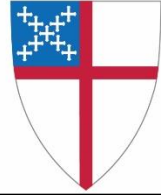




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



July 2021

email: mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org

Telephone: (520) 458-4432

From our Rector:

Hello St. Stephen's,

We are in the middle of summer and life is moving slowly towards a new normal. We hope that this month will bring our Bishop's announcement of a move to Phase 3. Phase 3 is when all of our restrictions for Covid will be rescinded... we won't have to have social distancing and we won't require masks of anyone (currently, only those who have not been fully vaccinated need to wear masks). We have been inching along towards Phase 3 for a while now... so, we hope that July will bring us back to "normal". Following this pandemic we will not ever be "the way we were", but we can get closer to our church normal.



As we inch towards that goal, we have been given permission to have food together again and our church group "**Single Stories**" **has offered to host on July 4th weekend an ice cream social for both the 5pm Saturday and 10:30am Sunday worship services.** Come dressed in your red, white, and blue and then have some ice cream after the service and join in conversation with one another.

Another sign of things moving towards a new normal is that many of us are traveling to see friends and family and having vacations again. We encourage you to be safe as you move around the country and look forward to seeing you again after your trips.

The summer is also a time to slow down, take it easy, relax. The joke has been that Episcopalians are the only denomination that God trusts to take time off in summer and come back together in the early fall. That said, Mark is planning to take a big chunk of time off soon (dates tbd), and I will also have a week of vacation at the end of July. We may ask you to fill in to help out more with the online streaming, or bulletin preparation, or office helpers when those dates come around.

All this to say, breathe deep, pray for rain, enjoy life, spend time with family and friends, and let go of some of the anxiety of the past year... let God's summer fill your mind and heart with contentment. While we are not completely out of danger, the danger is less scary for those who are vaccinated. Be wise, be blessed, be happy.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Allison

But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue,

**"DO NOT FEAR,
ONLY BELIEVE."**



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.

During our May vestry meeting, we voted to allow attendants who are fully Covid vaccinated the choice of wearing a mask or not commencing on June 19, provided the numbers are favorable. Guess what! Numbers are favorable so vaccinated members can worship mask free now! Thanks be to God!

Folks, we have experienced water bursts with the irrigation system around our big pine tree between our church and the education center. Investigations pointed to the root system of that tree are the cause of the bursts. Also, the retaining wall next to that tree is suffering structural integrity problems too. The Vestry voted to get estimates to remove that pine tree, with great reluctance. The tree was removed by In Faith Landscaping. If anyone would like to plant a tree on church property, that is possible on land not close to any building!

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



How beautiful the church is when the sun shines in.

The church has been painted outside and the work should last 15 years. It is an off white with white trim and brown accents. May take a little getting used to...

Next big facilities projects: Church sanctuary flooring, church sound system upgrades, and addition of an emergency exit door near the columbarium. More as we get to these in the coming months.

Coffee Hour helpers needed!

As we return to having a time of fellowship with each other after worship on Sundays, we can use some helpers to set up the coffee and snacks before and clean up after the coffee hour. Please sign up on the sheet on the snacks table.



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.i.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.

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).

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
 July 23rd**

It is that time again where I ask you if you want Giving envelopes. They sure came in handy this past year with all the remote services. If you want Giving envelopes, please let the office know either by calling, emailing, or stopping by and telling me in person.

Chaplain Lynell Scott will be with us on July 18th to worship and then to share some information about VICap, a service in Cochise County that helps those who cannot drive get to appointments and errands. This will be to let others know about their services and also how to volunteer to help others by giving rides (which is reimbursable, so you can also get a bit of money). (Volunteer Interfaith Caregiver Program, website:
<https://www.volunteerinterfaithcaregiverprogram.org/>),

All services will be broadcast and in person.

Birthdays
 6 July: Phyllis Fortenberry
 9 July: James O'Neil
 13 July: Valla Miller
 15 July: Bruce Dockter
 28 July: Cheryl Stone





Ministry Team Schedules for July
MINISTRY TEAMS FOR July

Wednesdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th,
 LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 3rd LEM - Jeff	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Jill
Saturday 10th LEM – Ed	Lector – Cheryl Stone	Altar Guild – Ed
Saturday 17th LEM - Tim	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Jill
Saturday 24th LEM – Jeff	Lector – Sherry Simon	Altar Guild – Ed
Saturday 31st LEM – Tim	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Jill

Sunday 4th LEM - Dottie	Lector – Sandy D.	Altar Guild – Dottie
Sunday 11th LEM – Sherry	Lector – MJ	Altar Guild – Deb
Sunday 28th LEM - Nancy	Lector – Sherry Simon	Altar Guild – Dottie
Sunday 25th LEM – MJ	Lector – Nancy Rea	Altar Guild – Deb

JULY						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 
4 	5	6 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	7	8	9	10 5:00 pm Worship
11 10:30 am Worship	12	13 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	14	15	16	17 5:00 pm Worship
18 10:30 am Worship	19	20 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	21	22	23 New sletter Articles Due	24 5:00 pm Worship
25 10:30 am Worship	26	27 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	28	29	30	31 5:00 pm Worship