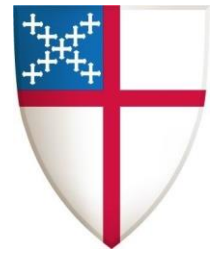




ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

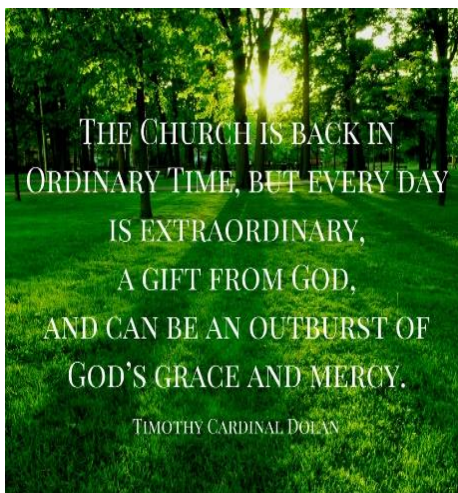
ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020



Rector – Rev. Allison Cornell

Editor – Carol Dockter

*Spring being a tough act to follow,
God created June
-----Al Bernstein*

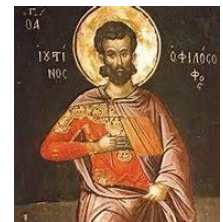


Ordinary Time includes the **Monday after the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday**, and the **Monday after Pentecost through the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent**. A vigil or other service anticipating the First Sunday of Advent on the Saturday before that Sunday would also be included in the season of Advent. Ordinary time can be understood in terms of the living out of Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. The term "ordinary time" is not used in the Prayer Book, but the season after Pentecost can be considered ordinary time. It may be referred to as the "green season," because green is the usual liturgical color for this period of the church year. Thus, the season falls within the late Spring and Summer months, when we see the natural world grow green with leaves, vines, and crops. Therefore, green symbolizes our own spiritual growth in Christ, nurtured by the Church and the Gospels.

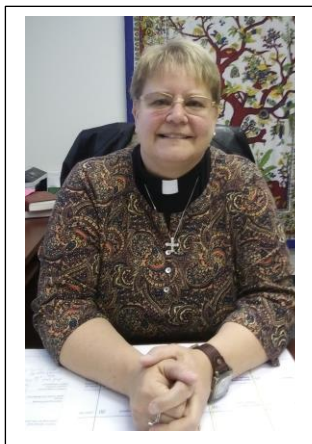
Taken from the Episcopal Church Dictionary and Glossary and St. James Episcopal Church

WHO IS JUSTIN, MARTYR AT ROME?

(c. 100-c. 165). Leading apologist, who has been called "one of the most original thinkers Christianity produced." He was born to Greek-speaking, pagan parents at Flavia Neapolis (Nablus), the ancient city of Shechem in Samaria. After a long search for the truth in pagan philosophies, he embraced **Christianity** around 130. Justin taught at Ephesus for a while, where he disputed with Trypho the Jew. Later he moved to Rome, where he taught for the rest of his life. His First and Second Apologies were defenses of **Christianity** against charges of atheism, immorality, and disloyalty to the Roman Empire. He defended **Christians** on the basis of their superior moral lives, and he defended Christianity as the oldest monotheistic religion and the true philosophy. In his Dialogue with Trypho the Jew, Justin argued that the church is the true Israel and that only **Christians** can interpret the OT correctly. He provides considerable information about the celebration of baptism and the eucharist in the early church. Justin and six other **Christians** were arrested and then condemned to die by the prefect Junius Rusticus. They confessed the **Christian faith** and refused to sacrifice to the gods. They were scourged and beheaded at Rome. Justin is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on **June 1**.



RECTOR'S GREETING – JUNE 2020



Dear Friends,

Years ago, I learned NOT to pray that God give me patience, because the way that God helps me to learn patience is to give me situations lots of situations.... that require me to have patience. It is the same concept of how to increase muscle strength... by using your muscles more to gain that strength... So, also, with patience... to improve our patience, God often responds with having to use our patience more...

The past months since early March have seemed like an eon ago while we have been subject to staying home and not having our church in-person worship. Like many of you I have missed not being together to share our lives, prayers, stories of what is happening with each other, and through it all the love we have for one another that comes through our hugs and smiles and holding each other in our hearts.

We had hoped that we would re-open at the end of May. Spikes in our Cochise County new case numbers have prevented that from happening. As stores, restaurants, gyms, and other places re-open for public assembly and more testing is done around the county, the increase in case numbers is not entirely unexpected. Given the gatherings that happened over Memorial Day Weekend when many people did not observe the precautions that the CDC, doctors, and experts recommend, I expect that the first half of June may see additional new cases here and around the nation.

Furthermore, I am aware that other churches in Sierra Vista are going ahead with their re-opening. I sincerely hope they do not suffer new cases among their congregations. However, caution and concern for our overall health and safety among our St. Stephen's family tells us to wait... to have patience. I have heard from Deacon Heather Rose at St. Paul's in Tombstone where they have had members, a husband and wife, get the virus and had to be taken to Tucson Medical Center. I would prefer that we avoid having any of our folks end up in a similar condition.

We have made it three months already. Another month to be more sure and more prepared seems appropriate. Let us all continue to improve our patience.

Peace and blessing be upon you,
Rev. Allison+



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Thank you to all our mask makers! We have 35 now and that may be enough for a while. We also have some disposable masks.

We appreciate your maintaining your pledges so that we can stay current with our obligations – Please mail, drop off, or submit your pledges online (see donate button on our website – www.ststephensaz.org).

Thank you to those who will be conducting Evening Prayer and Morning Prayer during Rev. Allison's absence from June 1 to Jun 14. Prayers for her safe travels will be greatly appreciated.

SENIOR WARDEN TIM HOLSONBACK'S GREETING – JUNE 2020

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. I have noticed an abundance of floral blooms in my neighborhood and driving in the country.

Around mid-May, we had hopes of returning to in person church services with safety measures in place the last weekend of May. A condition was 14-days of daily declines in confirmed COVID-19 cases by day. Unfortunately, during the 14-day period leading up to May 30, the number of cases increased so the count restarted. So, we will do church on-line throughout May and at least through June 14. Like you, Jill and I were very disappointed in this, but we will make it.

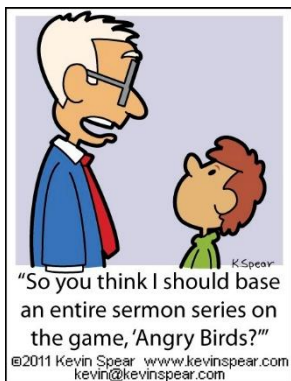
Reverend Allison will be on vacation the first two weeks in June. As Senior Warden, I will be overseeing the daily operations of our church. Mark Sowards will be working the office and I will be in touch for anything needing my attention. If you feel you need to get in touch with me, please call as mentioned below.

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.

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



CHRISTIAN FORMATION, ETC.



An opportunity to become a **licensed lay preacher** in the diocese is being offered! Successful completion of a preaching class and practicum will lead to just that. So, you just have to let Rev. Allison know that you would like to learn the fine art of preaching. Look for the class coming this summer.



EFM NEWS – Education for Ministry just completed this year's program. Since April they have been meeting via ZOOM. They found it frustrating by not meeting in person; but, also worthwhile. There are four people who completed Year One – Priscilla Burrows, Bruce Dockter, Carol Dockter and Renee Olejnicak. Peggy Brown completed Year Two AND Ed Stone completed Year Four. That means that he has completed the entire 4- year course!!! Shown above is Cheryl Stone congratulating Ed on his accomplishment. She had the honor of presenting his certificate of graduation at their home. This was so very fitting since she is a graduate of EFM herself. The rest of the class observed and were able to offer their own congratulations during their last ZOOM meeting. Thank you, Bruce Dockter, for the picture taken off the computer.

AGAIN CONGRATULATIONS, ED STONE!!!

Bible Study this Summer



You are invited to a ZOOM bible study to begin Monday, June 15th at 6:00 p.m to 7:30 p.m. Possible subjects are either Books in the **Apocrypha** or **Isaiah**. Sherry Simon is the contact person. You can let her know your interest by phone/text at 210-2026 or email sherrysimon@gmail.com.

A little quote attributed to Martha Washington: I have learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not on our circumstances.

Submitted by Dottie Gutwein

FUTURE FUN EVENTS



AN 80TH BIRTHDAY

Fr. **Donne Puckle** will celebrate his 80th birthday on **Sunday June 21st** and we plan to honor his milestone in some way as soon as we can. This may be in late summer. In the meantime, please send him good thoughts and prayers on this special Sunday.

FATHER'S DAY

Also, **June 21st** is Father's Day. The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the State of Washington. However, it was not until 1972, 58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official, that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States.



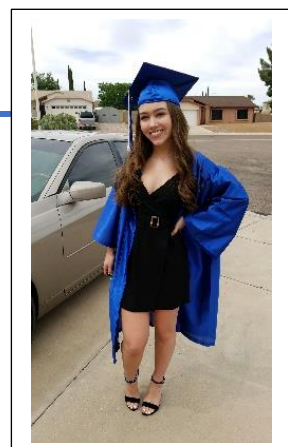
A BENEFIT CONCERT

St. Stephen's Music Director, Mike Gilman, will perform a concert on **July 5th at 2:00 p.m.** The hour-long concert will include various piano selections to raise funds for two humanitarian needs in Arizona – the families seeking asylum in Nogales and the Navajo land peoples hit awfully hard by the Covid-19 virus. In-person seating is limited to 25; but it will also be shown on Facebook Live. Donations to these two causes will be collected online on our website.



EDEN KULP

Long time members of St. Stephen's, Wendy and Kyle Kulp, are the proud parents of Eden Kulp who just graduated from Buena High School this past May. Eden submitted answers to questions about her High School experience and plans for the future. First of all, she is happy she graduated from High school. Even though graduation this year wasn't a traditional one, she joined others who came with their own families in their cars to get out of her car and walk across a temporary stage to receive a diploma. She will be attending Pima Community College in Tucson. She has already signed a lease for an apartment and will move in on July 1st. She admits being nervous but is also excited. She plans to do a year or two at Pima. Her real goal is to become a flight attendant and even though a college degree is not necessary she thinks it would be helpful to have at least one year of higher education. Being a social butterfly and having a desire to travel fits well with her goal of becoming a flight attendant. And besides, she noted, she does not get sleep anyway so "it all works out."



We, at St. Stephen's are proud to know this beautiful, thoughtful young lady and wish her well in her next life adventure. Congratulations to both she and her parents.