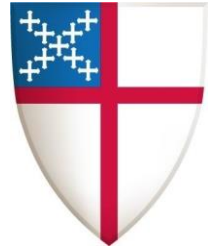




ST. STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

May 2020



Rector - Rev. Allison Cornell

Editor - Carol Dockter



YES, WE ARE IN THE SEASON OF *EASTER* UNTIL  
*PENTECOST* - MAY 31st.

*Alleluia*

## GREETINGS FROM REV. ALLISON



Rector's Greeting May 2020:

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Merry Month of May. We continue to shelter at home and take safety precautions as the pandemic grinds on. As Bishop Reddall said in a recent message to us, we are on the Ark with Noah's family and the animals waiting for a time when it is safe for us to venture out of the Ark. The number of confirmed cases continues to climb in our community even as we are still much lower than other areas of our Diocese.

That being true, your vestry and I have begun to consider what it will be like when we are allowed to resume our church activities. We expect that we will have a gradual return to church. Many of you may decide to stay home for a while longer. That is perfectly fine. Each of us will need to assess our needs individually and be compassionate towards ourselves and others. Others of us will come to church and continue to use personal precautions of masks, gloves, sanitizer, and distancing. And that too is perfectly fine. Your vestry and I will be writing our guidelines for resumption of services and activities and sending that to you probably near the end of the month.

One thing that we understand is probably here to stay is our video sharing of our services so that those who want to participate online can do so. Mark has moved a wi-fi signal extended into the Sanctuary and we hope this will provide a stronger and more reliable signal going forward to support our live streaming of our worship services. We will test that capability in the weeks ahead.

These continue to be difficult times to live through. Keep praying for all of us ... in our church, in our community, in our diocese, in our state, nation, and the world. Stay safe, stay healthy, stay connected.

Peace and blessing be upon you,  
Rev. Allison+





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### Concerning Weekly Worship:

Thank you all for your input and feedback concerning our weekly worship services. We have tried a number of different formats as we consider how to best provide ways for you to hear the Scriptures and engage with them in meaningful ways. We apologize for our live streaming difficulties and hope that moving a signal extender into the sanctuary may fix that problem. Please feel free to contact us and let us know what you appreciate about our online worship opportunities.

Bishop Reddall has extended our sabbatical from worshipping in person to May 25<sup>th</sup> and this will be evaluated again as we approach that date. The diocese will be offering us some suggestions and guidelines for how to reopen our churches when that happens.

### Abide in Me, says Jesus

During this time, another way to help improve our spiritual health is to pray and read the Bible. You can use our Book of Common Prayer (BCP) to find lots of different prayers. At the front of the BCP in the Morning Prayer (p. 55-60 and p. 97-102)-, Evening Prayer (p. 67-72 and p. 121-126), and Compline (p. 132-135) there are many beautiful prayers. In the middle of the BCP, there are the forms that we use in worship for the prayers of the people (p. 383-393). Going a little further in the BCP there is a section on prayer for those who are sick (p. 458-461). Additional prayers can be found towards the back of the BCP (p. 814-841).



An Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (BCP) can be accessed online at <http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/bcp.htm> along with other versions from other Anglican Churches around the world.

The Book of Psalms contains prayers that often speak to our emotions in a variety of situations, worry, fear, God's guidance and goodness, and many other ways that we might be feeling. We can also use the index or concordance at the back of the Bible to help us find passages that relate to what we are experiencing. For instance, looking up "worry" give us Matthew 6:25-34 in which Jesus tells us not to worry overmuch about anything. And Philippians 4: 6 says "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

I encourage you to spend some time each day with your Bibles and in prayer for the many situations that we find the world enduring at this present time. *Submitted by Rev. Allison*

## SOME SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY

*Submitted by Dottie Gutwein*



**MAY 1: FEAST DAY FOR Sts. James and Phillip**----St. James was the son of Alphaeus and was chosen by Jesus to be one of 12 Pillars of the New Israel, His Church. St Philip was called by Jesus to follow him, he in turn brought Nathaniel. In the Gospel of John 6:5-7, Jesus asks Phillip how they could feed the multitudes and that led to the feeding with loaves and fishes.

**MAY 10: - MOTHER'S DAY** - Anna Jarvis asked, in 1904, that a Sunday be dedicated to her deceased mother in their church in Grafton, W.VA. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of May as Mother's Day.

Mother's Day Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> - note from Rev. Allison

In honor of our mothers and those who have been like mothers for us, send us your response to this statement: "The thing I remember, love, and treasure most about my mom/aunt/grandmother/stepmother/extended-family mother is: \_\_\_\_\_." Please keep your responses to about 3 sentences. Your responses will be part of Rev. Allison's sermon that Sunday. You can email your contribution to [revallison@ststephensaz.org](mailto:revallison@ststephensaz.org) or call the church phone and leave a message at 520-458-4432

**MAY 21: ASCENSION DAY** always falls on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter (6<sup>th</sup> Thursday after Easter). It was not celebrated until the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The Christian Church believes that Jesus ascended onto Heaven in front of his disciples while in the village of Bethany near Jerusalem. In the Gospel of Luke 24:44-53, we hear that Jesus promised his Disciples they would soon get the Holy Spirit and they should stay in Jerusalem until he has arisen. As he gave them a blessing Jesus began to rise to Heaven to take his rightful place at God's right hand. The Ascension to all Christians was the conclusion of His work on earth and permitted him to make a place for followers on Heaven.

**MAY 25: MEMORIAL DAY** originated was called Decoration Day and was proclaimed for May 3 by General John A Logan, Leader for Northern Civil War Vets organization. In 1971 the date was changed to the last Monday of May each year by Congress. On that day, we honor all those who fought and died serving America and our freedom.

**MAY 31: DAY OF PENTECOST:** Happy Birthday to the Christian church!!! 50 days after Christ's Resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and other followers of Jesus while in Jerusalem celebrating the Jewish Feast of Weeks. It may have occurred in the same Upper Room (or Cenacle) on Mt. Zion where Jesus instituted the Holy Communion at the Last Supper. In the U.K. the day is called Whitsunday. The Liturgical Color is red, and congregations are asked to wear red.

## [MORE FROM THE DESK OF REV. ALLISON](#)

**Thank You** to the AA group "Surrender is Freedom" for donations to the Groceries for you (4U) program. While the AA Clubhouse (Serenity Club) is closed during this time, this AA group has been renting our Ed Bldg. room for daily morning meetings and have made generous donations to our grocery cards for our community members.

### **Church Landscaping**

We have hired some help (through personal donations) for our landscaping to mow, weed, trim, and remove certain parts of our property during this time of shutdown also. Most of the cactus on the corner has been removed and we hope to plant some different kinds of palms that can be used each year for our Palm Sunday. If you are interested in donating a palm tree for the front corner, let us know.

**Adam, our cabinet maker** is installing cabinets in the kitchen in the Parish Hall. So far, the work that has been completed in the kitchen includes:

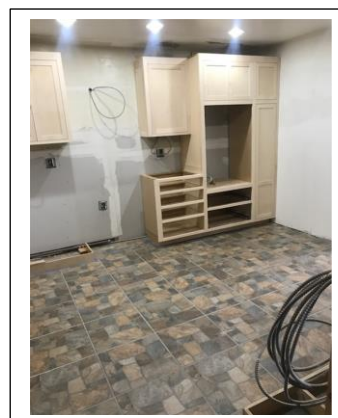
- Relocated the hot water heater
- Updated/installed new electrical wiring and electrical breaker box
- Installed ceiling can lights
- Moved gas line for new stove
- Installed new flooring
- Received new appliances

The remaining work to be completed is:

- Cabinets installed, stained, hardware added
- Countertops installed
- Tile backsplash to be installed
- New sink and faucet installed
- Appliances installed
- Under cabinet lights to be installed



So, things are moving along, and it will be really nice when it is all done... maybe in time for our return to worship.



*Thank  
you,  
Renee  
and  
Sherry,  
for the  
pictures*

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN TIM HOLSONBACK**



I hope everyone is doing well during our extraordinary time. Members of the vestry are still contacting parishioners by different means. So far, our congregation members are staying healthy, for the most part. As we all notice our desert is in full bloom.

Currently, we are still doing “remote church.” We are still experiencing growing pains with our Sunday service. Like you all, Jill and I experience losing the transmission, which is very frustrating particularly during Rev Allison’s homilies. But we move forward. The service with the Bishop was workable considering our circumstances.

Please continue to send in your pledges to the church, either by mail or the donate link on our <https://www.ststephensaz.org>. My home number is 520-459-1937; cell 520-227-4483; email: [Holsonback@cox.net](mailto:Holsonback@cox.net).

May God continue to bless us all during these extraordinary times!!

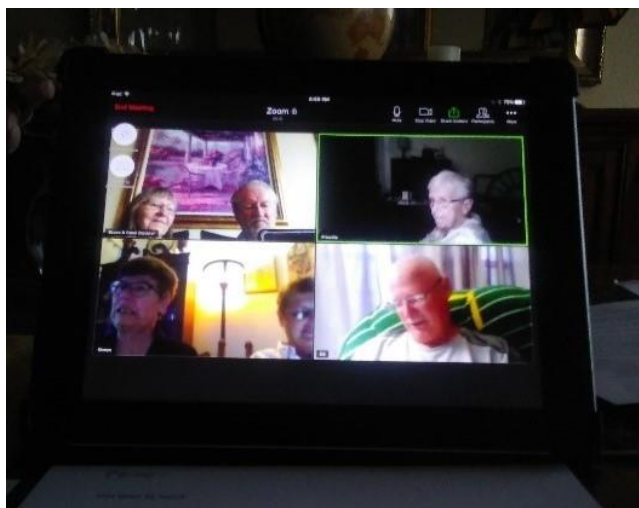




## Finding Purpose in Staying Home

For many of us we suddenly have lots of time on our hands and wonder what we can do that adds purpose to our days. Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Complete your 2020 Census online – participating in the census ensures that our tax dollars are distributed correctly for things like schools, public works, and facilities.
- 2) Spring cleaning/decluttering – Now is the time to go through those closets, storage bins, drawers and cabinets to clear out those items that you no longer can use, need, or want. When we can leave our homes again, donate your items to charity or have a garage sale.
- 3) Gardening – Pull weeds, plant flowers or veggies, prune shrubs. Getting out into the fresh air and sunshine improves our mental health and possibly our physical health too. Stay hydrated and use sunscreen, however.
- 4) navigate these unprecedented times in dealing with this virus and its associated effects on society.
- 5) Make masks – the shortage of masks and other supplies continues for our medical personnel and first responders. Nursing homes, retirement homes, long-term care facilities are often overlooked and are needing those supplies. Call to see if you can donate some to a local facility.
- 6) Feeding people – Food banks and pantries are struggling due to an increased number of people who are out of work right now. Make donations to those places to help others. St. Stephen's continues to offer our Groceries 4U grocery cards when we have the donations of money to allow us to buy more cards.



*Photo by Bruce Dockter*

### Education for Ministry (EFM)

Yes, this group has been meeting every Monday night. This is a meeting by ZOOM held the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Those in attendance as shown here are Carol and Bruce Dockter, Priscilla Burrows, Renee Olejnicak and Sherry Simon, and Ed Stone. Peggy Brown was in attendance until her internet did not cooperate.

### Tuesday Zoom Check-in Meetings

Get to see and hear Rev. Allison and fellow parishioners. These will continue at **12pm Noon** on Tuesdays.

Google Zoom to get on then type in the following where instructed.

Meeting ID: 228 666 9229

Password: 515266

### Special Prayers Needed

Please keep our Music Director Mike Gilman and his partner Maurice in your prayers. Maurice is quite ill, possibly with COVID - 19. Pray for healing, strength, comfort and reassurances

### Vestry Members and Rev. Allison

are keeping in touch through phone calls and emails – Please let them know how frequently you would like to be contacted. They want to be here for you but not pester you



Enjoy  
coloring  
from Rev.  
Allison

