

St. Stephen's E-Scene

Electronic News of the Episcopal Church in Sierra Vista, Arizona
December 9, 2008

ST. STEPHEN'S CAFÉ - Saturday, December 13th

Cookies, Cakes, Mince Pies, Breads and More . . .

Come for coffee or tea with a treat and

Take home holiday goodies to share



NEXT SUNDAY - DECEMBER 14

Visitation of Kirk S. Smith, Bishop of Arizona

Confirmation at the 10:30 Eucharist - Followed by a Gala Reception

PRAYING THE PSALMS

Three Advent study sessions on **Praying the Psalms**, began last Wednesday and will continue on the **10th and 17th at 6:30 p.m.**, led by Jacquie Kelly. We are looking at several types of psalms, their place in Jewish worship, and how we can make them part of our prayer life today.

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.

Another Holiday Outreach Opportunity

During the thanksgiving season there were more than 300 military families who requested Thanksgiving food baskets. It is anticipated at least that many or more will need Christmas baskets. What is needed are turkeys or hams. 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.

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving our boys and girls presented an overflowing **TIN CAN EXPRESS** at the altar and loaded the trunk and back seat of my car to the brim. Green beans, corn, cranberry sauce and stuffing mix were everywhere. All of those groceries, together with a \$105 check for turkeys, went to the Salvation Army where they were received with a thousand thanks from the staff who prepared a magnificent Thanksgiving feast at the VFW Hall for well over a hundred hungry people. St. Stephen's is truly blessed with all of the loving, generous people who chose to share their Thanksgiving. Thanks to all! *Bonnie*



OUTREACH to our Apache Friends at San Carlos

Due to circumstances beyond her control, our delivery person was not able to go to Safford last weekend as planned. However, two other friends from St. John's, Bisbee picked up 50 blankets from St. Stephen's and together with their own church donations, delivered to 42 families on the San Carlos Apache reservation. Most families received more than one blanket since there were over 80 from this area alone. Also, the deacon at All Saint's, Safford had acquired many 'disaster' blankets which are felt and despite not being attractive will keep some folks plenty warm. The food box and blanket drive is always such a blessing to the recipients. But the real pleasure comes to those who actually do the work of sorting and delivery. The week before Christmas we will do it all over again for different families. Unfortunately, Safford's economy has had the bottom fall out with the closing of mines and over 1000 layoffs in the last weeks. This has hit the Apache nation hard and by December the need will be greater. so please keep your blankets coming. Our Outreach check assisted in purchasing frozen turkeys and perishables for both holiday meals. Many Thanks for your support! **Dottie**

Anyone and everyone who wishes to place any articles in *The Messenger* needs to get these to me gateside@cox.net or carol.gates@us.army.mil as soon as possible. The drop dead date for articles WILL BE Wednesday, 17 December. ABSOLUTELY NO EXTENSIONS. The reason for this is I would like to get this printed for our visitors over Christmas which is the following week. **Carol Gates**

Request forms for Christmas flowers are still available in the church this weekend.

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS AT ST. STEPHEN'S

ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5:00 P.M.
Celebration of the Christmas Eucharist and
Presentation by Our Girls & Boys

The Carols of Christmas Beginning AT 10:20

Candlelit Choral Eucharist at 11:00 P.M.

THURSDAY MORNING AT 10 O'CLOCK
Celebration of the Christmas Eucharist