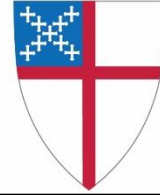




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



May 2022

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From our Rector:

Happy Mother's Day and Memorial Day

In advance of those days. I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. We are almost two months into our "mask optional" re-opening and our infectious disease experts seem to think we are exiting the pandemic and entering the endemic. It is the "living with it" from now on stage. Please continue to keep current on latest treatments and advice on boosters. The boosters will help us to better fight off the virus if/when we get it.

Thank you to everyone who made our Holy Week and Easter Sunday special. It was interesting and uplifting to share our worship among three congregations and it was very nice to have time together at the Easter Brunch ... our first Easter Brunch since 2019... three years... wow.

I am grateful to be "getting back to normal" with our church activities and worship. If we haven't seen you in person in a while, we hope we will soon. We miss you whom we haven't seen and we are very grateful for your continued support in other ways.

I am also thankful for you, our loving community who keep up with each other and help with taking care of one another. You continue to live into our mission to "Love and Serve" one another with phone calls, visits, rides, errands, etc... It is such a help to those who are part of our congregation to feel such love and attention.

Our church and just about every other church have had changes in their congregations during this pandemic and none of us are sure what it will mean for us as we resume our church life in more accustomed ways. Our bishop reports that across the church(es) in our country about a third of those congregations have slipped away... "ghosted" as the modern slang says... But we know that there are other people who are seeking connection... connection with God and with other people.

SO, we will use the summer to try to find ways to let those folks looking for a community in which to share and grow in faith know we are here and we welcome them to "come and see." We have just created a new business card for all of us to have a few to share with others. The front has our church name and info and the back is empty to allow you to add any other info you might wish to share. Please take a few and put them in your wallet or purse.

We are also going to be starting a "singalong" day in which people can come and sing along to favorite songs (secular) based on artist or theme... like a "John Denver" singalong or a "love song" singalong... or a "silly songs" singalong ...you get the point. An easy way to invite others to come sing for an hour and have some fun getting to know us.

We are also thinking of having a cookout/block party in the summer to invite our neighbors to come to ... maybe with a bike riding course for the kids in the parking lot and maybe a bike safety demonstration from the local police?

If you would like to help put these or other activities together we invite you to do so. Just let me know.

In closing, please remember our piano concert with John Nilsen on May 7th at 6:30pm. We welcome John back for another amazing performance and know that you will be very enthralled with his playing. Join us for a wine/cheese/fruit/sparkling cider reception to follow and meet John and talk with him about his artistry on the piano.

God bless you and keep you,

Rev. Allison



Senior Warden



Fellow Parishioners

St. Stephen's has quite the busy schedule and this is a wonderful thing. Please come out and share in these wonderful activities.

Pianist John Nilsen is back! Live in concert on Saturday May 7th at 6:30pm. Wine and cheese reception to follow (donations of wine, cheese, crackers, fruit requested). This is Mother's Day weekend, treat your mom/sister/spouse/ friend to a great evening out! Free, and donations gratefully accepted. You won't be disappointed!

Mother's Day Weekend Special Event
John Nilsen In Concert
 Saturday May 7th 6:30 pm
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
 2750 Cardinal Dr.
 Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
 Free and Open to the Public
 Wine & Cheese reception to follow
 Professional Pianist, Musician, Composer
 RSVP: revallison@ststephensaz.org
 Or call 520-458-4432

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
May 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.

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.

First Friday film night next showing May 6th at 5:00pm in the Education Building - We continue to watch episodes 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.

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.

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.

NEW Singalong sessions!!! – We want to start a monthly singalong fun activity where we use YouTube to put song lyrics to popular songs (60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 2000s, crooners-pop-rock-n-roll-country-folk, etc...) up on the screen in the Ed Bldg and invite everyone to sing along. NOT a karaoke thing... instead singing along with the original artists to their songs ... you don't have to be a good singer, just like good music and make a joyful noise. Please see Alison Barrett or Rev. Allison to help us plan this fun activity.

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/>

Junior Warden:



Spring showers brings May flowers. We might not receive a lot of rain in April to help with the May flowers, but the flowers are blooming.

Let's work together to ensure we can keep our church and surrounding area cleaned up so we can see all our blooming flowers.

We have a beautiful area and enjoy seeing what God has provided for us.



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.

Birthdays

- 14 May: Tim Holsonback
- 18 May: Tony Roselli
- 22 May: Mark Sowards



Duplicate Bridge Club to begin meeting at St. Stephen's in Ed Bldg on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12 noon to 4pm. Classes for new players offered. Any interested please contact Bob Walton at publius92@yahoo.com or phone 520-249-6635.

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.

Second Saturday St. Stephen's Supper group will meet Saturday May14 6:30pm – Following the 5pm service (about 6:30pm) meet at Country House Restaurant. All are welcome, invite your friends.

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

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.

Treasure Report (March 2022)

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

February monthly budget: \$10, 937.50

February total income: \$11, 986

Year to date budget: \$32,812.50

Year to date actuals: \$34,796.34

Ladies Social Group meets monthly for lunch or other fun activities. Please see Pat Thralls to get connected and learn what is coming next.

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

Living with Loss – A support group for those processing grief from losing someone you love. Next meeting on Friday May 20th at 4pm.

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



Ministry Teams Schedule for May

Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 7

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

Saturday 14

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

Saturday 21

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

Saturday 28

LEM – Jeff Speer Lector – Tim Holsonback Altar Guild – Jill Holsonback

Sunday 8

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

Sunday 15

LEM – Dottie Gutwein Lector – Linnaea Schmid Altar Guild – Deb Ash

Sunday 22

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

Sunday 29

LEM – MJ Mahland Lector – Nancy Rea Altar Guild – Sherry Simon

May						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 	5 	6 	7
8 	9	10 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	11 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	12	13	14 6:30 pm St. Stephen's Supper Group at Country House
15 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	16	17 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	18 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	19	20	21 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
22 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	23	24 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	25 New s letter Articles Due	26	27	28 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
28 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	30 	31 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom				
7 am - 3 pm: COVID Testing in St. Stephen's parking lot from Monday thru Saturday. Starting on 2 Feb until complete.						