

- **With a heavy heart we share that Mark's dad, Bill, passed away on Tuesday Aug 3rd early in the morning.** Please keep Mark and his family in prayer for God's comfort in their time of grief. A memorial service will follow in the coming weeks.
- **Sandy Dushensky is continuing to heal from her eye surgery** and thanks those who helped her in the first weeks of her recovery.
- **Doreen Oberg has graciously offered to be our pianist!** She will play for us on Sundays and Holy Days as her work and vacation schedule allow. Our other potential candidate for accompanist has had to withdraw from consideration. Please welcome Doreen as a regular participant in our worship through her gift of music. We are very glad to have her join us on an ongoing basis.
- **Coffee Hour helpers wanted.** 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.
- **Next Adult Forum will begin 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.
- **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 15th.
- **EFM – Education for Ministry – Will begin in late August/Early September.** 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 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 worship time... "Jesus is just all right with me", "Put your hand in the hand", "Kum-by-yah", and others.
- **Next Red Cross Blood Drive will be Sept 30th in the Educational Building.** Sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org .
- **Diocesan Convention October 9th 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 9th. 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 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.