

- **We need a new church treasurer!** We thank Cheryl for her help as our outgoing treasurer and her time and talents. Please keep Cheryl in prayer for her arm/shoulder which need surgery. The treasurer oversees our bookkeeper, tellers, and finances for the church. They attend vestry meetings to present information about our in gathering and expenses. Please see Rev. Allison for additional information or to volunteer. This is one of the positions of leadership in the church that we have to have filled.
- **Diocesan Convention Oct 9th and 15-16th: We need one more delegate to represent the people of St. Stephen's at our business portion of the convention on October 9th.** This will be online only. No travel required. Delegates vote in matters concerning changes to the constitution and canons of the church and they vote for members of diocesan or national committees. More info is in the summer edition of the AZ Episcopalian (see our website). The 15-16th October will be in-person or online and our keynote speaker is The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church. Registration for the convention is available at this link: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eia3bwquef4f010b&llr=tyqtuxbab>
- **Mark's father, Bill, will have his memorial service on Aug 28th 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 setup 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.
- **Our Adult Forum 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.
- **EFM – Education for Ministry – Will begin Monday August 30th 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.**
- **A Groovy Gathering! August 28-29th** - 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 Sunday 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 11th, the 20th 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 26th.
- **Next Red Cross Blood Drive will be Sept 30th in the Educational Building.** Sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org.
- **October 10th, 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 31st – 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.
- **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.