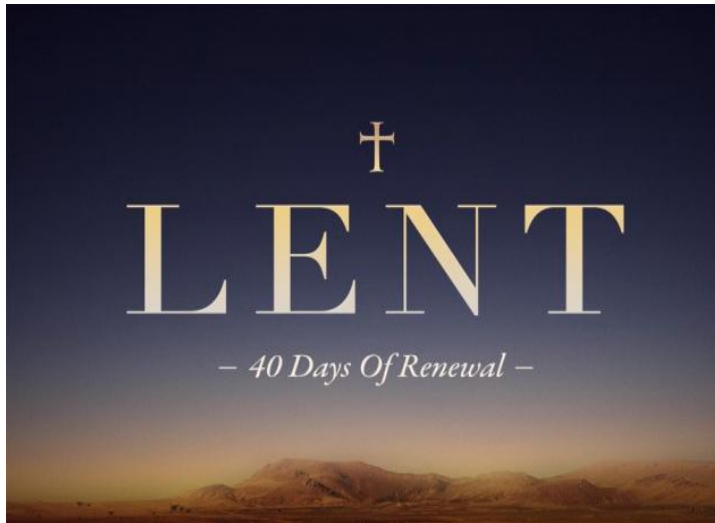
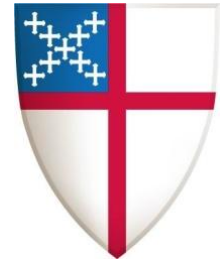




ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019



During Lent, Lord, help us grow in faith, hope and love – “and the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13, NRSV).

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, fasting, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-denial. This event is observed in the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, and Catholic churches. Some Anabaptist and evangelical churches also observe the Lenten season. Its institutional purpose is heightened in the annual commemoration of Holy Week, marking the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the tradition and events of the New Testament beginning on Sunday, further climaxing on Jesus’

beginning on Palm Sunday, further climaxing on Jesus’ crucifixion on Good Friday, which ultimately culminates in the joyful celebration on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Thus saith Wikipedia

Basic Facts About Lent

Liturgical Colors(s): Violet (Purple)

Type of Holiday: Fast

Time of year: Immediately following Ordinary

Time after Epiphany; calendar date varies

Duration: Liturgically Lent lasts 44 Days,

begins on Ash Wednesday and ends before the Paschal Triduum (and includes Sundays),

The traditional Lenten *fast* is observed for

40 days, starting on Ash Wednesday,

going through Holy Week, excluding Sundays

Celebrates/Symbolizes: Jesus’ time in the wilderness; Preparation for Easter

Alternate Names: Great Lent

Scriptural References: Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-1

Special Dates in March

- . **World Day of Prayer, March 1, 2019**
- . **Transfiguration of Our Lord, March 3, 2019**
- . **Shrove Tuesday, March 2, 2019**
- . **Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019**
- . **First Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2019**
- . **Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 10, 2019**
- . **Second Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2019**
- . **First day of spring, March 20, 2019**
- . **Third Sunday in Lent, March 24, 2019**
- . **Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 31, 2019**

GREETING S FROM REV. ALLISON



Hello St. Stephen's,

Hard to believe that we are now entering the season of Lent... Seems like Christmas was just last week, doesn't it?

We welcome Carol Dockter as our new editor of the newsletter and she is asking for your input as to the types of information

you would like to see in your newsletter. I have passed along several items including a list of projects that are in various stages of planning.

As we think about our Lenten season and its culmination in a glorious Easter morning, we can also consider our church in a similar way. For many years, our facilities have not had as much attention as they needed. The congregation has been in something of a desert time and is now coming out of the desert into a new time of ministry and growth. Just as Easter reminds us of Jesus' resurrection and the promise of a new life ... a transformed life... our church reflects that new life and transformed life.

The question for all of us to consider is what does that new life / transformed life look like? How will we help it come into being? How will we find the resources we need to make it happen?

The answer is in deep abiding listening prayer. I am calling us all to a day of intentional quiet dedicated prayer on Saturday March 30th. I want us to meet at church at 9am, begin with an opening prayer together, and then spread ourselves out around the church... inside and outside... in the sanctuary, parish hall, porch, nursery, choir room, offices, education building, *parking lot, yard, ... and enter into 3 hours of intentional prayer.*

Let us all ask God for his help, his guidance, his support, his resources, his inspiration. We want to be faithful servants and believe "not my will be

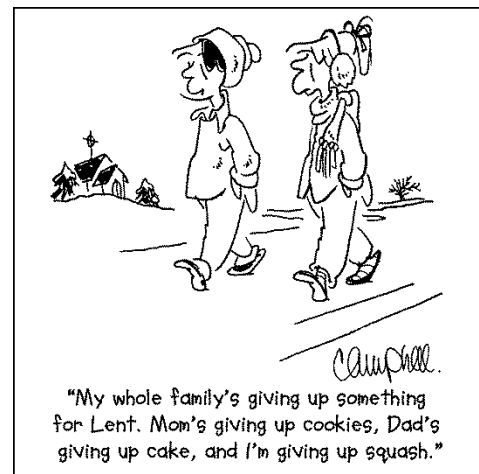
done, but yours, heavenly father." We want to turn to God as the source of all the good things and blessings we have received and thank God for those with hearts of gratitude. And we want to ask God, "Can you help us again? We need your help and we humbly ask that you would continue to bless us and keep us." There will be notepad papers posted in the parish hall. If something comes to you in your prayer time that you believe is from God, write it down.

At noon we will gather again for closing prayer. However, I ask that you continue to be prayerful in this way and listening for God's counsel and suggestions even after we conclude this devoted time of prayer.

I ask you all to join together in this intentional prayer time as the church family that we are... to pray for our future and where God is leading us and what God is wanting us to be.

God bless you,

Rev. Allison +



WORSHIP



Lent Begins Ash Wednesday

There will be three Ash Wednesday services this year. You can get your ashes before work/starting your day, at lunch time, or in the evening. This day starts our Lenten season in which we reflect upon our faith life and the places where we follow Jesus closely and the places where we have wandered off course. It is a time to deny ourselves certain pleasures in order to consider others who go without and our responses to their needs.

The services are at 7:00 a.m. 12:00 noon and 7:00p.m. Plus, there will be “ashes to go” from 8:00 am to 10:00 am

WORSHIP LEADERS SCHEDULE

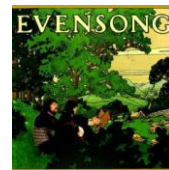
Sat. March 2: Tim Holsonback, Sherry Simon
Sun. March 3: Ed Stone, Nancy Rea, Eden Kulp
Ash Wed, 7AM: Dottie Gutwein, Sandra Calhoun
Sharon Douglas
Noon: MJ Mahland, Rosemary Snapp
Cheryl Stone
7PM: Bruce Dockter, Carol Dockter
Sat. March 9: Jeff Speer, Sharon Douglas
Sun. March 10: Dottie Gutwein, Ed Stone
Priscilla Burrows
Sat. March 16: Jeff Speer, Joan Strom,
Doris Millard
Sun. March 17: Ed Stone, Dottie Gutwein,
Rosemary Snapp
Sat. March 23: Bruce and Carol Dockter
Sun. March 24: Ed & Cheryl Stone, Nancy Rea,
Sat. March 30: Dottie Gutwein, Sherry Simon
Sun. March 31: Ed Stone, Nancy Rea, Eden Kulp

9:30 AM WED. MORNING CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER.

You are invited to join
in the Stillness



In our busy lives we all need moments of Stillness. Time to calm, relax, let go, find Peace, and maybe even connect with God. We offer several moments of quiet stillness and then prayers for healing for all sorts and conditions of people in the world. 30 minutes To just be still... and know God.



EVENSONG

WHAT IS EVENSONG? Choral Evensong as presented here at St. Stephen's is about a 45-minute long peace-inducing church service in which the song of voices sounding together in harmony is heard at the even point between the active day and restful night, allowing listeners time for restful contemplation. This is evening prayer being sung.

Join Rev. Allison, Wes Moulton and members of the choir on **Wednesday March 27th at 7:00 p.m.** for this peaceful service. But first, enjoy **soup and salad at 6:15 p.m.** in the parish hall. Take this opportunity to feed your body and soul! Evensong is offered on the last Wednesday of each month

EDUCATION



Sundays 9am – Where’s the Good News in the news today? Coffee and discussion of the headlines and what our response is/should be based on our faith as followers of Jesus. How does Scripture inform our response?

“Practicing forgiveness with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind”

We invite you to an evening discussion about how we live a life of forgiveness. As Bishop Desmond Tutu says, “The reasons for forgiving ourselves are the same as for forgiving others. It is how we become free of the past. It is how we heal and grow. It is how we make meaning out of our suffering, restore our self-esteem, and tell a new story of who we are. If forgiving others leads to an external peace, forgiving ourselves leads to an internal peace.” — *The Book of Forgiving*. Tuesdays **March 12 to April 16, 6 – 7:30pm. Snacks provided.**



EXPLORING OUR BAPTISM VOWS – Join us for supper and study Friday nights Feb 15th to April 12th at 6pm as we look deeper into the Apostles Creed and the vows we make at our baptism. How do we understand them and how do they help us in our daily lives to follow God’s will for us in this dynamic and complex world? Curious, skeptical, doubtful, questions and faithful folks are all welcome. These classes serve as preparation for baptism on Easter Sunday.

PARISH COMMUNITY AND EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes



Holy Hotcakes!

This year we are encouraging churches in our community to visit one of 4 local restaurants to eat their traditional Shrove Tuesday pancakes on March 5th. Each restaurant has pledged 10% of all participating receipts to go to Cochise County’s Meals on Wheels (also known as Senior Meals). Morning Restaurants are Landmark Café and Caffe O Le (7 to 11am) and Evening restaurants are Country House and Papa’s 50s Diner (from 4pm to 8pm)



Notes from Wes Moulton, Organist

Choir rehearsal continues to be every Sunday morning at 9:00 in the Nave.

They will be presenting Lenten anthems on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Also, in the musical works is a cantata on Psalm Sunday that includes congregational participation.



INFORMAL MEN'S GATHERING

We met on Feb. 16 for a shared breakfast and discussion of "Making our prayer requests simple." On Saturday, March 16 at 8:30 AM in the Parish Hall we will pursue the third topic on prayer. We will share a pot luck breakfast, so bring your favorite breakfast item. However, the most important thing to bring is yourself. So, please gather with us, Ed Stone and Bruce Dockter

Helping Hands Ministry

The Helping Hands ministry is available for anyone in the Parish who needs help with odd jobs around their house. Information and signup sheet are on the Helping Hands Ministry Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall. Bruce Dockter

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

Men and boys interested in sharing the mission of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew should meet at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall on Thursday, March 7. We will have a devotional and short discussion.



Help Wanted: St Stephen's Community Yard Sale Organizer:

This coming May, in addition to our wonderful Gloria Brunell's Rummage Sale (in the Education Building), we want to invite our community to participate in a larger yard sale. We will rent out some of our parking spaces to those who would like to combine their sales into one bigger sale on our property. Could be arts and crafts, could be stuff to sell... We also plan to have the Men's gathering cook up some hotdogs to sell with chips and sodas. Need someone willing to oversee the organization of the event. Please see Rev. Allison.



Thank you to the Men's Informal Unorganized Group for helping to move Mark to his new office location in the Education Building, painting the handicap parking symbols, and painting the entrance rocks.

Thank you to all who made the Installation Service so special – Choir, Altar Guild, Hospitality, Bulletins, Presenters, Ushers, Greeters, Servers, everyone who had a part in this day... thank you!

Thank you to Sherry and Renee for the ongoing help around the church with fixes and freshening up: Church sign lights, parking lot lights, toilets, bulletin boards, clearing out spaces, and getting bids on various projects.

Thank you to Ed and Cheryl Stone for new Handicap Parking Sign and supplies to paint the handicap symbols and entrance rocks.

Thank you to Harriett who bakes our communion bread!

Thank you to Wendy and Alvarita for help with our fellowship meals/coffee hour.

Thank you to Jill Holsonback for the beautiful new red frontal and matching priest stole that she made for the installation! The church didn't have a red frontal for the altar and now we have a very elegant one we can use.

MEET ALVERITA EGBERT

OUR SEXTON

The Egbert family of Ronnie, Alverita, 5 kids and a dog traveled from Atcheson, Kansas in the Fall of 1975. It could have been 6 kids and a dog; but, their oldest daughter had already married. Their adventure began when Ronnie was transferred from Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas to Ft. Huachuca to continue his career in communications. Nov. 1975 found them in their first Arizona home in Bisbee. Alverita began her career as a nurse at the Sierra Vista Hospital in April 1976. For 22 years she worked as a night nurse – 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. And, boy, does she have some stories to tell! In June 1976 they found a home in Huachuca City putting them both closer to work.



It was in 1997 that Ronnie and Alverita decided one Sunday morning to go back to church. They had been Episcopalians during their entire marriage; but, life with work, 5 kids and activities caused them to drift away for a while. Unfortunately Ronnie passed away 2 years after rediscovering St. Stephen's. Alverita has continued since that time to actively support the church. Her initial involvement was with the craft guild – crocheting is one of her favorite hobbies. She has also graced us with her other passions – baking and cooking..

It was Rev. Ben Summerville who encouraged her to do pastoral care and she has carried that into her ministry as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor. Other organizations that have benefitted from her caring personality have been the Volunteer Interfaith Caregiver Program (VICaP), St. Andrews Children's Clinic in Nogales and the Cancer Walk. She faithfully supported the children's clinic for 18 years working once a month. She truly loved working with the mothers and children who crossed the border for medical care. Many of the children had disabilities that needed special treatment.

Today, Alverita continues serving St. Stephen's through pastoral care and fellowship planning. She is also the Church's Sexton keeping our buildings clean and maintaining the kitchens. You can see her early one morning on Thursday or Friday emptying the trash cans, cleaning the bathrooms, dusting and mopping floors. She is to be thanked often for the loving care she has been giving St. Stephen's and it's congregation for the past 21 years.

She readily admits that she loves children. Her family of 6 kids, 14 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren is a testament to her love. She is blessed to have a loving and caring family and we can often see one or two helping her at the church.

Her hope for the future is that we grow as a church and have a Children's Sunday School. She is very happy that we have Rev. Allison to guide us.

VESTRY

Hello all,

Spring is finally coming to the area, with a few colder days possible. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to think about a few things. Are you a prayer? We are starting a "Prayer Tree". This is a list of those willing to get emails or calls, if no email, about prayer needs and thanksgivings as they come in. You then pray daily for those on the list for at least 2 weeks. For more information call or email me (270-348-7020 or cheryl.l.stone1@gmail.com). If this isn't for you we have other ministries you may be interested in such as Acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Guild, Choir, helping with yard or other work needed around the church, etc.

Lent is right around the corner beginning with Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Tuesday) Celebrated as "Holy Hotcakes" Have your Pancakes out at one of our participating restaurants and 10% of your purchase will be donated to "Meals on Wheels". A great way to begin the season! Ash Wednesday we have 3 services planned this year and we will offer "Ashes to Go" to the community. The UTO boxes and the calendar of giving is another.

Peace, Cheryl Stone, Senior Warden

Treasurer's Report for January reported at February Meeting

Income	\$6,750
Expenses	<u>\$15,807</u>
Difference	(9,057)

Income is under budget & expenses are over budget

The Vestry voted that new donations to the Capital Campaign be applied to the principle to get the mortgage paid off. Watch the big M on the Vestry bulletin board as we incrementally make it disappear! The next Vestry meeting is March 13th