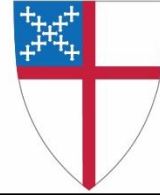




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



January 2022

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Telephone: (520) 458-4432

From our Rector:

Hello St. Stephen's,

Happy New Year! By the time you read this we will have passed from 2021 into 2022 and many of us will have celebrated by toasting and singing "Auld Lang Syne" at midnight when we cross into the new year, bidding the last year farewell. The song, attributed to Robert Burns and set to an old Scottish tune, has become a tradition for farewells of various sorts and especially for the ending of the year in English speaking countries. According to Wikipedia, the phrase "auld lang syne" can be interpreted as:



"old long since" or, less literally, "long, long ago", "days gone by", or "old times". Consequently, "For auld lang syne", as it appears in the first line of the chorus, might be loosely translated as "for the sake of old times". (Wikipedia, accessed 12/30/21 at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auld_Lang_Syne#)

So, we are asked in this song to remember "days gone by". As with any year, there were good times and sad times. For us as a church, we mark the passing of this past year with hope in new medical responses to the pandemic in vaccinations, boosters, and virus pills and other treatments that have helped many to recover or avoid the worst of the Covid-19. At the same time, we know of those who did not survive the year, either because of Covid or other ailments.

An article I recently read suggests that following the Omicron variant, the world may turn from "pandemic" to "endemic" as the status for this virus. What does that mean? It means that the virus because of its global extent, the inability to vaccinate the whole world in a timely manner, and the mutations of the virus itself means that this virus is with us from now on. We may be encouraged to get boosters and vaccines much like we do for flu and other diseases (measles, etc...), but life will return to a more "normal" pattern for most people.

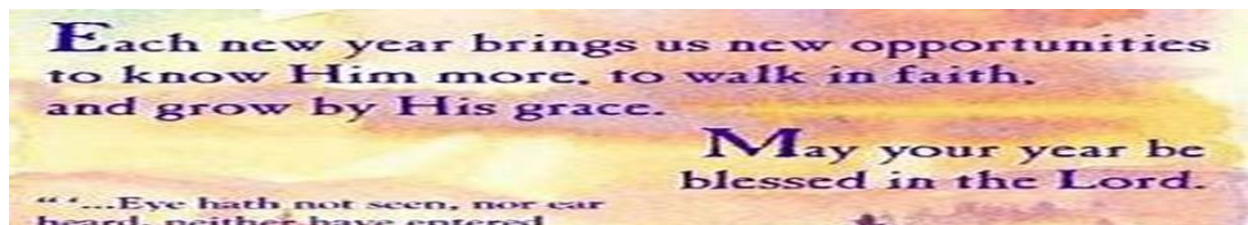
I pray that the author is correct in this prediction. I remain hopeful for our church moving into this new normal in 2022 and our mission to love and serve one another continuing to grow stronger in our community.

And although a challenge, we have done our due diligence in trying to protect each other in this past year and I take comfort in the words of Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians when he says, "Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace."

As we move into the new year, take a moment to reflect on what you learned about yourself this past year and how that will inspire you in the coming year.

God's grace continues to 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.

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.

Due to comments received from the congregation, Sherry Simon and I rearranged alternating pews and seat rows on the east side of the sanctuary. This will allow those who want to kneel while seated in seats, the ability to use the pew kneelers. Thank you for your feedback on this.

During our December Vestry meeting, we revisited the wearing masks during services instruction. With the emergence of the Omicron variant, we voted to continue the use of masks for the time being. We want to thank you for your patience with this during our COVID pandemic.

Please continue to send in your pledges to the church, either by mail or the donate link on our <https://www.ststephensaz.org>.

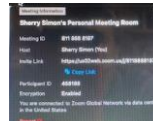
My home number is 520-459-1937; cell 520-227-4483; email: Holsonback@cox.net.

May God continue to bless us all during these extraordinary times!!

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 Jr. Warden



Here is my Zoom meeting room information.

As my tour of Junior Warden comes to an end, I want all of you to know, I have been blessed beyond belief.

Everyone has been wonderful and supportive through this adventure. You'll still see me around; I'm not going far.

Thank you again for your support and assistance.

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.

Saturday Evening Worshippers:

Please recycle your bulletins for Sunday worshippers if you are not taking them home with you.

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.

The Bishop is Coming, The Bishop is Coming!

Bishop Jennifer Reddall is scheduled to be at St. Stephen's for her next visitation on March 27th, 2022. We will hold confirmations and receptions and re-affirmation of baptism on that day. Mark your calendar to be present to hear her message to our church as we begin imagining our new future post pandemic.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
January 27th

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

Changing Hours:

Sunday Worship time will change Nov 7th to 11am start time. Adult forum will move to 12:30am start. Rev. Allison's office hours will be Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am to 3pm starting Nov. 3rd.

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 Jan: Donna Savill

21 Jan: Bill Carswell



Spiritual Self-care Support Group - Have you struggled with caregiving for someone with dementia or Alzheimer's? Is your soul suffering from the effects of these diseases on your loved one? We are planning a support group to help caregivers share their trials and find ways to bolster their spiritual health. Please let Rev. Allison know when a good day and time for you would be to participate in this group. We are considering 11am on Thursdays in the Ed Building (with a possible zoom connection for remote attendance).

Discussion Forum – Meets at St. Stephen's on Saturdays at 4pm and Sundays at 12:30pm in the Parish Hall cozy corner. We are starting a study of the book of Revelation Jan 15-16. All are welcome to come and participate in this study. The commentary we are using is William Barclay's "The Revelation of John" and can be found on Amazon.com new or used.

"The Way of Love" classes begin January 15th 9am to 10:30am for 9 weeks – We will hold informational classes to discuss the Anglican/Episcopal tradition to help those who wish to be confirmed (for those who were baptized as a young child and want to make a personal vow of faith in Jesus Christ), or received into the Episcopal Church (for those whose background is in another denomination, this welcomes you into the Episcopal denomination), or to re-affirm your baptismal vows (for those who may have stepped away from your faith for a while and now wish to rededicate yourself to following Jesus Christ). We will use the book "The Way of Love" as our study guide. Books can be obtained from Rev. Allison for \$8.00. Open to all interested.

First Fridays Film night – On the first Friday of the month we will show a movie and have a short discussion afterwards. These may be full length movies or shorter episodes of a film series. January 7th at 5:30pm we will show season 1, episode 1 of "The Chosen" TV series. It is about an hour with discussion to follow. This series has an interesting view of the events of Jesus' life as portrayed in the Gospels, trying to show more about how Jesus, the disciples, and their interactions may have been (artistic license). Join us for the film and share your reactions.

Lay Ministry Teams

If you are unable to serve at the appointed time and day, you are responsible for finding a replacement. Please notify Robin of substitutions.

Annual Meeting in January – It is that time again when we meet together as a church to hold elections, approve the budget, and hear the "State of the Church" address from Rev. Allison. This year we have one remaining opening for a vestry member at large. We thank Sherry Simon who rotates off as our Junior Warden and also thank Liz York, Charles Rouse, and Jeff Speer who rotate out of the vestry positions. Jeff has agreed to be the new Senior Warden as Tim Holsonback rotates off following his second-year term. This will be a combined in-person and zoom meeting. Jan.23rd at 12:30pm in Ed Building. Let Rev. Allison know if you wish to volunteer for the vestry member opening.

Living with Loss – A support group for those processing grief from losing someone you love. Will begin meeting once a month on second Friday of the month at 4pm in the Parish Hall. First meeting will be January 14th. Anyone who is having a tough time with grieving is welcome to come.

Are you curious about what the 12-steps used in various support groups are all about? Come and learn how the 12-steps have a Christian and specifically Episcopal history in their formation and how they can be used for anyone in any situation. They are not confined to those in recovery from addiction. The 12 steps are helpful for everyday life. Join us on Wednesday evenings in the Parish Hall at 5pm til 6pm as we explore these 12 steps through our Christian perspective. Open to everyone.

New Program for giving in Sierra Vista – Better Bucks: The vestry voted Tuesday to shift our Groceries 4U program to using the Better Bucks booklets to give to those who need some assistance with food, clothing, and other necessities. Please donate to the church to buy the booklets or donate booklets for us to use. Cannot be used for alcohol or tobacco.
website: <https://betterbuckssierravista.org/>

Ministry Teams Schedule for January

Wednesdays 5, 12, 19, 26

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 1

LEM – Jeff Speer Lector – Sandra Calhoun Altar Guild – Robin StClair

Saturday 8

LEM – Ed Stone Lector – MJ Mahland Altar Guild – Ed Stone

Saturday 15

LEM – Tim Holsenback Lector – Sandra Calhoun Altar Guild – Jill Holsenback

Saturday 22

LEM – Jeff Speer Lector – Tim Holsenback Altar Guild – Robin StClair

Saturday 29

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

Sunday 2

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

Sunday 9

LEM – Nancy Rea Lector – Linnaea Schmid Altar Guild – Deb Ash

Sunday 16





LEM – Linnaea Schmid Lector – Robin StClair Altar Guild – Robin StClair

Sunday 23

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

Sunday 30

LEM – MJ Mahland Lector – Judy Davis Altar Guild – Deb Ash

January						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	3	4 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	5 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	6	7 	8 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
9 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	10	11 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	12 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	13	14	15 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
16 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	17 	18 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	19 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	20	21	22 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
23 	24	25 Bible Study (Phalms) 5 pm via Zoom	26 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	27 New sletter Articles Due	28	29 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
30 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	31					