

St. Stephen's E-Scene

Electronic News of the Episcopal Church in Sierra Vista, Arizona

October 18, 2007

The Year of St. Stephen 2007-2008

Honoring the Past + Celebrating the Present + Building the Future

THE EARLY BIRD HOLIDAY BAZAAR

is

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 - Beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Seasonal Crafts & Food - Soup Luncheon served beginning at 11:00 - Come One!, Come All!

There's still time to bring in your gifts and sign-up to help.

ANOTHER BUILDING PROJECT UP-DATE FROM FR. VICTOR

Today, I have several pieces of the project to report on. First, we received a grant of \$4000.00 from the Alleluia Fund of the Diocese of Arizona. Thank you to Hilda Hoffman and Bud Arnold for their "very" hard work in preparing the grant proposal on behalf of the parish. This money is to go toward the new building and the new initiatives we are starting with the Year of St. Stephen.

Secondly, we are hoping to have the Site Plan approved by the city around the end of November. This will include:

- Repaving the parking lot and adding green space to meet city code
- Location of the septic system
- Location of a storm water retention basin
- Routing of utilities to the new building
- Any other code requirements placed on us by the city

Thirdly, please mark your calendars! On the weekend of November 10 & 11, Bruce Dockter will make a presentation after each of the services. He will update us on the committee's work to date, finances for the project and the building that will be proposed.

It seems fitting, to take a little space here to review our needs (and goals) for this project. On any given Sunday activity starts just prior to the 7:30 service but get really busy as the clock ticks onward. The choir begins its rehearsal in the church, starting at 9:00. While this is going on we have the Adult Forum meeting in my office. Sunday School starts at 10:00. Two spaces are used as classrooms, the Fellowship Hall (Middle School and High School) and the porch (grade school). Which of course means that everyone arriving for the 10:30 service, using the bathroom or getting an extra coffee is walking through the classrooms while lessons are underway. Although the teachers and the students have been great sports about these disruptions, we need to remedy the situation.

As the time of the service approaches, the Altar Guild, Choir, Clergy, Acolytes and LEMs converge on our little sacristy. The room is host to as many as 10 people at a time and frankly, it's very crowded in there. We desperately need classroom and sacristy space on Sunday mornings.

I believe we need to accomplish four goals with this building project:

- Create new classroom space so that Sunday school can happen without the interruptions of traffic in and out of the hall
- Create new office space so there is a place for me to meet with an individual on Sunday mornings (we currently have no such space available)
- Turn our present offices into additional sacristy space and a meeting room for the Adult Forum

- Freshen up the fellowship hall and kitchen so we have a very hospitable space to gather before and after services, not to mention host new comers.

An added side benefit to building new classroom and office space is that we can move Cactus Wren Preschool out of the Fellowship Hall completely. Such a move would put the hall at our exclusive disposal 24 hours a day. Which means no more midweek complications when we need to set up for special events. This becomes very important when we need prepare for unplanned events like receptions following funeral services.

Fr. Vic, for the Building Committee

DINNERS FOR EIGHT

Beginning in November, let's mix it up with monthly Dinners for Eight . . . by sharing an evening or afternoon of food and fellowship with other members of St. Stephen's.

Add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to participate in these small, monthly potlucks. Put an asterisk beside your name if you would like to host an occasional meal. Each month you will be assigned to different host and another group.

This will be a wonderful way to get to know one another better during **THE YEAR OF ST. STEPHEN!**

FROM OUR NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY

Diamond Willow Ministries, Ft. Thompson, So. Dak. (Lakota Souix) received donations from St. Stephen's during the summer. Pastor **Rod Vaughn** sends the following message:

Dear Dottie, Thank you and all those who contributed with the wonderful quilting materials – they were all of the most excellent quality, very much needed, and greatly appreciated by the women here on the reservation. Thank you again and God Bless!

Our Mission to San Carlos Apache Reservation

Thanksgiving Food Boxes: On November 16 volunteers will meet at All Saints' Church, Safford to deliver the food we've been gathering for Food Boxes. After a supper offered for the workers by members of that congregation, the food boxes will be packed and made ready for delivery. Saturday, the 17th, at 8:00 am we will meet again at the church to load the delivery vehicles and proceed to the community center on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Our native guides will meet us and take each vehicle to the homes in the area. St. Stephen's will once again participate in the food drive. We will be joined this year by St. John's, Bisbee.

Lists of food requested are at the back of the

church, together with the red and blue bins to receive our gifts.

Beginning October 27, the food collection bin will be at the back of the church. In addition to the donations from church families, the Outreach Ministry will be issuing a check to help with the purchase of frozen turkeys, fresh fruit and sacks of potatoes that the Safford folks will shop for locally. We would also like to be able to provide blankets for the families in need. If can spare used, clean, warm blankets or flannel sheets please place them next to the food bin. On Thursday evening the 15th, all contributions will be loaded into the SUVs or vans of those who wish to join Jacquie Kelly and I to the Safford area on Friday afternoon. Please let one of us know if you are interested. The hope is that in total on that Saturday we will have 8 vehicles for delivery. We will be done by noon or before. A list of the food designated for packing into boxes for each family will be posted on the red board as well as the shelf over the food collection bin. In December we will do another drive for Christmas. Even though we do pack food boxes, perhaps we will just collect more blankets, socks, mittens and warm hats at that time and allow the Outreach check to cover food expenses. Thank you in advance for whatever assistance you may have to offer.

Dottie Gutwein, 515-0679 or svdots@hotmail.com.

ALL SAINTS DAY - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1
Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 6:30 p.m.