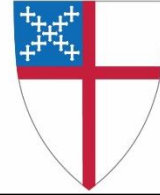




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



June 2022

email: mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org

Telephone: (520) 458-4432

From our Rector:

Greetings to you,

As I write this, I am still processing yet another mass shooting in our nation. In the heels of the shooting in Buffalo NY in a grocery store, we just had a horrific shooting of 19 kids, 4th graders, only 9-10 yrs old kids and two teachers in Uvalde Texas. I am sick with sorrow and anger that we keep experiencing these tragedies. There are steps we can take to try to decrease the likelihood of these tragedies from happening, but those steps require us and our representatives to act and make changes in our laws and regulations and practices. If you find yourself as upset as I am with these shootings, please take the time to contact your representatives in the State and Federal offices to tell them you want changes and actions to combat these agonizing mass murders.



Here is an easy way to contact your representatives:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/action-alerts/>

When you go to this link you will see an option to take action for gun reform. When you click on that and enter your contact information, an automated email will be sent on your behalf to your representatives. You can read the email before it is sent to ensure you are in agreement with its wording.

Thoughts and prayers are nice, but we have had enough of those and there has yet to be any meaningful change. Christ did not back down from challenging the leaders of his day about how they were hypocrites for saying one thing, preaching one thing, and then not doing what they preached or said or doing the opposite. We as Christ's body in the world should do as Jesus did and challenge our leaders to do more than speak platitudes.

Heartbroken and yet hopeful that we can initiate changes,

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.

Coming Soon: Anti-Racism Training in July. All church leaders (vestry members) and employees are required to take this training. It will be offered via zoom and the sign up for the training should be coming soon... (in June for July sessions). Anyone who would also like to participate in this diocesan led training is welcome to sign up for it. Ask Rev. Allison for additional information.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

June 27th

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.

Education for Ministry – EfM concluded their study year on May 22nd and are now on break until August. It was a great year and we hope others who were not able to join the group this past year will be ready in August. More information is coming soon. See Sherry Simon, Peggy Brown, or Ed Stone (or anyone who has been in EfM) to ask about it and learn more.

Friday film night next showing is June 10th 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:

June is the month for Dad's.

Thanks to all the Dads who have been there for us every day.

We have a beautiful area come enjoy and see 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

1 Jun: Paula Jones

11 Jun: Mary Loew

17 Jun: Donne Puckle



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 June 11th at 6:30pm –

Following the 5pm service (about 6:30pm) meet at Indochin 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.

Rev. Allison as an active month of June ahead! Rev. Allison will be with Dottie Gutwein in Phoenix on June 3-4 preparing for and participating in Dottie's ordination to the diaconate. We hope you will watch the ordination online at the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona YouTube page:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/azdiocese1/video> s if you cannot be there in person.

Then on Monday June 6th, Rev. Allison and Robin are headed to Midlothian Texas to be extras on the set filming the feeding of the 5000 for the T.V. series "The Chosen". They return on June 8th.

On Sunday June 12th to 18th Rev. Allison will be serving as chaplain at Camp Chapel Rock in Prescott for a week. She will be back for Sunday services on June 19th.

Thank you to Sharon Douglas for filling in for Doreen Oberg our pianist on May 29th. We appreciate your willingness to gift us with your musical talents when Doreen is not available.

Friends of Sally Sebring: Sally would love to have a few visitors to stop by and see her. She is bed-ridden and misses opportunities to talk with others. Call the church office to get her phone number if you don't have it.

Sunday Book Study coming June 26th – "How to read the Bible & Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis to Revelation" by John Dominic Crossan. Rev. Allison has 7 copies of the book available for \$12 each.

Adjustments to the relationship between St. Raphael's and the two supporting churches, St. Stephens and Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sierra Vista are coming. For the first time in 40 years, SELC does not have an incoming pastor-intern this summer. The three churches and two bishops are in discussion about what the best way forward is for St. Raphael's after July this year.

Sherry Simon has begun her Deacon school. The process that Dottie just completed, Deacon formation school for the past two years, is now what Sherry Simon is beginning. In two years, we expect to be celebrating another deacon ordination for Sherry. Until then, keep Sherry in your prayers for her continued formation.

We continue to have several members with various health concerns or who have family and friends with health concerns. We ask your prayers for all those that we lift up during our "Healing Prayers" part of our worship service.

Dottie begins official Deacon Duties Sunday June 5th – We are excited to have Dottie begin her service as a Deacon with us on Sunday June 5th. We have had a Deacon not that long ago in our visiting Deacon, Ben Weatherill. In case you have forgotten what it is like to have a Deacon as part of our worship service, here are some of the duties that you can expect to see Dottie conducting during worship:

- Read the Gospel lesson (we will begin to have LEM take the Gospel book to front of pews and hold it for her to read).
- Preach once a month, at least (both Saturday and Sunday services).
- Announce the confession and lead it.
- Set the altar/table with help from LEM.

Elements will once more be on credence table and be brought over to the altar by the LEM... We will also see about having offertory brought up... but that needs a bit more help from the congregation... We will resume having two chalices, one for deacon and one for LEM.

- Declare the dismissal at the end of the service.

Ministry Teams Schedule for June

Wednesdays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 4

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

Saturday 11

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

Saturday 18

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

Saturday 25

LEM – Jeff Speer Lector – Robin StClair Altar Guild – Jill Holsonback

Sunday 5

LEM – Nancy Rea Lector – Judy Davis Altar Guild – Sherry Simon Peaching – Deacon Dottie

Sunday 12

LEM – Robin StClair Lector – Sherry Simon Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 19

LEM – Sherry Simon Lector – Nancy Rea Altar Guild – Robin StClair Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 26

LEM – MJ Mahland Lector – Judy Davis Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Rev Allison and Robin St Clair will be out of town from the 6th – 8th of June.

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