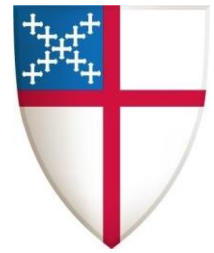




ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER JULY 2020



Rector – Rev. Allison Cornell

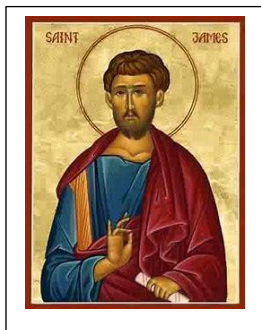
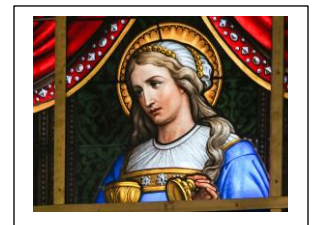
Editor – Carol Dockter

SOME COMMERATIONS IN JULY BESIDES INDEPENDENCE DAY

Submitted by Dottie Gutwein

July 22: Mary Magdalene, having been healed by Jesus of evil spirits and demons, became one of Jesus faithful followers. She became the first messenger of the resurrection telling the disciples “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18). In the Eastern Church, Mary Magdalene is regarded as the equal of an apostle.

From the book: Holy Men and Holy Women



July 25: St James the Apostle: He is the brother of John bar Zebedee. Both brothers left their father's fishing business to answer Jesus' call to follow Him. James was one of those chosen by Jesus to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus's daughter and the Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

July 29: The Anniversary of the first Ordination of Women by the Episcopal Church. Known as the Philadelphia Eleven, the women were ordained on this day in **1974**, 2 years before the General Convention affirmed and explicitly gave authorization for the ordination of women to the priesthood. Later, in September 1976, the ordinations were approved by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.



A SMALL HISTORY LESSON: Samuel F Smith was an American Baptist Minister, Journalist and author. He was best known for having written lyrics to “My Country 'tis of Thee “which he entitled “America”. 'Dottie discovered this little prayer by him in a Daily Devotions book in her library:



Long may our land be bright
with freedom's holy light;
protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

RECTOR'S GREETING – JULY 2020



Dear St. Stephen's,

The past month has been a real rollercoaster of ups and downs. We hoped our Coronavirus numbers were going to continue to stay low, but unfortunately, they have risen here in Sierra Vista and around the nation. We find that officials are re-instating and making mandatory the protocols of masks and social distancing and shutting down places where community spread is more likely.

The past several months has seen interruptions in work schedules, school schedules, sports schedules. Many have found they really enjoy working from home, or online classes. Others are rediscovering the joys of meals and spending more time together as a family again. And some are missing familiar old routines and social interactions.

Outside the home, a number of social justice concerns have become prominent to include a resurgence of calls for fair treatment of people of color emphasized by the Black Lives Matter movement, following several unfortunate high profile deaths of black citizens under police actions. Additionally, calls for reform of how law enforcement respond to various situations has sparked discussions on how we can improve emergency assistance. These protests have led to further actions to remove monuments and other symbols of our past that are considered as endorsing potentially racist ideals.

It has been a very emotional month of happenings around us. It seems so much is changing, and it seems to be happening all at once and coming from many different directions. It leaves me feeling off-balance, buffeted by the winds of change, and wanting to find solid ground. Maybe you feel similarly.

I think that is why so many of us want, desperately at times, to get back to what we would call "NORMAL." We want to feel comfortable and steady, with predictable day to day routines. And that is just not what our world is like right now.

So, where do we find that stability, that comfort, that reliable source that we can always look to for support? God, of course. Ancient times had their share of ups and downs also. That is why so many Psalms describe God as that solid and unchanging dependable source of support, a stronghold, a fortress, a rock, a refuge:

Psalm 9: 9-10: The Lord also will be a refuge and a stronghold for the oppressed,

A refuge in times of trouble; And those who know Your name [who have experienced Your precious mercy] will put their confident trust in You, For You, O Lord, have not abandoned those who seek You.

Psalm 37: 39: "the Lord is their refuge and stronghold in the time of trouble."

When you feel off-kilter, tugged and twisted around by the whirlwind events that surround us, remember God is always with us, in the storms and upheavals of life: In the face of many changes, God is unchanging in God's love and grace for us... He who was and is and is to come.

Amen.

Rev, Allison Cornell +



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WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Diocesan Sunday Worship: July 12th we are invited to join others around the diocese in a common worship from the Cathedral led by Bishop Reddall. The online connection link is: <https://www.youtube.com/azdiocese1> on Sunday, July 12 at 9:00 a.m. We will not be having worship at St. Stephen's that morning, asking you to please join the Bishop instead.

After the worship there will be a "coffee hour" for just the diocesan folks at 10am. Please do not share this info on social media (to prevent zoom crashers): To spend some time with the Bishop in the coffee hour session go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81023071234?pwd=aTJsSkZOQ0ZYU2FtRE1uWXNJZXg0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 810 2307 1234

Password: Episcopal

Join by audio only: 602-753-0140 (Phoenix)



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Small

Group Worship – We are planning to start having worship together in small groups of 10 or fewer starting **July 18-19-22**. This is tentative as we watch for direction from the Governor and our Bishop because of rising infection numbers. You will receive a letter or email (or both) that will let you know your assigned day/time to be able to attend worship in person. Many of our congregants will remain home for now and join us on our Facebook Live service Sunday mornings at 10:30am. The online service will be an ongoing part of our worship from here on.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HYMNS?

Dentist's HymnCrown Him with Many Crowns 🎵
Weatherman's Hymn . . There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
Contractor's HymnThe Church's One Foundation
Tailor's Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy
Golfer's Hymn..... There's a Green Hill Far Away
Politician's Hymn..... Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn..... Open my Eyes That I Might See
IRS Agent's Hymn..... I Surrender All
Gossip's Hymn..... Pass It On

SENIOR WARDEN TIM HOLSONBACK'S GREETING – JULY 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. If you have not been contacted recently, please call me as listed below.

Well, it looks like we will resume small group church on the weekend of July 17 and 18. If you attend a small group church service, congregants need to wear mask since this is a requirement for attendance. The pews will be marked off where congregants may sit in accordance with social distance practices. While we may speak the readings, we will not be allowed to sing for the time being. Also, all attendants must exit the sanctuary as the service ends. While this is not church as we like, at least, we can start coming together as a congregation again. With patience and understanding we will make it.

Also, while Reverend Allison was on vacation, the church operated on autopilot. Mark kept the office in order. When Reverend Allison returned, I told her the only phone call I received was from Dottie Gutwein and she wanted to speak with Jill. Reverend A and I agreed that God was watching over our church! Thanks be to God!!

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 EDUCATION

Books of the Apocrypha

Bible Study using Zoom happens on **Tuesday nights from 5-7 pm**. Please contact Sherry Simon for more information on this interesting exploration of some of the Books of the Bible that we do not hear much about.

KNOW YOUR HYMNS (CONTINUED)

Electrician's Hymn..... Send the Light
Shopper's Hymn Sweet Bye and Bye
Realtor's Hymn I've Got a Mansion,
Just Over the Hilltop
Massage Therapist's Hymn He Touched Me



Diocesan-wide book study “White Fragility: Why it is so hard for white people to talk about racism” by Robin Diangelo.

The Diocese began reading and discussing this book June 30th and will continue zoom meetings about the book through July 21st. Meetings are on Tuesdays from 5pm to 6pm. Please register with the diocese for this discussion. St. Stephen’s will also have a zoom meeting to read and discuss this book on Thursdays at 6pm starting July 9th. Please download or order your own copy of the book ahead of July 9th. Our zoom meeting for this discussion is:

SOME REMINDERS

Benefit Piano Concert July 5th at the church and on Facebook Live

Mike Gilman, our music director will be performing a piano concert at the church on **Sunday 5th July at 2pm**. He will play for an hour and the concert is to raise money to help two of our Arizona Diocese ministry areas: the asylum seekers in Nogales and the Native American peoples who have been hit very hard by Covid-19. Donations can be made online through our website. Seating for the concert in person is limited to only 10 and will need to follow the 6ft distancing and other precautions (masks, etc..). More info coming soon.

The Kitchen remodel is done!
See before and after below.



Preach It, Sister, Brother!

Rev. Allison invites anyone who would like to learn how to create a sermon and give it to a congregation to please contact her directly to let her know of your interest. She is trying to determine the best day and time to hold the class and needs to know people's schedules. Send her an email or call her as soon as possible.

AND for those who speed on the highway – a few hymns:

55 mph God Will Take Care of You

75 mph Nearer My God To Thee

85 mph This World Is Not My Home

95 mph Lord, I'm Coming Home

100 mph Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord. Give me the grace to see a joke, to get some humor out of life, and pass it on to other folks.

A sharing from Mary Wheeler to Carol Dockter

