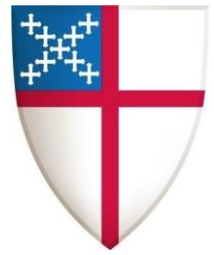




ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER February 2020



Rector Rev. Allison Cornell

Editor Carol Dockter



LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY!



Presentation of
Jesus Christ in
The Temple.-. **Feb. 2.**



Valentine's Day
Fri., Feb. 14.



Lent begins
Wed. Feb. 26



Yes, indeed this is a
Leap Year – **Saturday**

Matthias the Apostle, Saint



Nothing is known about the life of Matthias except the one mention of him in the Book of Acts. After the Ascension of Christ and the death of Judas, when some followers of Jesus met in the Upper Room, Peter asked the group to replace Judas with Matthias (Acts 1:12-26). Matthias is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on **Feb. 24.**
From the Episcopal Dictionary and Glossary

SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, many congregations offer a pancake supper which comes from the tradition from the medieval custom of using up all the cream, eggs and fat in the household before the Lenten fast. The word “shrove” comes from the verb “to shrive” meaning to confess and receive absolution, referring to the practice of going to confession at the beginning of Lent. *Submitted by Dottie Gutwein*

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is **February 26, 2020** - on Wednesday six weeks before Easter, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Christians worldwide honor the day by attending services at their respective churches. Lent is a time of



reflection on the transgressions we may have done the past year, a time of denying oneself of particular enjoyments or some prefer to take on a task or discipline out of their ordinary way. It is a time of prayer and some discernment of one's own spiritual life. In preparation for Ash Wednesday, the Blessed Palms left from the previous year are burned and the ashes stored in a container until the time of the Ash Wednesday service. The focus on the day is on penitence, or sorrow for sin, and fasting; the imposition of ashes is a reminder that we are mortal and that we receive eternal life as a free gift of God. After ashes are placed in sign of a cross on the congregation's foreheads, they read together Psalm 51 then pray the Litany of Penitence—a corporate public confession of our failure to love and serve and forgive others. The priest then pronounces the absolution we have been given by God. *Submitted by Dottie Gutwein*

GREETINGS FROM REV. ALLISON



Dear Friends,

We have just concluded our annual meeting weekend and we see that we have had a terrific first year together. We accomplished several of our goals concerning our mortgage debt and desire for air conditioning. We have done a number of other facilities updates or upgrades also. We are exercising good stewardship by caring for the facilities that we have received from church members that have come before us. Our church buildings are a part of our evangelism as we ensure those who come to worship, pray, learn, and fellowship with us feel comfortable and welcome in our faith home.

We have also been generous in our support of those who are less well off in our community through our giving of food, school supplies, kids and youth toys, clothes, and snacks, financial assistance for rent, hotel, utilities, and travel; support for the animal shelter with food, pet supplies, and monetary donations, and on and on...

And as we start a new year, we hope to help others with similar needs. However, we noted that our budget is in immediate need of support to allow us to continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. I will be reducing my time to $\frac{3}{4}$ time which reduces my salary by about \$15,000.00. The other \$15,000.00 needed to make a balanced budget needs to come from the church, from your generosity that I noted above is so evident in what we have been able to do together for others. If 15 people give an additional \$1000 each for the coming year (which works out to about \$20 each week), we will come very close to a balanced budget.

To help us in the years to come, we would also like to increase our membership. The single most effective way to add new members has been shown repeatedly to be the personal invite. Survey after survey shows that 75% or more of people queried have said that if someone, they knew asked them to come to church they would. I encourage us all to be the ambassadors for Christ that we are called to be.... To invite people to "Come and See." Come and find a family of faithful who pray, care for, worship, sing, grow, give and have fun together as the body of Christ in our corner of the world.

God is active and answering prayers in our midst. See our blessings all around us and invite others to be part of what we have found in our faith.

Peace and blessing be upon you.

Rev. Allison+



CONCERT AT ST. STEPHEN'S

PIANIST JOHN NILSEN

Friday, 14 February at 6pm

[This Photo](#) by
Unknown

Come hear professional pianist John Nilsen in concert on February 14th at 6pm in our church as he performs an hour of classical piano music and traditional hymns played superbly as you may not have heard them before. This is a free concert (with a free will offering). Bring your sweetheart or friends out for Valentine's Day and enjoy some delightful music on us. Afterward, enjoy a glass of wine or non-alcoholic sparkling cider, some cheese, or chocolates to continue the Valentine's Day celebration.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LENTEN STUDY

Lenten study to begin Sunday after Ash Wednesday: Practicing Courage with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Join us for weekly reading of reflections and sharing of thoughts about what it means for us as Christians to be courageous in our daily lives. Booklets available the week before Ash Wednesday. *Submitted by Rev. Allison*



PREPARING FOR BAPTISM AND LEARNING ABOUT THE EPISCOPAL TRADITIONS

Discussions about becoming a devoted follower of Christ in the Episcopal Tradition will be held during Lent in preparation for those who wish to be baptized (Easter), confirmed, re-affirmed, or received (April 26th) during the Bishop's Visit to St. Stephen's. If you would like to be baptized, confirmed, re-affirm your faith, or received into the Episcopal Church (from a different denomination), please see Rev. Allison. We will decide as a group what date is the best date for our discussions. *Submitted by Rev. Allison*

PARISH EVENTS

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will meet on **Thursday, Feb 6 at 6:30**. Please join us for worship, study and fellowship. We will be discussing Chapter 5 in Dallas Willard's "Hearing God; Developing a Conversational Relationship with God. Bruce Dockter is the contact.

INFORMAL MEN'S GROUP

All men and women of the Parish are invited to a potluck breakfast on **Saturday, Feb. 8 at 8:30am**. A topic of discussion will be emailed before the meeting. So, come all to break bread together and enjoy the morning fellowship. Please let Ed or Cheryl Stone know you are attending.

NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

Meet Your New Vestry:

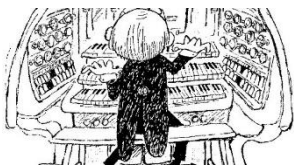
Senior Warden – Tim Holsonback
Junior Warden – Sherry Simon
Treasurer – Pat Wick and Charles Rouse (co-treasurers)
Clerk – Open
Members – Valla Miller, Priscilla Burrows, Liz York, and Charles Rouse

Congratulations and thank you all who agreed to serve!



Vestry Position Open

Following our Annual Meeting we have need of a Clerk or Secretary of the Vestry who will help to set the agenda, prompt ministry leaders for reports, disseminate reports, and take notes at the vestry meetings. Currently Vestry meets the 3rd Wednesday evening of the month at 5:30pm. This may change depending on the availability of members to meet at this time.



NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

Starting February 2 Mr. Mike Gilman will be joining us as our new music director. He

has recently moved to Tucson from New England and brings a lifetime of experience and passion to his organ and piano playing. Mike has played for Episcopal Churches before and is familiar with our liturgy, hymnals, and music. We are thrilled to have him with us and are hopeful for a long-term association with him as our music director. Please introduce yourself and help Mike to feel a warm welcome in our church.

Submitted by Rev. Allison

KITCHEN REMODELING



Kitchen remodel to begin in February. Pardon our dust and disarray as we work to update and improve our Parish Hall kitchen in the coming weeks. We hope to be completed by Easter. During the destruction and construction, we will have our fellowship/adult forum in the Ed. Building.



SUPPER???

Coming Soon: Rev. Allison is consulting with some of our other church pastors to see about a combined ecumenical pancake supper or mardi gras celebration for Shrove **Tuesday on Feb. 25th**. More details coming soon.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE OPEN HOUSE AND BLESSING OF HEIDI'S HOUSE

**FEBRUARY 22, 2020
1:00PM TO 7:00PM**

Heidi's House is a transitional housing for women in substance abuse recovery or domestic violence recovery. This new facility is named for Tim and Jill Holsonback's daughter Heidi who struggled with substance abuse for several years before succumbing to its affects. Rev. Allison will perform a house blessing as part of the grand opening. Come out and support this event and the ministry that will be done through Heidi's house for women in our community.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



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Ashes 2 Go! Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 26th this year and we would like to have some of our members participate in the Ashes 2 Go ministry by taking ashes out into the community. Last year we used the City Creek Furniture parking lot and our own church parking lot. If you have suggestions on places where we can be this year to meet people in the community with ashes for Ash Wednesday, please tell Rev. Allison. Rev. Allison will train those who would like to participate in giving ashes and prayer to others.

From Rev. Allison

FUTURE SPECIAL EVENTS

Celebrate **March 14th** (3.14) as National Pi Day with a Pie Auction to raise money for our Groceries 4U program. Bake a pie to donate for the auction. Needs to be a pie that can be un-refrigerated for several hours. Categories of pies to be disseminated soon.

Baptism Sunday March 15th – We will be baptizing Nicholas John-Patrick Savill, son of Donna and Shannon Savill at the 10:30am service. This was postponed from January 19th due to illness. Lunch reception will follow. Come and celebrate our newest member of God's Family in this outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace

GOOD NEIGHBOR ALLIANCE SEEKS HELP

Good Neighbor Alliance, our community's only homeless shelter that welcomes families as well as individuals is seeking help from the Christian Community. GNA needs help in the preparation of meals for residents! If churches or ministry groups within our churches could assist them, they are looking for help on 2nd Wednesdays, 2nd Fridays, and 4th Thursdays every month! For more information, please call Good Neighbor Alliance at 439-0776 to learn how you can help our neighbors in need!

Taken from the Sunday Bulletin

SPECIAL REQUEST

A 104-year-old Marine Corps veteran is asking people to send him Valentine's Day cards. He served in World War !!. He earned a Purple Heart for surviving the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945 when a grenade blew up near him. He has collected objects and filled scrapbooks; they all have their place on his history bookshelf by year. He would like to add the cards to his history. He will save every one. Please send him a Valentine's Day Card. The address is:

Operation Valentine
Attn: Hold for Maj Bill White, USMC
(Ret)

The Oaks at Inglewood
6725 Inglewood Ave
Stockton, CA 95207

**Happy
belated
Birthday** 

**To Mindy
Saunders**
12/21