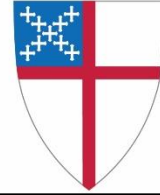




# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



February 2022

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## From our Rector:

Happy February Folks,

As I write this it is already the first week into the month. I apologize for the delay, but things with the church sort of piled up at the end of January and beginning of February. With our new partnership with St. Raphael's and a few pastoral events I found myself juggling two annual meetings, two vestry retreats, three funerals (only one, Dave Sturges, was a member at St. Stephen's) and helping Mark with office tasks while he continues to recover from ankle surgery.



We also have started several new activities in January. We have our Saturday morning class on "The Way of Love", our Adult forum (Saturdays at 4pm and Sundays at 12:30pm) on the book of "Revelation" from the Bible, our First Friday Film Night (on the first Fridays of the month at 5pm) when we have dinner and watch episodes from the new TV series "The Chosen" (more info on that can be found here: <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>. You can watch episodes for free on the website or on youtube). Also, we have begun a monthly grief group for those who have lost a loved one and are trying to make it through their grief.

In our outreach to the community, we were asked if we would be willing to host a Covid testing site in our parking lot, and I eagerly said yes. So, please tell your friends and neighbors that if they need a Covid test, specifically a PCR test (the more accurate test), for free they can come to our church parking lot Monday thru Saturday from 7am to 3pm and get one. Results are in 24-48 hours.

Already, plans are being made for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter as well as into the rest of the year. Your new vestry and I began brainstorming ideas of ways we can engage with people in our community and in our church to "Love and Serve" one another. Soon there will be a survey of these ideas that we will ask you to choose from among to get your input as to which ones you like and would participate in.

If it seems like we are doing more, that is because we ARE doing more. We have sort of been in hibernation during the past two years because of the pandemic. And while the Covid virus is still out there, still infecting lots of people, still causing us concerns, many experts believe that we are soon to switch from "pandemic" to "endemic". The difference is that we recognize that this virus is not going to be eradicated from the planet. It is here to stay and we have to learn to live with it. It also means that in the world through vaccinations and infections, a large part of the population has some level of antibodies that will help prevent serious health complications. In other words, it is becoming like the flu. We will have periodic vaccinations or boosters that will keep our bodies at a stage that can fight off the worst of the virus in most cases.

So, as we come out of this past two years, we come out to a new world. How we were as a church is changed in some ways. The world is changed in some ways. The church has faced other times in history when the world changed and the church adapted along with the world. We will do the same here. But some things never change... we love God, we love each other. We will continue to show that love as a community that worships together, has fun and friendships together, and shares our faith together.

With love and gratitude to you all for your faithfulness and flexibility,

*Rev. Allison*



**Welcome your new Vestry Members 2022****Senior Warden**

Jeff Speer  
520-538-6438  
jeffrey.c.speer2.civ@mail.mil

**Junior Warden**

Peter Criscuolo  
520-235-7678  
petesacct2014@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Anne Roth  
303-917-8151  
avd.roth@comcast.net

**Clerk**

Pat Thralls  
360-689-9714  
patthralls28@gmail.com

**Member at large**

Andy Anderson (last year 2022)  
520-234-3225  
mo1939@gmail.com

**Member at large**

Theresa Emrie (2022-2024)  
520-236-3975  
acu.theresa@gmail.com

**Member at large**

Judy Davis (2022-2024)  
317-658-8205  
jedavis1170@gmail.com

**4th Member at Large – Vacancy (2022)**

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

**Lenten devotional booklets** available Sunday Feb. 27th. Contact Rev. Allison to have one mailed to you.

**From your new Vestry team**

"Hello members of St. Stephen's. We look forward to serving our church during this upcoming year and years to come. Please reach out to us to answer any questions you may have to help our church continue moving forward."

**Red Cross Blood Drive** – Feb 24th at St. Stephen's in the Ed Bldg. Sign up to give at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=85635>.

Let others know about our blood drive so they can sign up also.

**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 27<sup>th</sup>, 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**  
**February 24th**

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

**Two for Tea and Tea for Two** – Feb 22nd 2022 at 2pm (2/22/22 at 2) The Church Social Group is hosting a Tea service and watching of the movie "Harriett Tubman". Sign up to attend and bring some tea appropriate goodies and bring along a friend to enjoy this afternoon tea time. Dress up for this event, if you feel like it! See Nancy Rea or Pat Thralls for signup.

**Episcopal Formation / Catechism Classes** for Confirmation, Reception, Re-affirmation will continue on Saturday mornings. NO class on Feb 19th.

**Second Saturday St. Stephen's Supper Group**

Following the 5pm service (about 6:30pm) meet at Vinny's Pizzeria for fellowship and dinner. All are welcome.

**Covid Testing in St. Stephen's Parking Lot!**

Embry Health started Covid testing at our church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February from 7am to 3pm Monday thru Saturday. Drive thru PCR testing with results in 24-48 hours. We look forward to helping our community with making the space available for this testing (and helping others know we are here).

**Birthdays**

2 Feb: Andrew Anderson

12 Feb: Carlos E. Zeisel

21 Feb: Nancy Rea

23 Feb: Hunter Reid Zavala



**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).

**Vestry Retreat** – New and continuing vestry members will meet Friday and Saturday, Feb 4-5 in the Parish Hall for planning and team building.

**Christian Ed Forum** – A study of the Book of Revelation has started and will continue. Drop in anytime. The book we use as commentary is: The Revelation of John, Vol. 1 (New Daily Study Bible) Paperback – April 1, 2004, by William Barclay (Author). It can be found in digital format or paperback at Amazon and other online booksellers

**“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 Friday film night:** next showing February 4th 5:00pm in the Education Building. We will show season 1, episodes 2 & 3 of “The Chosen” TV series... each episode is about an hour. Come watch and share your thoughts afterward. Soup dinner provided. Bring your own beverage.

#### 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.

**Memorial Service and Funeral** for Dave Sturges will be held on Tuesday February 8th at 11am at St. Stephen's. There will a committal of his ashes at the Veterans' Cemetery immediately following the memorial service at 1pm.

**Sierra Vista Community United Church of Christ** – SVCUCC has two events occurring at their church for those who are interested.



**Living with Loss** – A support group for those processing grief from losing someone you love. Will begin meeting once a month on third Friday of the month at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Next meetings will be Feb 18, March 18, April 15. 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/>

**Ash Wednesday services** at St. Stephen's March 2nd at 9:30am and 6pm. Get your ash in church.

**Ministry Teams Schedule for February**

**Wednesdays 2, 9, 16, 23**

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

**Saturday 5**

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

**Saturday 12**

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

**Saturday 19**

LEM – Tim Holsenback                      Lector – Robin StClair                      Altar Guild – Jill Holsenback

**Saturday 26**

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

**Sunday 6**

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

**Sunday 13**




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

**Sunday 20**

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

**Sunday 27**

LEM – MJ Mahland                      Lector – Nancy Rea                      Altar Guild – Deb Ash

February						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 	3	4	5 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
6 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	7	8 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	9 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	10	11	12 6:30 pm St. Stephen's Supper Group at Vinny's Pizzeria
13 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	14 	15 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	16 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	17	18	19 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
20 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	21 	22 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	23 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	24 New sletter Articles Due	25	26 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
27 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	28					
7 am - 3 pm: COVID Testing in St. Stephen's parking lot from Monday thru Saturday. Starting on 2 Feb until complete.						