

St. Stephen's E-Scene

**Electronic News of the Episcopal Church in Sierra Vista, Arizona
December 18, 2008**

A Final Holiday Outreach Opportunity

What is needed for our military family food baskets? There are three ways to give:
BRING a still frozen turkey and/or a ham to the ingathering at the **10:30 service December 21**,
WRITE a check to the church and memo the check Christmas turkey, or
SEND a check with Christmas Turkey memo, directly to the Chaplain's office. If you have questions contact
Keith Stearns, 24mkstearns@cox.net or 520-803-0855.

LAST CHANCE FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS!

We go to press on Monday morning! PINK flower forms are still available on the literature table at the door.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. STEPHEN'S

ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5:00 P.M.

**Celebration of the Christmas Eucharist and
Presentation by Our Young People**

The Carols of Christmas Beginning AT 10:20

Festival Choral Eucharist at 11:00 P.M.

THURSDAY MORNING AT 10 O'CLOCK

Celebration of the Christmas Eucharist

YOUR 2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES

... ARE READY ... beneath the book rack at the back of the church.

Presiding Bishop's Christmas Message 2008

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5).

The world settles into winter, at least in the northern hemisphere, and life to many seems increasingly bleak. Foreclosures, layoffs, government bailouts and financial failures, continuing war on two fronts, terrorist attacks, murders of some identified only by their faith -- this world is in abundant need of light. We know light that is not overcome by darkness, for God has come among us in human flesh. Born in poverty to a homeless couple, to a people long under occupation, Jesus is human and divine evidence that God is with us in the midst of the world's darkness. Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Divine Counselor is come among us to re-mind, re-member, and re-create. A new mind and heart is birthed in us as we turn to follow Jesus on the way. The body of God's creation is re-membered and put back together in ways intended from the beginning. And a new creation becomes reality through Jesus' healing work. Christians tell the story again each Christmastide, and the telling and remembering invites us once again into being

made whole. Our task in every year is to hear the story with new ears, and seeing light in the darkness of this season's woes, then to tell it abroad with gladsome hearts to those who wait in darkness. Where will you share the joyous tale of light in the darkness?

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

PUT YOUR ARIZONA TAX DOLLARS WHERE IT MAKES SENSE. This is a reminder about the "Give and Receive Tax Credit" for your contribution to Imago Dei Middle School through The Institute for Better Education. **Arizona taxpayers can give** up to \$500 as a single filer or \$1,000 as joint filers. Your willingness to give Imago Dei your AZ tax dollars helps us to break cycles of poverty through education. We need your support to operate as a private tuition-free school. Put Your Tax Dollars Where It Makes Sense! Visit Imago Dei online at www.imagodeischool.org or call 520.882.4008.

Wishing you a joyous Christmastide!
God bless us, everyone!!

