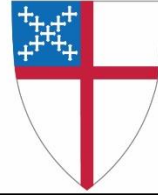




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



October 2021

email: mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org

Telephone: (520) 458-4432

From our Rector:

Hello St. Stephen's,

The autumn is here with cooler temperatures and less rains than during the summer monsoons are among us. We were blessed with a very good monsoon this year in our area. Give thanks to God for the replenishment of our streams and aquifers.

The Holy Spirit has been flowing this summer and into the fall also. As Jesus once described: "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." This past spring and summer we welcomed several new people who have begun attending our worship services. We give thanks for those new people who bring new ideas and talents and spirit to our beloved community.

Another manifestation of the Holy Spirit is in bringing our church, St. Stephens, and Sierra Lutheran (ELCA) together in two ways. The first is that we will begin in November to minister jointly with St. Raphael's in Benson. Rev. Debbie Royals, St. Raphael's Vicar, is about to start a new ministry. In discussion with the bishops of the Diocese of Arizona (TEC), Grand Canyon Synod (ELCA), and also with the Bishop's Committee of St. Raphael's a plan to share the worship and other ministry areas between our churches was developed. Many of the details are still being worked out, and we expect to begin this shared ministry in November. In order for me to lead worship on Sunday on alternating Sundays in Benson, St. Stephen's will be moving the Sunday morning worship time to 11am. I will share additional details after some upcoming meetings with Rev. Royals and the Bishop Committee of St. Raphael's.

The other way that the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst is that St. Stephen's and Sierra Lutheran are planning to hold a combined Youth Group starting in November also. The theme for this first ministry together will be "Jesus was a Jedi and you can be one too!" We will show the Star Wars movie "A New Hope" (episode 4, the first movie made) and look at the spirituality that is expressed in the movie and compare it to the teachings of Jesus. The Youth Group will meet at Sierra Lutheran on Tuesday nights at 6pm til 8pm with dinner from 6pm to 6:30pm and then the discussion following using the book "Star Wars Jesus" by Caleb Grimes.

I give thanks to these new avenues in ministry that allow our church to support others in their spiritual journeys. May God's Spirit continue to blow through all our lives in surprising and uplifting ways.

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.

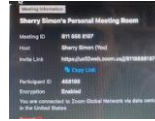
Due to the Delta variant of Covid, we continue to use to phase 2 protocols (social distancing and all wearing masks). But, we can take communion with Rev. Allison doing intinction with the wafer. Until this variant subsides, we will maintain these protocols. Let us give the glory to God that we are still having in-person church.

In September, our monsoon rains subsided. Our weeds around the church are going dormant. We will be getting a "fancy lawnmower" to cut back these weeds. Let us all pray we get good rains in the coming winter months.

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



Here is my Zoom meeting room information.

Just this.... While at church, you may have noticed there's a little more light in key places. New lighting is LED, less expensive and better light.

EFM is up and running. We have a great group who have brought their own experience, knowledge, and insight to the class. We meet on Sunday's at 2 PM via Zoom.

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 Robin StClair at rscinca@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.

A special donation of a brush and field mower is coming to St. Stephen's. You may have noticed that with our abundant rains this summer we have an abundant weed growth in our backyard of the church. An anonymous donor is buying the church a special mower to tame that back 40. This will assist with future similar abundance of weeds and wildflowers. Thank you, anonymous donor!

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
October 25th**

Sunday's service will be In Person and Live Stream.

We need a church treasurer! One of the key leadership positions of a church is the church treasurer. We thank Cheryl Stone for being our treasurer these past 9 months and for doing a very nice job during a difficult pandemic year. The position entails ensuring our bills get paid, monitoring and reporting on our budget, and keeping our bookkeeper informed of financial transactions. Please let Rev. Allison know if you would like to be considered for this position.

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.

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).

- Birthdays
- 12 Oct: Russell Egbert
 - 13 Oct: Debra Ash
 - 20 Oct: Harriet Kolen
 - 21 Oct: Doris Millard
 - 21 Oct: Marietta Conley
 - 22 Oct: Jill Holsonback
 - 30 Oct: Maryjane Mahland



Coming this fall: Jesus was a Jedi and you can be too! A combined youth group activity and study of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church: Looking at the Jedi in the Star Wars movies and how the beliefs and practices of Jedi parallel the ways and teachings of Jesus. Meeting at Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church, 101 N Lenzner Ave, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635, on Tuesday evenings. 6-8 pm, dinner will be provided. Date that this will begin is in October. Open to Jr. High and Sr. High School aged students. More to follow.

**NATIONAL
COMING OUT
DAY!**



LGBTQ Celebration Service!

Sunday October 10th at 5pm

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

2750 Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista

LGBTQ, Parents, and Friends:

**Come and celebrate God's diversity
of all people created in God's image.**

**Yes, you can be LGBTQ, Christian,
and welcome in our church!**

www.ststephensaz.org

St. Stephen's to co-pastor with Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church at St. Raphael's Episcopal / Lutheran Church in Benson. Bishop Reddall and Bishop Hutterer have discussed a partnership for providing worship and pastoral care for the church in Benson that would allow both denominations to support the St. Raphael's congregation. Details are being worked out about how this would work and what it will look like. It may require a shift in worship times at St. Stephen's. This new arrangement is expected to start in October.

Newcomer Welcome service October 2-3.

Even in the pandemic we have new people exploring and discovering St. Stephen's. We have some new faces at St. Stephen's and would like to welcome them to our faith community in an "official" recognition of their being with us. Join us as we celebrate their spiritual gifts and presence with us, expanding God's family in our church. Meet our new folks and get to know them a little better and share your own names and stories.

LGBTQ Coming Out Worship Service October 10th 5pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Anyone who is LGBTQ or their friends or family are invited to celebrate God's diversity of people made in God's image. Know that God loves all his children, all his people, in all the ways that he has created us.

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) is busy trying to assist our incoming large numbers of Afghani allies who are being granted visas to resettle in the USA. They need a variety of volunteer help as these families and individuals are screened and evaluated for resettlement. Tucson is one of several resettlement areas and we are in proximity to Tucson to offer our help. If you are interested in helping this effort, please see the video on the EMM website: <https://vimeo.com/593490579> . To sign up to help or donate please use this form: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/volunteer-community-interest-form/> . Rev. Allison and Robin have sent our form in to offer housing. It may take a while before we hear anything.

October 31st: All Saints/All Souls

Remembering those we lost during the past 20 months of Covid shutdown. We will gather to have a combined remembrance of those who died during the past year and half and who we were unable to gather together to celebrate their lives as part of our community due to Covid restrictions.... Bonnie Anderson, Agnes Quain, and Ralph Snapp. You may have other family or friends who passed and to whose funerals you were not able to attend that you would like to remember. Please bring photos or small mementos to place before the altar.

Ministry Teams Schedule for October

Wednesdays 6, 13, 20th, 27

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 2nd

LEM – Jeff Speer Lector – Sandra Calhoun Altar Guild – Jill Holsonback

Saturday 9

LEM – Ed Stone Lector – Robin StClair Altar Guild – Ed Stone

Saturday 16

LEM – Sherry Simon Lector – Sandra Calhoun Altar Guild – Jill Holsonback

Saturday 23

LEM – MJ Mahland Lector – Robin StClair Altar Guild – Sherry Simon

Saturday 30

LEM – Jeff Speer Lector – MJ Mahland Altar Guild – Sherry Simon

Sunday 3rd

LEM – Nancy Rea Lector – Sherry Simon Altar Guild – Deb Ash

Sunday 10

LEM – Sherry Simon Lector – MJ Mahland Altar Guild – Robin StClair

Sunday 17

LEM – Robin StClair Lector – Nancy Rea Altar Guild – Deb Ash

Sunday 24

LEM – Nancy Rea Lector – Sherry Simon Altar Guild – Robin StClair

Sunday 31

LEM – Sherry Simon Lector – Robin StClair Altar Guild – Deb Ash

October						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 5:00 pm New comer Welcome Service
3 10:30 am Necomer Welcome Service	4	5 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	6	7	8	9 5:00 pm Worship
10 NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY! LGBTQ Celebration Service!	11 	12 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	13	14	15	16 5:00 pm Worship
17 10:30 am Worship In person and Live Stream	18	19 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	20	21	22	23 5:00 pm Worship
24 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm EfM via Zoom	25 New sletter Articles Due	26 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	27	28	29	30 5:00 pm Worship
31 						