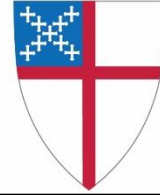




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



August 2022

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From our Rector:

Greetings in August to you,

Schools are back in session, folks are winding up their summer vacations, Labor Day is around the corner and autumn will be slowly slipping into our area. Sometimes I feel more like August is the end of the year than December... probably from years of school calendars. Maybe you feel that way also?



During summer we tend to slow our pace of life inside and outside the church... we take a breather, relax, let go of some of our activity and pause to reflect on various things. This time of relaxation and reflection is important for our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

It is necessary for us to allow our bodies to heal and regenerate. It is necessary for us to sift and sort through our emotions. It is necessary for us to give our overstimulated brains some calm from the constant barrage of inputs. It is necessary for us to ponder unhurriedly "how is it with my soul?"

Although our American culture pushes us to keep busy, keep doing, keep going.... We find a different message in our teacher Jesus... Jesus was intentional about getting away from the daily hustle and bustle and he taught his followers to do the same...

Mark 6:30-32: The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

Enjoy this last bit of summer, slow down, take it easy, pause, find yourself a quiet place and get some rest... Take care of yourself.

Peace!

Rev. Allison



Senior Warden

Fellow Parishioners

As our kids are getting ready to go back to school, please ensure you keep your eyes and ears open to see and hear when they are out and about.

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
August 26th**

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 Sept 2nd at 5pm – We will be watching the movie “The Shack” in which Mack receives a mysterious letter telling him to meet at the shack where four years ago his abducted daughter's clothes were found. Angry and upset, Mack goes to confront the mysterious sender of the letter and meets God at the Shack. 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!!! – We had great fun singing songs of summer last time. Next singalong will be Friday Aug 26th at 6pm in the Ed Bldg featuring greatest pop hits of the 1950s and 1960s! Come sing with us!

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:

As we are halfway through the monsoon season, let's continue to keep the outside of the church just as beautiful as it is on the inside.

Everybody stay safe as we all endure the high winds, heavy rain, and the water that accumulates on the roads.

**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

10 Aug: Ed Stone

10 Aug: Greg Lamberth

23 Aug: Joan Strom

24 Aug: Timothy Ash



Re-starting our outreach ministry team, "Community Connections". Looking for those who would like to be part of the team to identify community needs that our church may be able to help meet. Please add your name to our signup sheet if you are interested in helping out!

Labor Day Sunday Cookout after church! Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, Desserts... Let us celebrate the closing days of summer together with a time of extended fellowship and let's meet our new friends from the New Testament Christian Church congregation. Do you have a grill you could bring to the church? Sign up in Parish Hall for items to bring.

Second Saturday St. Stephen's Supper group will meet Saturday Aug 13th 6:30pm –

Following the 5pm service (about 6:30pm) meet at Olive Garden 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 rsцина@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.

Yard cleanup day – Thank you to all who helped Saturday Aug 6th with our yard cleanup. Special thanks to our new friends from New Testament Christian Church for their help.

Christian Ed Forum – Study of the Book of Revelation continues Sat 4 pm. Sunday Adult Forum is reading “How to Read the Bible & Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis through Revelation” by John Dominic Crossan. Copies of the book are \$12.00/ea from Rev. Allison.

Living with Loss – A support group for those processing grief from losing someone you love. Next mtg Friday Aug 19th, 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 Convention information in it.

Education for Ministry (EFM) – NOW registering new students for Fall 2022 start. If you are interested in a truly transformative experience learning seminary education in New Testament, Old Testament, Church History, Theology, Liturgy, Prayer, Ministry, Fellowship, and Pastoral Care, then this program is for you. At least half of St. Stephen's members have completed the program and agree that it is spiritually life changing. (Sponsored by University of the South, Sewanee). See Sherry Simon, Peggy Brown for additional information to get signed up.

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.

Spiritual Gifts Inventories – If you missed the opportunity to take the Spiritual Gift Inventory when Canon Cathy Black was with us, copies are available on the back table of the church, or contact me to have a copy emailed to you. Then let us know your top 5 gifts.

Ladies Social Group meets monthly for lunch or other fun activities. August 20th the group will meet at 10am at the church parking lot for carpools and then visit Julie Quain Carman's alpaca ranch to see her herd and how she makes yarn from their wool. Lunch will follow at noon at Country House Restaurant. All are welcome to join in the fun and food.

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.

Now forming a Pastoral Care Team (also known as Eucharistic Visitors) – volunteers to be trained to take communion to people unable to come to church and visit with them for a bit. If you are interested, please sign up for this ministry.

Ministry Teams Schedule for August

Wednesdays 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 6

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

Saturday 13

LEM – Evening Prayer Lector – Tim Holsonback Altar Guild – Ed Stone Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Saturday 20

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

Saturday 27

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

Sunday 7

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

Sunday 14

LEM – Morning Prayer Lector – MJ Mahland Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 21

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

Sunday 28

LEM – Peggy Brown Lector – Judy Davis Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

There will be "No Eucharist" on the 13th or 14th of August

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