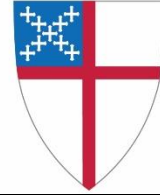




# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



April 2021

email: [mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org](mailto:mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org)

Telephone: (520) 458-4432

## From our Rector:

He is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!

Dear friends,

Happy Easter Season to us all! We say this Easter greeting each year: He is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! It is a greeting of joy and celebration for the annual Easter season. It is a mantra to remember and enthusiastically live into that life is eternal... that what comes after death is a new life... one that we cannot yet fully know.

That sentiment could not be more meaningful than it is this year. We are coming out of the pandemic and while we are not quite there, the signs are encouraging... many people are vaccinated or in the process of being vaccinated, restrictions are lessening, kids are going back to schools, businesses are reopening...

We are coming into a new life, one that has experienced much over the past year, and we do not yet know exactly or fully what this means for us and for the world as we enter this new way of being. We know the pandemic has left its mark on us... socially, medically, economically, technologically... and as we emerge from the pandemic, it will take time to see where God leads us next.

I for one am elated that we as a church family have survived the pandemic together. I know it has been hard for many of us to endure the separation and the protocols, but in the end, it worked. I don't know when we will move into phase III -- when we can resume singing, take off our masks (if we want to), and have fellowship again. Know this, when we can and when we do, It is going to be a GRAND CELEBRATION!!! Stay tuned. Until then, we continue to abide by the protocols and ask you to keep observing them yourselves. We are very close to our new normal and we want everyone to make it to the end.

Peace and New Life to us all,

*Rev. Allison*



### From our Sr. Warden

I hope everyone is doing well during our extraordinary time. On March 16, our 2021 Vestry Members volunteered to contact our parish members. It's important that we all stay in touch with each other. The Vestry needs to know how the church can help you, how you are doing, or what can you do for the church. If you have not been contacted recently, please call me as listed below.

My wife Jill received her second Moderna Covid shot on March 16 and I received my first one on March 18. When our congregation, as a whole, is inoculated for Covid-19, we can return to "normal" church. So, when a vestry member contacts you, please inform that person on your Covid shot status. Until then, we must adhere to our church's Covid-19 guidelines of social distancing, wearing a mask, etc.

On March 20, the church had our annual spring cleaning. While the work was hard, we had some good laughs and fellowship while doing various tasks. I re-learned just how work cleaning gutters is and how pine needles are not a gutters' best friend. Many thanks to all the congregants who participated.

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!!

### From our Jr. Warden

Now the first round of cleanup is complete, we cannot stop there! Many people put in a lot of hard work to spruce things up, both inside and outside of the church. Let us keep this going to keep our church vibrant and beautiful.

All are welcome!

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

+ + + + +

**April 23th**

### THANK YOU!

Jill Holsonback has volunteered to make new Alter Dressings which would be the Altar frontal, the lectern, the two curtain banter, and a veil for the chalice.

We are looking for your donations for the materials. Please make your checks payable to St. Stephen's. In the memo line put Alter Dressings.

For any questions, please contact Cheryl Stone at [cheryl.l.stone1@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.l.stone1@gmail.com).



### Bible Study

Every Tuesday at 5pm join in Zoom for an in-depth review of the Psalms.

We use several interpretations for a lively discussion.

The zoom link is: 811-888-8197.

From our Administrator Mark

Please notify the church office when you move or change phone or emails. If you change your email, please update your sign-on with our website prior to shutting down the old email.

Our office hours have really changed, but with Covid-19 impacts, they have been very flexible.

Standard hours are:  
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am to 2:00pm  
Wednesday 11:00am to 2:00pm.

**Where to sign up for a Covid-19 vaccine?**

Please see the following link which has information for residents of Cochise County:  
<https://covid-cochisehealth.hub.arcgis.com/pages/vaccines>

If you need help with registering for a vaccine, our church will help you. Currently only 65 and older plus those in certain priority groups like healthcare workers and teachers are being registered (groups 1A and 1B priority).



**Birthdays**

18 April: Eddie Masga

30 April: Patricia Wick

We need more Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Alter Guild personnel.

If you are interest in any of these positions, please contact Cheryl Stone at [cheryl.l.stone1@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.l.stone1@gmail.com)

**Holy Week Services**

Maundy Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> 6pm.

Good Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 6pm (outdoor service).

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service (outdoor service) 6am.

All services will be broadcast and in person.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday Lenten Reflection  
Episcopal Relief and Development  
Devotions**

Starting Feb. 21st, Rev. Allison will facilitate an online discussion of the ERD Lenten readings of the previous week. To attend the discussion, use the following Zoom link: Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86935184063?pwd=M0ZhWEc3NEVRVncvQUY5VjZSa2hUT09>

Meeting ID: 869 3518 4063

Passcode: 923037

Or Dial in by your location:

[+1 346 248 7799](tel:+13462487799) US (Houston)

[+1 669 900 6833](tel:+16699006833) US (San Jose)

**Episcopal Diocese of Arizona helping churches get solar power panels.**

Rev. Allison attended a zoom meeting with the Rev Canon Pam Hyde from the diocese on Tuesday to hear plans for AZ churches to be able to install solar panels at their churches. The diocese is doing the initial work to find the best deal on installers, find suitable financing, and provide a no-obligation on-site assessment for each church to determine best location for panels. St. Stephen’s is looking for a few individuals to be the church “Solar Team” for this effort. Jr. Warden Sherry Simon has already agreed to be part of this team. The team will coordinate with the diocese for the site visit and will present the information about this plan to the vestry/church when completed.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Holy Week Services:**

- 1 April – Maundy Thursday, featuring “What the Water Saw”: a testimony of waters from Jesus’ baptism, the woman at the well, the storm on the sea of Galilee, the foot washing, Pilate washes his hands of guilt at Jesus’ trial, rains falling on the crucified Jesus, and a modern-day baptism. Foot washing using protocols. Communion. Stripping of the altar.
- 1-2 April – Prayer vigil with Jesus – volunteer for an hour (or more) to pray through the night as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- 2 April – Good Friday (outdoor service) with stations of the cross culminating at our three crosses on the corner, Jesus (last of the reserved sacrament) is placed in the tomb.
- 4 April – Easter Sunrise Service (outdoor) anticipatory and joyful service with singing and celebrating the resurrection of Christ, the empty tomb.

Services online at [www.ststephensaz.org](http://www.ststephensaz.org) or in person at 2750 Cardinal Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635. In person require masks, social distancing, and sanitizing hands.

Ministry Team Schedules for March

**MINISTRY TEAMS FOR MARCH**

**Wednesdays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>**  
LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

No Service this day

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>**

LEM - Tim                      Lector – Sherry Simon                      Altar Guild – Jill

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>**

LEM - MJ                      Lector – Sandra Calhoun                      Altar Guild – Jill

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>**

LEM – Jeff                      Lector – Sherry Simon                      Altar Guild – Jill

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>**

LEM - Tim                      Lector – Cheryl                      Altar Guild – Ed and Jill

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**

LEM – Ed                      Lector – Charles                      Altar Guild – Ed

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>**

LEM - Nancy                      Lector – MJ                      Altar Guild – Deb

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**

LEM - Dottie                      Lector – Cheryl                      Altar Guild – Dottie

**Ministry Team for Holy Week**

**Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

LEM – Sherry                      Lector – Nancy  
All Altar Guild – Ed, Deb, Cheryl, Dottie, Jill

**Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

LEM – Nancy                      Lector – Sherry  
Altar Guild - Dottie

**Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00am**

LEM – Tim                      Lector – Cheryl  
Altar Guild – Ed and Jill

**FIRST NAME ONLY**

**PRAYER NEED**

Names will be added for next month's newsletter.

Complete recovery for all our members, friends, co-workers, or neighbors who have had or have COVID, their families and friends.

For all medical personnel, first response personnel, front line workers, and essential employees All our military & their families

April						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday	2 6:00 pm Good Friday Service	3 No Church Service
4 6 am Easter Service	5 E/M 5:30 pm via Zoom	6	7	8	9	10 5:00 pm Worship
11 10:00 am Choir 10:30 am Worship	12 E/M 5:30 pm via Zoom	13	14	15	16	17 5:00 pm Worship
18 10:00 am Choir 10:30 am Worship	19 E/M 5:30 pm via Zoom	20	21	22	23 New sletter Articles Due	24 5:00 pm Worship
25 10:00 am Choir 10:30 am Worship	26 E/M 5:30 pm via Zoom	27	28	29	30	