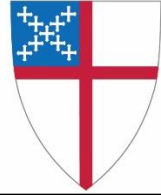




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



June 2021

email: mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org

Telephone: (520) 458-4432

From our Rector:

Blessings to you,

A quick note about several things happening with our church.

First, your vestry voted last week to continue to wear our masks in worship for one more month. On June 19th we will allow anyone who has been vaccinated to not have to wear a mask at church, indoors or outdoors. Although the CDC has said the vaccinated folks can go maskless now, out of an abundance of caution for our most vulnerable, and with the India variant spreading, and Memorial Day holiday where people tend to gather together, we wanted to ensure that the lowered infection rates would continue through these potential spreader situations. So, hold on for a few more weeks and we will all be delighted come the 19th of June to not have to wear our masks at church.



Second, it is with sadness that I inform you that our Music Director Mike Gilman is struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. He missed Sunday May 23 Pentecost services because of this. In consultation with the Bishop, we have offered that if he agrees to enter and successfully completes a 28-day treatment program, we will hold his position for him. If, however, he refuses to enter a treatment program, we will have to let him go. I will be working with Sharon Douglas, Doreen Oberg, and possibly others to fill in as our pianist for Sundays until we can resolve this situation.

Thirdly, the very large pine tree between the Ed Bldg and the Church is going to have to come down. The roots are causing extensive damage to our irrigation system and damaging the integrity of the retaining wall between the buildings. We hate that this big old tree has to be removed. It likely dates back to the building of the church, about 60 years ago. Anyone who has wood working skills that would like to have a piece of the tree when it comes down and who can craft a cross or other wooden items from it should contact Tim Holsonback asap. We are getting bids now for the tree removal.

Lastly, we are getting new neighbors entering into Sierra Vista and some of them will be coming to see our church and think about joining us. I encourage all of us to be on the lookout for new faces and to be sure to introduce yourselves to new people and help them feel welcome in our church and communities.

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.

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. We will be watching this as the time approaches.

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. So, in the new future, we will no longer have that shady spot on our property. As for me, I feel sad that it much come down but we must protect our church property infrastructure.

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

We are receiving bids to remove the large pine tree and the juniper in the flower bed. Also, we have begun to obtain estimates to paint the outside of our church.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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June 25th

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.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.

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).

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.

Birthdays

- 1 June: Paula Jones
- 11 June: Mary Loew
- 14 June: William Sowards
- 17 June: Donne Puckle



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

Wednesdays 2ⁿ, 9ⁿ, 16ⁿ, 23ⁿ, 30ⁿ,
LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie

Saturday 5th

LEM - Jeff Lector – Sandra Calhoun Altar Guild – Jill

Saturday 12ⁿ

LEM – Ed Lector – Cheryl Stone Altar Guild – Ed

Saturday 19ⁿ

LEM - Tim Lector – Sandra Calhoun Altar Guild – Jill

Saturday 26ⁿ

LEM – Jeff Lector – Sherry Simon Altar Guild – Ed

Sunday 6ⁿ

LEM - Dottie Lector – Sandy D. Altar Guild – Dottie

Sunday 13ⁿ






LEM – Sherry Lector – MJ Altar Guild – Deb

Sunday 20ⁿ

LEM - Nancy Lector – Sherry Simon Altar Guild – Dottie

Sunday 27ⁿ

LEM – MJ Lector – Nancy Rea Altar Guild – Deb

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