

- **Masks and social distancing are back for church worship and activities.** Due to the rise in the highly transmissible delta variant and out of an abundance of caution to avoid spreading it to each other or those outside our church, the vestry voted to resume mask wearing and social distancing until numbers again decline.
- **Mark's father, Bill, will have his memorial service on Aug 28<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.** Any who would like to be present for Mark and his family are welcome. Masks and social distancing required.
- **Coffee Hour helpers wanted.** Our coffee hour is moving back to the porch and will be simplified. We would appreciate folks helping with the set up of the coffee hour and clean up after on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the snack table at church. Please sign up for a weekend or two.
- **Next Adult Forum will began August 7-8:** An audio recorded study of "Jesus and Buddha: Paths to Awakening". Presented by Richard Rohr and James Finley. More info can be found here: <https://store.cac.org/collections/all/products/jesus-and-buddha-paths-to-awakening-mp3>. Saturday at 4pm in Parish Hall and Sunday at 12 pm noon in Educational Building for each session of listening and discussion. Sunday Zoom connection for Adult Forum: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86935184063?pwd=M0ZhWEc3NEVRVncvQUY5VjZSa2hlUT09>  
Meeting ID: 869 3518 4063 Passcode: 923037
- **Outdoor clean-up of the church day Saturday August 14 from 7am to 11 am.** We need people to come and pull weeds, mow, spray weed killer, around the church. God has sent plentiful rains which have brought forth plentiful weeds. Help us to get the church flower beds and yards looking tidier. Rain date would be Sunday afternoon Aug 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **EFM – Education for Ministry – Will begin Monday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.** This is an amazing opportunity to go deeper in your understanding of the Bible, Church traditions and history, theology, worship, and you're your own spiritual gifts and place in God's plans. New/returning students for this program are encouraged to apply/register soon. Sherry Simon and Ed Stone are the group facilitators/mentors. Please see the website for more information about the program: <https://efm.sewanee.edu/> **Additional information about how to register will be coming in the next weeks.**
- **Coming in August: A Groovy Gathering! August 29<sup>th</sup>** - put on your hippest clothes... tie-dyed, fringed, and flip-flops! We will have a far-out, fun time as we sing some of the classics of the 60's and 70's as part of our worship time... "Jesus is just all right with me", "Put your hand in the hand", "Kum-by-yah", and others.
- **September 4-5 worship services will be in honor of Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.** We will do this a week before the actual dates to avoid conflict with the events planned in the community at Veteran's Park the following weekend.
- **Rev. Allison's last vacation for the year will be Sept 11-25.** Worship services on Sept 11-12 and 18-19 and 25 will be evening and morning prayer. Rev. Allison will return for worship Sunday Sept 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **Next Red Cross Blood Drive will be Sept 30<sup>th</sup> in the Educational Building.** Sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).
- **Diocesan Convention October 9<sup>th</sup> for business part of convention online only. October 15-16 in Phoenix and online with the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.** Delegates to convention will need to be present online for the business part on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>. Other parts of the convention can be attended in person or online, but seating is limited. Anyone who wishes to watch the proceedings online can do so with registration ahead of time.
- **October 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, at 3pm St. Stephen's will hold a service of welcome and acceptance in observation of the National Coming Out Day for LGBTQ persons** to celebrate the amazing persons that God created them to be and to allow anyone who feels ready to do so to tell God, their family and friends, and themselves that they are part of the LGBTQ community.
- **October 31<sup>st</sup> – A Memorial Service for those we know and love who died during our church shutdown: Bonnie Anderson, Ralph Snapp, and Agnes Quain.** We were not able to have full attendance for these members' funerals and we will take this opportunity to remember them and others in our lives whom we lost during the last year and a half. A church lunch/potluck will follow in the Education Building. All are invited to bring photos/keepsakes to put on/around the altar for this service of remembrance.