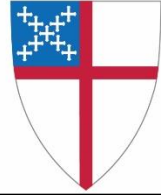




# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



April 2022    email: [mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org](mailto:mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org)    Telephone: (520) 458-4432

## From our Rector:

Happy Spring, to you,

Many people love the springtime for its flowers and warming temperatures, the green things coming back into leaf and bloom. When the earth is reviving from the dormancy of winter. It is a season of rebirth, renewal, and resurrection. It is a season that often gives us hope and promises of new opportunities and new chances. Our spirits lift with the songs of birds singing, colors exploding, and we feel the exuberance of life that bursts onto our senses.



This year perhaps even more so as we anticipate the end of the pandemic and a shift to what experts call an endemic... that Covid is still with us, but we now have better ways to treat it and live with it... much like the flu. The decreased hospitalizations and deaths have meant our church is able to gather with "masks optional" again. This allows us greater freedom and an opportunity to do more together.

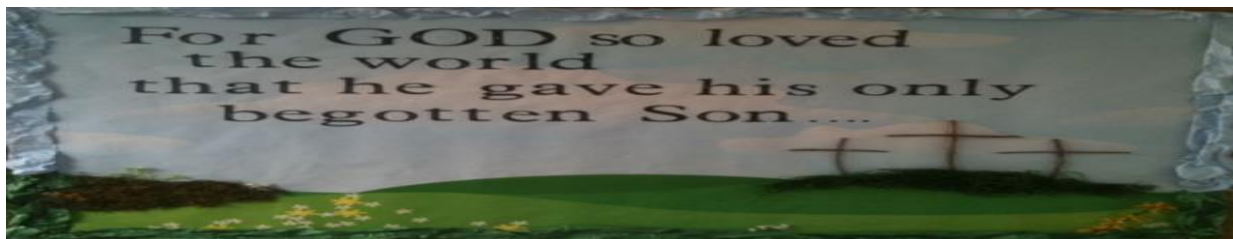
For instance, we will have our first potluck gathering since March 2020... two years ago... Please join us for a very festive Easter Brunch following our Easter Day service on April 17th at noon in the Education Building. We ask that you bring one of the items listed in the newsletter here. It will be so good to see you again and be able to share our celebratory Easter feast together!

In the past two years, we have had some folks move away to other communities, some folks who went on to their eternal homes, and some who have drifted away for other reasons. We miss not seeing them among us now. And yet we have also been blessed with new people who have joined with us in the past two years also... and we celebrate their gifts and presence with us. As we continue into the spring and summer months, may we continue to welcome newcomers and visitors with our usual warmth and acceptance.

I pray that God continues to bless us with our own season of rebirth, renewal, and resurrection even as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ – he who gives us the most profound experience of what it means to come back to life!

Easter Blessings to you and your families and friends,

*Rev. Allison*



**Senior Warden**

Fellow Parishioners

Easter is an important time to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Let us all come together to remember his death, resurrection, and what this memorable time of year means to all of us.

**Palm Sunday:** April 10th at 9am will be at Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church, 101 N Lenzner Ave, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635. This will be the ONLY Palm Sunday service for our church. No service at St. Stephen's that morning.

**Maundy Thursday:** April 14th 6pm will be in Benson at St. Raphael in the Valley Episcopal-Lutheran Church. This will be our ONLY Maundy Thursday service. No service at St. Stephen's on that day. Address for St. Raphael's is 730 S. Hwy 80, Benson, AZ 85602.

**Good Friday:** April 15th 6pm at St. Stephen's. Both Sierra Lutheran and St. Raphael's will join us for this service at our church.

**Easter Vigil:** Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm and Easter Sunday April 17th at 11am – With an Easter Brunch to follow Sunday's service in the Ed Building at noon. Please see sign-up sheet to bring something to share for the Easter Brunch and join us for a time of celebration and fellowship.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**April 25th**

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

**Saturday Evening Worshippers:**  
Please recycle your bulletins for Sunday worshippers if you are not taking them home with you.

**We are taking up weekly collections for the Ukrainian refugees.** Loose money can be placed in the small basket for the cause or checks can be given with "Ukraine" on the memo line. Episcopal Relief & Development is providing humanitarian aid in response to the crisis in Ukraine - they will help meet critical needs for people fleeing the violence including food, cash, blankets and hygiene supplies. [www.episcopalrelief.org/ukraine-crisis](http://www.episcopalrelief.org/ukraine-crisis) .

**Dottie Gutwein ordination to the Diaconate:** June 4th in Phoenix at the Cathedral. Donations towards the purchase of a set of Deacon stoles for Dottie is appreciated as our gift from the church to Dottie.

**New Stations of the Cross - Wednesdays in Lent** at 10:30am in the church, following the Wednesday 9:30am morning worship. All are welcome.

**April 9th Ladies Tea and creating Easter Bonnets for Easter morning:** We will meet in the Parish Hall at 11am for tea, pastries, and making Easter Bonnets. Invite a friend to come along and have a great time. Bonnets, decorations provided. Bring a flavor of tea and a pastry to share. Email Rev. Allison to indicate your attendance to be sure we have the right number of bonnets available.

**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.

**Junior Warden:****Junior Warden's Introduction**

All has been quiet lately (not to say that too loudly). With Easter quickly approaching, please look at the Easter Brunch sign-up sheet. Write your name down on what you would like to bring (your favorite dish) to this very important time in Jesus' ministry.

Just a few items on the list are ham (of course), turkey, mac-n-cheese, deviled eggs, potato salad, and who can forget the desserts.

Hope to see you all there.

**Second Saturday St. Stephen's Supper group will meet Saturday April 9th 6:30pm:**

Following the 5pm service (about 6:30pm) meet at Mimosa Pizzeria Restaurant (Hereford). All are welcome.

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

Embry Health Covid testing continues at our church 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).

**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.

**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).

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](mailto:rscinca@gmail.com)

**Birthdays**

18 Apr: Eddie Masga  
30 Apr: Patricia Wick



**Christian Ed Forum** – Study of the Book of Revelation continues Sat 4pm and Sun 12:30pm.

**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.

**Friday film night next showing is May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in the Education Building:** We will show season 1, episode 8 of "The Chosen" TV series... each episode is about an hour. Come watch and share your thoughts afterward. If you missed the first few episodes, find them online for free at: <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> . 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.

#### Treasure Report (February 2022)

(Report will always be behind because the previous month's accounting is not done before the newsletter goes out)

February monthly budget: \$7,005.00  
February total income: \$10,937.50  
Year to date budget: \$22,810.34  
Year to date actuals: \$21,875.00

**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. Next meeting Friday April 22nd 4pm in Parish Hall (usually monthly on 3rd Friday of the month at 4pm, but off a week this time due to Good Friday being on the 3rd Friday).

#### 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.**

#### 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 April**

**Wednesdays 6, 13, 20, 27**

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

**Saturday 2**

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

**Saturday 9**

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

**Saturday 16**

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

**Saturday 23**

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

**Saturday 30**

LEM – Tim Holsenback                      Lector – Sherry Simon                      Altar Guild – Jill Holsenback

**Sunday 3**

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

**Sunday 10**

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

**Sunday 17**






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

**Sunday 24**

LEM – MJ Mahland                      Lector – Linnaea Schmid                      Altar Guild – Deb Ash

**Sunday 1 May**

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

April						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
3 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	4	5 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	6 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	7	8	9 6:30 pm St. Stephen's Supper Group at Mimisa Pizzeria
10 	11	12 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	13 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	14 Maundy Thursday 	15 GOOD FRIDAY 	16 Holy Saturday <i>In silence we await</i> 
17 	18	19 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	20 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	21	22	23 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
24 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	25 New sletter Articles Due	26 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	27 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	28	29	30 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
7 am - 3 pm: COVID Testing in St. Stephen's parking lot from Monday thru Saturday. Starting on 2 Feb until complete.						