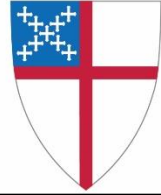




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



May 2021

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Telephone: (520) 458-4432

From our Rector:

Blessings to you,

I hope this letter finds you doing well this spring. We had a wonderful Easter sunrise service last month and we are in the Easter season until May 23rd which will be the celebration of Pentecost. We have just been granted permission from the Bishop to take a few more steps that inch us closer to a full re-opening.



The latest steps begin May 1st and allow us to do the following:

- 1) Sing! With masks on and staying 6ft apart
- 2) Receive communion in both kinds, bread and wine, through intinction (dipping bread into wine by the priest)
- 3) Have outdoor fellowship time with refreshments, staying socially distant.

We are allowed to go up to 50 people in person if we can still maintain social distancing, this would be a strain for us and unlikely for our worship space. We can probably handle about 35 people with 6ft social distancing.

I am encouraged by the numbers of our members who have been vaccinated and I know these numbers help our overall national goal of reaching "herd immunity." As we move closer to that goal, the restrictions will continue to be loosened. I hope that this summer we can return to our "normal" way of being church, which will make masks optional, and we can return to indoor gatherings of all kinds.

We are in the home stretch for this pandemic in our community. Please stay focused and keep adhering to the guidelines as we strive to reach the finish line.

Peace be with you,

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.

I received my second Moderna Covid shot on April 15. On April 16, I felt absolutely miserable. By April 19, I felt back to normal. As I type writing, I am fully immunized according to the CDC protocols. During the April 20, Vestry meeting, we discussed putting the hymnals and BCPs back in pews. Lo and behold, we had a need to use the BCP during our April 24 at 5 PM services. Who says God isn't mysterious, His wonders to perform. While we are still maintaining social distancing and wearing masks, signs of Phase 3 is on the horizon.

Secondly, Cactus Estates will host our Estate Sale on April 30 and May 1. I will admit that I was impressed with what our congregation donated for this event. I hope when you read this you got or will see what it offered during this event.

Also, Rev Allison and Robin are experiencing health issues in the April and May time frames. I ask that we all pray for their speedy recovery. If during their down time, you need any help please reach out to me or our Junior Warden, Sherry Simon.

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!!

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

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May 21st

Farewell!

Fr. Donne Puckle will officiate his last service, before his move to Oregon, here are St. Stephen's on Sunday May 9th (Mother's Day). There will be an outdoor farewell gathering with refreshments afterwards.



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.

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

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.

All services will be broadcast and in person.

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.

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

14 May: Tim Holsonback
 18 May: Tony Roselli
 22 May: Mark Sowards



**Ministry Team Schedules for May
 MINISTRY TEAMS FOR MAY**

Wednesdays 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
 LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie

Saturday 1st LEM - Jeff	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Jill
Saturday 8th LEM - Tim	Lector – Sherry Simon	Altar Guild – Jill
Saturday 15th LEM - MJ	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Jill
Saturday 22nd LEM – Jeff	Lector – Sherry Simon	Altar Guild – Jill
Saturday 29th LEM – Tim	Lector – Dottie	Altar Guild – Jill

Sunday 2nd LEM - Dottie	Lector – Dandy D.	Altar Guild – Deb
Sunday 9th LEM – Ed	Lector – Charles	Altar Guild – Ed
Sunday 16th LEM - Nancy	Lector – MJ	Altar Guild – Cheryl
Sunday 23rd LEM - Dottie	Lector – Wendy	Altar Guild – Dottie
Sunday 30th LEM – MJ	Lector – Nancy	Altar Guild – Deb

May						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 5:00 pm Worship 8.00 am to 1.00 pm Estate / Rummage Sale
2 10:00 am Choir 10:30 am Worship	3 E/M 5:30 pm via Zoom	4	5	6	7	8 5:00 pm Worship
9 	10 E/M 5:30 pm via Zoom	11	12	13	14	15 5:00 pm Worship
16 10:00 am Choir 10:30 am Worship	17 E/M 5:30 pm Last Class	18	19	20	21 New sletter Articles Due	22 5:00 pm Worship
23 	24	25	26	27	28	29 5:00 pm Worship
30 10:00 am Choir 10:30 am Worship	31 