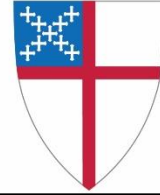




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



March 2022 email: mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org Telephone: (520) 458-4432

From our Rector:

May you have a holy Lent,

Lent is our church season from March 2nd up to Easter Sunday. It is a time set aside by the church to go into the wilderness... the wilderness of our inner selves... to pause... to get away from the usual routines... to listen... to reflect... to consider... the questions we may ask ourselves might be "Am I following God's will for my life?" "Am I using Jesus' teaching and example as much as I could in my daily life?" "Am I wanting to change anything about myself to be more in line with God's will?"



As we go through the weeks ahead, we will be looking at some themes in the lessons that include:

- 1) Temptations
- 2) Overcoming fears
- 3) Standing up for others
- 4) Surrendering self
- 5) Reconciliation
- 6) Grief
- 7) Joy

Our Easter Joy will be all the sweeter when we have spent some time with ourselves and with God in honest conversation, always with the understanding that God wants the best for us and that includes how we are inside and out.

We have Lenten booklets to help us get into our reflections, we have a calendar with suggestions on how to experience Lent in various ways, we will have our worship sermons and lessons to give us some additional things to ponder. I encourage us to set some time aside to be present with God alone, empty your heart and soul to that loving divine spirit. Listen for/to God.

And may we all come to Easter Sunday feeling more alive, more rejuvenated, more refreshed, more renewed, more reborn than we have in a long time, maybe ever.

Peace and holiness to you,

Rev. Allison

March into
Spring

Senior Warden



Fellow Parishioners

Let me begin by thanking every one of you for your faithfulness and dedication to Saint Stephen's during the incredibly trying past two years. Your support and dedication are most appreciated especially by the outgoing senior warden Tim Holsonback and junior warden Sherry Simons.

In early November, Rev. Allison asked if I'd be interested in serving as the senior warden or 'rector's warden' as above individuals rotated off vestry at the annual meeting in January 2022. After some thought, I said 'yes' even after looking at the canons of the Episcopal Church, which say very little about wardens other than their responsibility to ensure that worship services are continued in the absence or disability of the rector. Rev Allison explained senior warden works as the lay partner with the rector to discuss the small and large concerns of the parish and provide leadership within the vestry. It's 'learn as you go / do process' based on guidance from the man upstairs and people interactions.

As we enter the third year of 'pandemic' it's looking hopeful that we will be able to overcome many issues imposed by COVID-19 on our worship and fellowship. The pandemic allowed us to learn new ways to worship that did not include our traditional building and gathering that being on-line. As the 'beat goes' on and we look at returning to a sense of normalcy, I look forward to hearing from all members of St Stephens to discuss any and all concerns and our mission and goals as we, the St Stephens congregation moves forward.

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 brief biography from your Senior Warden:

I'm Canadian born and still have sisters and a brother there. Moved to the U.S. to pursue a career in the system safety engineering field living in California and Alabama before arriving in Sierra Vista in 1995. I was dragged into the St. Stephens community by a college friend and his wife – Rev Steve and Rosie Carroll. I attend the 1700 Saturday service and over the years, I've served on vestry, search committees, lay minister, lay reader, and lay Eucharistic visitor. I work for the Army on Fort Huachuca as a safety director / safety engineer, a challenging job that has allowed travel to or be deployed to various parts of the U.S. and the world resulting occasional work weird hours. Also, I teach 'safety in design' courses at the University of Arizona in Tucson to 3d / 4th year engineering students. I have long-time girlfriend Patricia who keeps me grounded, my nose of out printed word and books to relax and unwind, and ensures walks occur as part of the daily routine. Also, "staff" to one long-short hair cat – Mustachios, who supervises when I'm teleworking.

We at St. Stephens have been blessed with an abundance of people who contribute to our parish, in many ways. Please raise concerns and issues involving the St Stephens community enabling them be appropriately addressed. Success does require everyone's participation!!

You may contact me at jeffrey5454speer@gmail.com and cell phone number is (520) 678-5688

Note: leave voicemail message.

Note: my policy for personal cell phone will not get answered if name is not recognized.

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

March 24th

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

Junior Warden:



Junior Warden's Introduction

I just wanted to introduce myself as your new Junior Warden, succeeding Sherry Simon in that job as of January 2022. Just before Christmas, Rev. Allison asked if I'd be interested in serving and I had two thoughts as I briefly pondered the idea. First thought was, you really can't turn down a priest at Christmas time. Second thought was, what does a Junior Warden do? Rev. Allison explained the Junior Warden at St. Stephen's is "the peoples' warden" tasked with communicating any concerns or ideas the members may have that they are hesitant about addressing directly to the Pastor.

On the other hand, Sherry explained to me that the Junior Warden at St. Stephens takes care of the building and grounds, knows how to replace the light bulbs, and calls the plumber when the water won't heat or the toilets don't flush.

From this, I take it that if you're embarrassed to tell the Pastor the bathrooms need attention you should come to me. If there's any other way I can be of service, please let me know.

You can contact me at petesacct2014@gmail.com and phone number is 520-234-7687.

Second Saturday St. Stephen's Supper Group

Following the 5pm service (about 6:30pm) meet at The Golden Dragon restaurant across the highway from the mall 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 2nd 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).

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).

Saturday Evening Worshippers:

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

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



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.

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

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.

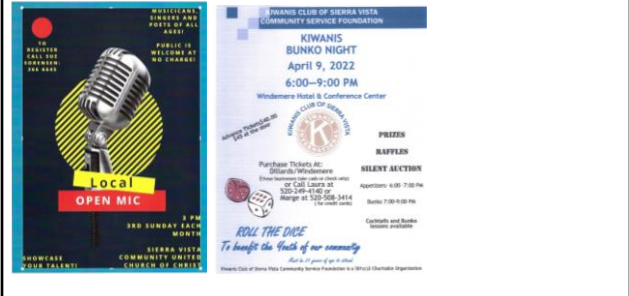
First Friday film night: next showing March 4th 5:00pm in the Education Building. We will show season 1, episodes 4 & 5 of “The Chosen” TV series... each episode is about an hour. Come watch and share your thoughts afterward. Soup dinner provided. Bring your own beverage.

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.

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.

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.

Treasure Report (January 2022)
(Report will always be behind because the previous month's accounting is not done before the newsletter goes out)
January monthly budget: \$10,937.50
January total income: \$15,801.34
Year to date budget: \$10,937.50
Year to date actuals: \$15,801.34

Ministry Teams Schedule for March

Wednesdays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 5

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

Saturday 12

LEM – Ed Stone Lector – Sherry Simon Altar Guild – Ed Stone

Saturday 19

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

Saturday 26

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

Sunday 6

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

Sunday 13



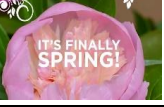

LEM – Nancy Rea Lector – Linnaea Schmid Altar Guild – Deb Ash

Sunday 20

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

Sunday 27

LEM – MJ Mahland Lector – Nancy Rea Altar Guild – Robin StClair

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