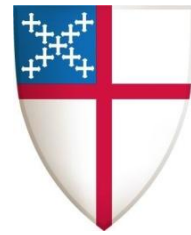




ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2019



Rector - Rev. Allison Cornell

Deacon - Ben Wetherill

Editor - Carol Dockter

WHAT TIME IS IT? ORDINARY TIME, OF COURSE!

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A FEW COMMEMERATIONS IN AUGUST

From The Episcopal Dictionary and Glossary

Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Feast that celebrates Jesus' radical change of appearance while in the presence of Peter, James, and John, on a high mountain . The Gospel of Matthew before them, and his face shone like the white as light." At this moment Moses and talking with Jesus. Peter, misunderstanding offered to "make three booths" for Jesus, overshadowed them and a voice from the Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen their faces in awe, but Jesus encouraged They saw only Jesus. This event is alluded that "we were eyewitnesses of his majesty" holy mountain." The Transfiguration the crucifixion, and it anticipated his may have given strength and comfort to his followed. It also prefigures the glorification



records that "he was transfigured sun, and his garments became Elijah appeared, and they were the meaning of this manifestation, Moses, and Elijah. A bright cloud cloud stated, "This is my beloved to him." The disciples fell on them to arise and "have no fear." to in 2 Pt 1:16-18, which records and "we were with him on the revealed Christ's glory prior to resurrection and ascension. It disciples in the difficult times that of human nature in Christ.

Celebration of the Transfiguration began in the eastern church in the late fourth century. The feast is celebrated on **Aug. 6**. This was the date of the dedication of the first church built on Mount Tabor, which is traditionally considered to be the "high mountain" of the Transfiguration. Others locate the Transfiguration on Mount Hermon or the Mount of Olives. Celebration of the feast was not common in the western church until the ninth century. It was declared a universal feast of the western church by Pope Callistus III in 1457. The feast was first included in the English Prayer Book as a black letter day in the 1561 revision of the calendar of the church year. It was included as a red letter day with proper collect and readings in the American Prayer Book of 1892. Its inclusion reflects the efforts of William Reed Huntington, who wrote the BCP collect for the Transfiguration. This collect prays, "O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the king in his beauty. . . ." (BCP, p. 243). (continued on page 2)

(The Transfiguration continued from page 1)

The Transfiguration is listed among the holy days of the church year as a Feast of our Lord. Other provinces of the Anglican Communion followed the lead of the Episcopal Church in celebrating the Transfiguration as a major feast. The Transfiguration gospel is used on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany in all three years of the BCP eucharistic lectionary. As an Epiphany story, the Transfiguration provides one of the most distinctive and dramatic showings of Jesus' divinity.

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**Mary the Virgin,
Mother of Our
Lord Jesus Christ, Saint**



Mary the mother of Jesus has been an object of veneration in the church since the apostolic age. She has been a favorite subject in art, music, and literature. Her humility and obedience to the message of God at the time of the Incarnation have made her an example for all ages of Christians. The following events of her life are in the NT: her betrothal to Joseph; the annunciation by the angel that she would be the mother of the Messiah; her visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist; the birth of Jesus; the visits of the shepherds and the wise men; the presentation of Jesus in the temple; the flight into Egypt; the visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve years old; the wedding at Cana; an occasion when Mary and Jesus' brothers asked to speak to him while he was speaking to the people; the crucifixion when Jesus commended her to John; and the meeting with the apostles in the upper room after the Ascension. Early in church history she was honored and esteemed. Irenaeus called her the New Eve, Athanasius taught her perpetual virginity, and the Council of Ephesus in 431 declared her Theotokos, Mother of God, because of the hypostatic union of divinity and humanity in the one person Jesus Christ. Anglicanism has not generally accepted beliefs concerning Mary's perpetual virginity or bodily assumption to heaven after her death, but some hold these views as pious opinions. In addition to Christmas, feasts associated with Mary include the Presentation, the Annunciation, and the Visitation. Mary the Virgin is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on **Aug. 15th**.

Bartholomew the Apostle, Saint.

One of the twelve apostles. His name appears only in the listings of the Twelve in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts. Many believe he is the Nathanael mentioned in John. Tradition, based on the writings of Jerome and Eusebius, says that Bartholomew wrote a gospel, preached to the people of India, and died a martyr. Hippolytus claims that he was flayed (skinned) alive, then crucified, and finally decapitated for his Christian belief. Bartholomew is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on **Aug. 24th**.



August Calendar

- 6th – Transfiguration of Jesus Christ
- 9th – last delivery of school supplies to Carmichael School
- 11th – Summer Book Read Along Starts – noon
- 14th – Vestry Meeting
- 15th – Saint Mary, the Virgin
- 15th – EFM Info Meeting – 6pm
- 24th – St. Bartholomew
- 27th – Blood Drive – 10:00am to 3:30pm

Come September

- 7th – Spiritual Practice Saturdays
- 8th – Christian Formation Opportunity
- 13th – Registration for Convention due

GREETINGS FROM REV. ALLISON



“Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.” Psalm 147:7-8

As I write this note to you, the thunder is rumbling in the sky and a nice heavy rain has rolled across our church and the surrounding neighborhood this afternoon... the monsoon, slow in starting has come to us at last. We who live in this corner of Arizona, this land of plentiful sunshine, are also so glad when the summer rains come. The plants green up, the flowers bloom, the grasses grow, and the earth seems to come alive. We thrill to watch the heavenly light show of lightning and give pause to listen to the symphony of thunder.

As a child, my mom told me, I was afraid of thunderstorms. She broke me of my fear by holding me at the storm door during a summer boomer, showing me the awesomeness of God at work in nature and showing that we were safe inside.

I still have that delight (and respect) in watching and hearing the thunderstorms as they rage and ramble around me in my house. And then after, the smell of rain in the desert or on hot pavement... ahhhh. I pray that the monsoons are a blessing to you this season... watering that which had grown dry and dusty, bringing forth new life, and thrilling you with God's majesty.

Peace,
Rev. Allison+

“



Greg Lamberth	Aug. 10
Agnes Quain	Aug. 16
Harriet Kolen	Aug. 20
Joan Strom	Aug. 23
Tim Ash	Aug. 24
Bonnie Anderson	Aug. 25



Please let Mark Sowards know the date of your anniversary. There is a space for it.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION PLUS



- **Summer Book Read-along** – We are starting a new book to read together and discuss: “**Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God**” by Dallas Willard. It discusses how do we hear God’s voice, how can we be sure that what we think we hear is not our own thoughts, what role does the Bible play, and what if what God says to us is not clear? The book is about 216 pages long and can be ordered for about \$7.00 each copy. Please sign up in Parish Hall for your copy. We will start reading together on **August 11th** at noon in the Parish Hall.

- **EFM (Education for Ministry) is coming! This fall we will start a new Education for Ministry study group.** If you are looking to go deeper in your understanding of the Bible, your faith, church history, prayer, worship, and discerning what your particular ministry is within the church, this is the opportunity you are seeking. Sherry Simon and Ed Stone will be organizing and facilitating the group. An informational meeting about EFM will be **August 15th** at the church 6pm. This is a life and faith transformational study that you will love.

Faith
makes all things Possible
not Easy

- **Spiritual Practices Saturdays will begin in September.** We will each month explore different ways to enhance our spiritual lives, our ways of connecting with God, our ways of praying, our ways of listening. The first session on **September 7th** will be exploring the tradition of “centering prayer” – a form of contemplative meditation. This practice will be led by Cheryl Stone who has been trained in this practice.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Columbarium Expansion – We have recently sold our last niches in the existing columbarium cabinets. We have contracted with a cabinet maker to build more cabinets that will max out the available space in our columbarium room. We have also done some price comparisons to other columbariums (columbaria???) and find that over the past several years, the cost of columbarium niches has risen while ours has remained steady. The vestry has agreed to raise prices on our niches from \$300.00 per person to \$450.00 which is still less than many other columbariums (for instance, the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery charges \$700.00 per person). This increase will go into effect November 1st of this year. If you would like to purchase a niche in the new cabinet niches at the current price, you can do so up to November 1st. The new cabinets will have 10 niches that will accommodate two persons ashes in one space. Those will be along the bottom of the cabinets.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Blood Drive to be held at St. Stephen's in the Education Building on Tuesday, August 27th, from 10am to 3pm. Per April Robbins, American Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator for Southeast Arizona, we are in an emergency need for blood right now. Blood is going out far faster than it is coming in and this can have an immediate impact on patient care. The need for blood is constant. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

We invite all who can give blood to please consider doing so. Blood can be safely donated every 56 days and Power Reds can be donated every 112 days. Donated blood is perishable. Red blood cells have a shelf life of only 42 days. Please sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org then search by zip code (85635) or call St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 520-458-4432, to make an appointment to give. All presenting donors will receive a free t-shirt, and a \$5 Amazon gift card.

Give blood.
Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.
American Red Cross



Blood Drive **St. Stephens Episcopal Church**

Parish Hall
2750 Cardinal Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Tuesday, August 27, 2019
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To schedule your appointment or for more information,
please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
or visit redcrossblood.org.

Amazon is thanking donors with a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card* July 29-Aug. 29. *rcblood.org/together



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App
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Supporting Carmichael Elementary School

Back to school supply drive is underway. Please bring in items to be delivered to Carmichael Elementary School. The last delivery will be **Aug. 9th**. Crayons, pencils, hand sanitizer, glue sticks, scissors, paper, kleenex are examples of items to donate.

Also remember that we support Peaches Pantry. This program feeds the school children over the weekend and other times that school is out. Children can't learn when they are hungry. If you don't know what to buy Peaches Pantry also accepts cash donations..



SPREAD THE WORD — We continue to seek a new **organist or pianist**. We thank Sharon Douglas and Doreen Oberg for sharing their talents with us to provide music at the 10:30 am service during the search. Please keep your eyes and ears out for someone willing to bless us with a music ministry. Please pray that we can find the right fit for our church

HIGHER CALLINGS?

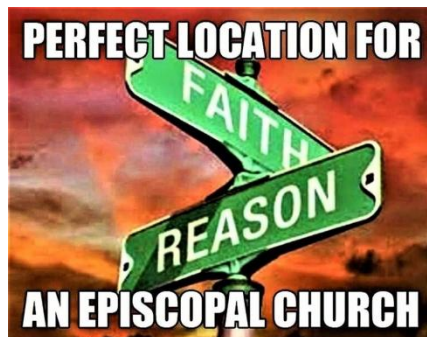


Dottie Gutwein and Cheryl Stone in discernment for the Diaconate – Dottie and Cheryl have begun meeting with their Parish Discernment Committees (PDCs) for prayerful listening about where God is calling them in their ministry. These meetings will continue up to September and then each PDC will write a letter to the vestry detailing what their discernment has determined. Please keep Dottie and Cheryl and their discernment committees in

prayer for God's will in their ministries going forward.

What is “discernment?” It is the process of determining whether a person has been called to be a Priest, Deacon or continue to be involved in a Lay Ministry. Here are the steps Dottie and Cheryl are taking and will be taking.

- They attended a Day of Discernment at the Diocese last May. The Day of Discernment is held only once a year in May.
- Next they sent a Declaration of Intent to the Diocesan Commission on Ministry who in turn asked Rev. Allison to form Parish Discernment Committees to work with the aspirants Dottie and Cheryl.
- A representative from the Diocese came to St. Stephen's to train the committee.
- The committees then each selected a convener and scribe from among themselves. The committees are now each meeting with their respective aspirants. There is a minimum of 3 meetings and can be more if needed.
- The final meetings will be without the aspirants wherein the committees will each determine the calling of their aspirant. The calling could be Priest, Deacon or in Lay leadership. A letter will then be written to Rev. Allison and to the Vestry.
- Rev. Allison will meet individually with the aspirants and if it is decided for one or both to go forward in the process for Priest or Deacon then they will meet with the Vestry to gain their support financially and spiritually.
- If Vestry agrees then official forms of intent are sent to the Commission of Ministry who in turn will send the aspirants to the Regional Commission on Ministry to be interviewed.
- After approval of the Regional Commission the final interview will be with the Diocesan Commission of Ministry who must give the final approval.
- If the calling is to become a Deacon the formal training will take 2 years of monthly meetings in Phoenix. If the calling is to become a Priest the training is 3 years of seminary.



PAST AND FUTURE STUFF

Our first wildflower seeds were planted Saturday July 27th in the southwest corner of our property. Now we wait for the monsoon rains to begin bringing them to life. We may not see the full extent of our labors until next spring, but we hope to see some of our wildflowers start blooming now as rains increase.

Our planting of these wildflowers is ministry of stewardship and care of God's creation. We have this land that we are not using fully for other purposes and we know that there is a crisis among our bee population for pesticide-free pollen and nectar. Using our property to provide a safe food source for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds is one way we can be good stewards of the blessing of land that we have been given. It can also grow to become a beautiful field of color to be enjoyed by the neighborhood. The flowers can be picked to adorn our Sanctuary and save us money buying flowers for worship services. Additionally, it is a way for us to also be stewards of our finances by eliminating part of our property from needing landscaping services that require more of our budget.



Nov. 15 - 16

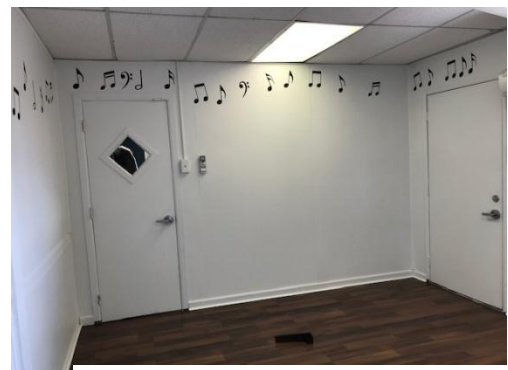
St. Stephen's will hold a combined Estate Sale and Rummage Sale with the Cactus Estate Sale company. They will bring in items, price, display, and sell things from their inventory along with our rummage sale items. By combining efforts, we benefit from their advertising, set-up, and salespersons. In return, we get 60% of sales on our goods (not on their inventory) plus a donation for the use of our space. More info on items that sell best will be coming soon.

Diocesan Convention – Oct. 18-19

The deadline for registration is Sep. 13th. The Church wardens, delegates and rector will soon be heading to convention. Others who would like to attend our new Bishop's first Diocesan Convention are welcome. The registration fee is \$60 per person. Dinner on the 18th is \$41 and dessert is \$10. Hotel accommodations at the Sheraton Crescent are discounted for us or you can make your own arrangements at nearby hotels. Please let Mark Sowards know if you are planning to attend and submit your payment for the event. We will send one check with our church's registration. For more information go to :<https://www.azdiocese.org/meetings/diocesan-convention.htm>



Church Picnic



Choir Room Makeover

First of all. Maryjane answers to “Maryjane” not” Mary.” However, we all lovingly know her as “MJ” and there is proof that she is “MJ” because it says so on the side of her car – “MJ the Pet Nanny/” Now, that is a title that she loves because she loves animals and has made it her profession to take care of other’s pets during their vacations, etc. Believe it or not, this became her life when she moved to Sierra Vista in 2006.



MJ is a “cradle” Episcopalian and was born in Oceanside Long Island, New York. She is the third child of the Mahland family with siblings Pat and Peter being first and second. Her family moved to Phoenix, Arizona when she was twelve. This was a traumatic move for this pre-teen because she dearly missed the ocean and the type of freedom she had as a child in Oceanside.

She completed her education in Arizona by graduating from Northern Arizona University in 1972 with a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree. After graduating she moved to California, lived in Lake Elsinore from 1972 to 2006 and worked as a graphic artist at Hughes Space and Communications Company. She actually had the opportunity to go to NASA with some of the Hughes engineers who used the presentation she designed.

With the onset of the computer she left Hughes and became a mail carrier in Laguna Beach. She worked at this job for 18 years. During this time she attended night school to become a Veterinary Technician. Before she was able to complete this course she moved to Hereford where when working as a mail carrier she bought some investment property. Well, guess what, that is where she is now living.

On her journey from Arizona to California and then back to Arizona she had some interesting experiences outside of her careers. One of the ways she uses her talent as an artist is to “cartoon people” and many along her way have enjoyed her cartoons. She even has a book registered at the Library of Congress. It is titled “Jim and Twing” and unfortunately it was never published. The cartoon book is about a student flying experience. MJ was actually the student and was on her way to getting her pilot’s license; but, her personal life got in the way and she didn’t get her license.

Probably one of the most important experiences in her life occurred at her church home of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Murrieta, California (a town near Lake Elsinore). It was here that her faith was restored through interaction with Rev. Janet Westfall and her involvement with various aspects of the church including Vestry, Choir, LEM, Master Gardener – a “jack of all trades.” But, truly, she will tell you that the very most important life changing event there was taking the Education for Ministry (EFM) course. Faith was restored and now, here at our own St. Stephen’s we are blessed with her smile and commitments of being a Greeter and a LEM.

Oh, by the way, she says that if you call her “Mary” she will fine you \$50.00.



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