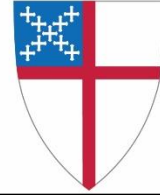




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



July 2022

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From our Rector:

Blessed July to you,

There are a number of things happening around us just now. Many may leave us feeling uncertain, disheartened, and worried about our lives, the nation, and the world. Topics and current events that continue to affect our common lives such as: mass shootings/gun violence, immigration and border security, women's health and body autonomy, economics and inflation, the war in Ukraine and its impact on the world, racism, police reforms, upcoming elections/election integrity, and Jan 6th hearings. All this seems like a lot to process and find our way to what is best for the greatest number of people. And among those we know, there may be differences of opinion on the greatest good to be achieved.

Within our church and hopefully within our homes and community, we can find the courage and respect to share our feelings without devolving into divisiveness and meanness. These are serious problems and the need serious discussions to try to find the best solutions.

I have been such a mix of emotions myself with all these things that are happening... sad, disappointed, angry, hopeful, encouraged, annoyed, fearful, dissatisfied, and prayerful... Prayerful most of all. To keep from feeling overwhelmed by all that is happening simultaneously I have found two things that have helped me and comforted me. The first is the Serenity Prayer:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

This prayer helps me to sort through the news and events and understand what I can change and what I cannot change. Those things I cannot change I look for the serenity to accept. For those that I can influence, I look for the ways that I can try to bring about change.

The other thing that has been helpful to keep me from feeling overwhelmed has been Jesus' guidance on taking each day at a time and not worrying about tomorrow too much. "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:34) This verse reminds me to just focus on what is happening in my immediate life right now... to do what I can right now, in the moment... and not get caught up in what is going to happen in the future.

Please know that if you feel the need or desire to talk about what you may be feeling in light of all that is happening, I am happy to meet with you to talk and pray and look for ways to live our faith in action.

Peace be with 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.

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
July 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.

Sunday Book Study started on 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.

First Friday Film Night July 1st at 5pm – Continuing the 2nd season of “The Chosen”. Light supper of soup is offered. Bring your own beverage. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

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.

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!!! – Join us for a singalong of songs about Summer! All voices welcome! No singing expertise needed, just enthusiasm! Friday 6-7pm July 22nd. In the Ed Bldg. Lyrics will be on the big screen, original artists will lead us. 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/>

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.

Junior Warden:

July is the month of independence.

As we celebrate this wonderful occasion, safety is always forefront.

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

6 July: Phyllis Fortenberry

9 July: James O'Neil

13 July: Valla Miller

15 July: Bruce Dockter

28 July: Cheryl Stone

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

Following the 5pm service (about 6:30pm) meet at La Casita Mexican Restaurant on Fry Blvd. 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.

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.

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 July 22nd at 4pm.

Diocesan Convention Volunteers Needed in Tucson at the Conquistador Resort!!! - Have you ever wanted to work on the inside of the Diocesan Convention? Would you like to help your Diocese? Your opportunity to volunteer for Convention is here! We are looking for several, good volunteers to be part of the 2022 Diocesan Convention being held on Friday, October 21 through Saturday, October 22, 2022. Duties may include greeting attendees, counting ballots, or other essential jobs that help make the Convention a success. Complimentary lunch is available to volunteers on both days. If you volunteer on Friday, you are also welcome to join us for dinner. To join us, please contact Toni Murdock at 480-382-6140 or via email at toni@azdiocese.org.

Summer AZ Episcopalian Magazine available online at this link:
https://azdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/AZepiscopal_Summer2022forprintmerged-Smallpdf-1.pdf . This issue has all the upcoming October Diocesan

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

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.

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 began 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 July

Wednesdays 6, 13, 20, 27

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 2

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

Saturday 9

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

Saturday 16

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

Saturday 23

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

Saturday 30

LEM – Robin StClair Lector – Robin StClair Altar Guild – Robin StClair

Sunday 3

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

Sunday 10

LEM – Robin StClair Lector – MJ Mahland Altar Guild – Robin StClair Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 17



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

Sunday 24

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

Sunday 31

LEM – Nancy Rea Lector – Judy Davis Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

July						
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 La Casita Mexican Restaurant
10 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	11	12 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	13 9:30 am Spoken service with Holy Communion	14	15	16 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
17 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	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
31 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream						