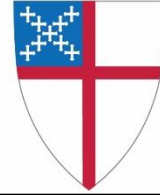




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



February 2023

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From our Rector:



Happy Valentine's Month,

We have this celebration of Valentine's Day on the 14th, named for one of three possible priest in ancient Roman times named Valentine. Each priest has their own legends associated with them, but all appear to have been sympathetic, heroic, and romantic figures. The third of which in writing a love letter signed it, "From Your Valentine" – a notation in use today when love notes or cards are sent for the occasion.

The date of Valentine's Day seems to have been selected by the church to influence or overtake a Roman holiday called Lupercalia on 15 February. The Roman holiday was one which used pagan practices to promote fertility for the coming spring, including among women. One practice included available young ladies putting their name in a jar and the men then choosing names and thereby starting a year of consorting with the lady whose name was chosen and these pairings often ended in marriage.

By the Middle Ages, observance of Valentine's Day was established as a day of love and romance, in part because it was widely believed that mid-February was when birds began mating, adding to the idea of a time for love and romance. Written notes began to appear in the 1400s and printed cards became used in the 1800s.

Other gifts that are often given on Valentine's Day include chocolates and roses. Chocolate was once thought to be an aphrodisiac, to stir a person's passions. Red roses have long been a symbol of love and passion dating back to the Roman empire. White roses were a symbol of purity and pink roses are a blend of red and white.

Cupid as a symbol of Valentine's Day has roots in Greek mythology as the Greek God of love Eros, who would shoot golden arrows into people to cause them to fall in love (or leaden arrows to cause people aversion to another person).

With love in mind this February, we begin the Lenten season on Feb 22nd with Ash Wednesday services. It is a time to consider God's love for us in sending us Jesus his son... our own in-person message of love, our own in-person Valentine. May we think on how much God loves us as we move through this month and into the next in our Lenten journey to the cross and the Easter resurrection.

With peace and love,

Rev. Allison



Senior Warden

Fellow Parishioners

As we are now entering the season of Lent, let's remember the importance of this time of year. As we prepare for Jesus' death, resurrection, and why he died for us on the cross.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

February 23rd

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.

Photos Wanted – Please send Mark any photos of events or happenings around our church to Mark for him to have in refreshing our photo library. Can be photos of various activities around the church or decorations or even flowers/trees on our property.

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

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.

Friday Film Night February 10th at 5pm – We will watch "The Way": A father heads overseas to recover the body of his estranged son who died while traveling the "El Camino de Santiago," and decides to take the pilgrimage himself. "The Way" is a powerful and inspirational story about family, friends, and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world. Light supper of soup is offered. Bring your own beverage. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Second Saturday St. Stephen's Supper group will meet Saturday February 11th 6:30pm

We are going to J's Filipino Restaurant, 386 W Fry Blvd, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635. There is a separate area in the back of the restaurant for a larger group that I will ask for. All are welcome, invite your friends.

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 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/>

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.

Junior Warden:

This time of year can be a very somber one as we prepare for Jesus' death on the cross. Let us all remember why he died for us and keep everybody close to our hearts as we come to worship during this significant time of year.

**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

2 Feb: Andrew Anderson
12 Feb: Carlos Zeisel
21 Feb: Nancy Rea
23 Feb: Hunter Reid Zavala



Covid and other viruses are active in the community – You are encouraged to wear a mask indoors at church especially if you feel vulnerable to the Covid/Flu/RSV viruses. If you feel it is necessary also, please social distance yourself from others along the back and sides of the church.

The new flooring and parking lot will be a sizable investment in the future of our church. We have received anonymous donations for part of this work, we have savings in the building maintenance fund for part of the work. We would also like your donations to offset the cost and allow us to keep a reasonable reserve for emergency needs in building maintenance. Please give online, check, or cash with the notation that it is for facilities upgrades.

Super Bowl Party at Rev. Allison and Robin's house – Sunday Feb 12th – gather at 4pm for a 4:30pm kickoff. Bring your own preferred beverage. Snacks provided. Pizza dinner. 2252 Cherry Hills Dr, Sierra Vista AZ 85635.

Teller Volunteers are needed to help count & deposit funds from weekly collections. Computer knowledge will be helpful, but not necessary. Training will be provided. You will be scheduled once a month for about a hour. Please consider lending a hand! Contact Nancy Rea 520-227-3827 for more info.

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!

Vestry retreat – Friday and Saturday Feb 3 - 4 Members of the vestry are asked to reserve Friday from 3 to 7pm and Saturday from 9am to 4pm for our annual vestry retreat in the Parish Hall for planning 2023 and getting to know each other/team building. booklets.

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.

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.

Covid infection rates are high in Cochise County – You are encouraged to wear a mask indoors at church especially if you feel vulnerable to the Covid/Flu/RSV viruses. If you feel it is necessary also, please social distance yourself from others along the back and sides of the church. And of course, if you feel sick, please stay home.

New Church Floors – Feb 20-28: we will meet in the Ed Bldg for worship as our church will be removing the old floor and getting new flooring installed. We will be back in the church for worship Wed March 1st.

Parking Lot resurfacing – March 9-10: The church parking lot will not be available for a few days while we have cracks filled and the surface resealed and repainted. More info as it happens.

Lenten devotional booklets available Feb 11-12 – These booklets have daily readings and reflections to read and use in deepening your own devotions as we move through our season of Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY – Feb 22: Services at 9:30 and 6 pm in the Education Building (church floors being renovated).

Love Song Singalong Session – Friday Feb 24th at 6pm in the Ed Bldg. Since Valentine's Day is in February, we are singing love songs. Email Rev. Allison (revallison@ststephensaz.org) with your favorites and we will put them on the list. Join us and bring a friend for the singalong night!

New Forward Day by Day booklets available in the church and parish hall – pick yours up for Feb thru April.

NEED HELP MOVING CHAIRS and PEWS on SUNDAY Feb 19th 3pm – Meet in Church to move pews and chairs out of the church for new floor install.

Ministry Teams Schedule for February

Wednesdays 1, 8, 15, 22

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 4

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

Saturday 11

LEM – Ed Stone Lector – Tim Holsonback Altar Guild – Ed Stone

Saturday 18

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

Saturday 25 (1st Lent)

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

Sunday 5

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

Sunday 12

LEM – Sherry Simon Lector – Wilma Swartz Altar Guild – Sherry Simon Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 19

LEM – Peggy Brown Lector – Nancy Rea Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 26 (1st Lent)

LEM – MJ Mahland Lector – Peggy Brown Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Tuesday 21





Shrove Tuesday – No Worship Service: Pancake Supper

Wednesday 22

Ash Wednesday – 9:30 am service: Rev Allison and Deacon Dottie Serving

Wednesday 22 (6 pm service)

LEM – Sherry Simon Lector – Wilma Swartz Altar Guild – Sherry Simon Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

February						
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 J's Filipino Restaurant
12 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15 9:30 am Spoken service	16	17	18 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
19 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	20 	21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 	22 	23 New sletter Articles Due	24	25 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
26 11:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	27	28 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom				