personally very grateful for his generosity in sharing this gift with us. As I mentioned in the weeks leading up to the retreat, we were about discerning God's on going call in our congregation, especially the call to mission. Through the process of the retreat we generated the following mission and purpose statements. The other retreatants and I hope that these will serve as a guide and inspiration for all of us, as we serve God and others through the next five years.

Mission Statement - *Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Saint Stephen's is called to: live the love of Christ and one another, dedicate ourselves to serve the needs of the people, and promote spiritual growth.*

Purpose Statement - In accomplishing our mission we purpose to:

Continue expanding and enriching our worship experience

Develop a more comprehensive outreach program

Establish and implement internal operating procedures

Implement a more comprehensive education, training and spiritual formation program

Create a strategic planning committee who will prepare and implement a plan for our growth as a congregation, the development of our facilities and professional staff

Develop and implement an effective marketing strategy

On **May 8, 2008** we will be having a **Parish Meeting** so that all of us can discuss these statements as a congregation. At that time, the other retreatants and I will make a more detailed presentation on our work. I am looking forward to hearing your reflections in the weeks ahead and on that day. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending.

Carr Canyon Kickoff for Formation of the New Youth Group

SATURDAY, MAY 3 - 10:30 a.m. and on . . .

All youth of 40 - 50 - 60 years are invited to:

 × **HIKE THE DAM ROAD**

 × **PLAY YARD GAMES**

 × **WALK A HISTORY TRAIL**

 × **HAVE A FEAST**

All 70 +++ year olds are invited to:

 × **PROVIDE FOOD**

 × **JOIN THE ACTIVITIES**

 × **SIT IN THE SHADE WITH LIBATIONS & STORIES**

Look for the green and/or gold sign-ups on the red bulletin board.

Fort Defiance Service Vacation

August 4 through 11

All who are interested in participating in the Good Shepherd, Fort Defiance Service Vacation this year may sign up on porch now. Cost of the trip is \$18.00 per night per person to stay at Hozho Retreat House. Cost of food for the week will be divided at end of the trip. Travel expenses are on our own. For further information, please contact **Dottie Gutwein, 515-0679.**

