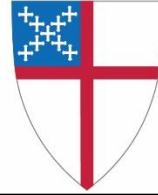




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



April 2023

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From our Rector:



A Meaningful Holy Week and Happy Easter to you all,

Our month of April is graced by Holy Week and Easter this year. It is a time of year when the spring brings the creation around us back to life in blossoms and blooms. Resurrection is in the air! Dare I say it too soon... Hallelujah!

I hope that this Easter season will bring to you a joy and happiness for new life and new beginnings. It is a time for us to do some breathing deep of the fresh air, appreciating the gift of this life that fills our hearts and souls... Let us let go of the darker thoughts and allow ourselves to be inspired to the brightness and liveliness of the world around us. Let our life bloom and blossom in new ways, new hopes, new vigor!

God so loved this world, that he gave us his Son, so that we might have life and have it abundantly, even unto eternal life!

We have nothing to fear and all kinds of things to be grateful for! Rejoice! Again, I say, rejoice!

Be Blessed, Be Free, Be Joyful,

Rev. Allison



Senior Warden

Fellow Parishioners

This is a special time of year where we remember his death, resurrection, and why all this has occurred. He did this for us, our sins, and let us not forget why this is important.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

April 24th

Sunday services are Live Streamed plus this month the Great Vigil on Saturday.

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 April 14th at 5pm – We will watch "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" about several people who move to India to start new chapters of their lives and their reactions to this change. Light supper of soup is offered. Bring your own beverage. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

No Supper for April Second Saturday of the month – Because the 2nd Saturday is on the night of Easter Vigil and the next day is Easter Sunday with brunch, we invite you to join us for the Easter Brunch on Sunday for a time of fellowship and feasting. Invite your family and 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 is where we prepare for Jesus' death on the cross, his resurrection, and how special this time of year is. Let us all remember why He died for us and the life he wants us to live by taking care of others as He did 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

18 Apr: Eduardo Masga
30 Apr: Patricia Wick



Holy Week Schedule in early April: April 2nd is Palm Sunday 11 am, April 6th is Maundy Thursday 6pm with Agape Meal worship service, April 7th is Good Friday 6pm with new stations of the cross, April 8th is Easter Vigil at 5pm, and April 9th is Easter Sunday with Easter Brunch in Parish Hall.

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.

Vestry approved a change to Sunday Worship hour to be 10AM starting May 7th. Many asked if we could move our worship time on Sunday to an earlier time now that Rev. Allison is no longer supporting St. Raphael's in Benson. The unanimous vote was for a 10AM service on Sundays.

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!

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.

Easter Decorating of the Church – We will be changing the church from Holy Week to Easter decorations on Saturday April 8th at 9am to 10:30am. We appreciate having volunteers to help change banners, altar hangings, flowers, polish the brass, etc... for our Easter celebration. Coffee and donuts provided.

Next Singalong will be songs that reflect April Showers and May Flowers on April 28th at 6pm - Email Rev. Allison (revallison@ststephensaz.org) with your favorite songs about rain and flowers (or names of flowers, such as "Build me up, Buttercup" or "Daisy Jane") and we will put them on the list. Join us and bring a friend for the singalong night!

"Getting your affairs in order" workshop – Coming May 13th 11am to 2pm with lunch: Does your family know what you want if you become unable to make known your healthcare and end of life decisions for yourself? RSVP to sign up for a workshop that will provide you with information and templates to complete your Advanced Healthcare Directive, Power of Attorney, and Funeral arrangements. Your family will appreciate that you have determined what you want to have happen and relieve them of the burden of trying to figure out what to do. RSVP (revallison@gmail.com or call the office and leave a message 520-458-4432) so that we know how many copies of documents to have available and how much lunch to provide.

Throughout this year, we are looking at the theme of "Spiritual Journeys" – Where are you on your spiritual journey and what helps to bring you closer to God or what prevents you from coming closer to God? We will be offering different activities to explore footsteps on our pathways to God that will expand our ideas and experiences of self-care, prayer & meditation, nature & creation, and other topics. Stay tuned for workshops and other activities that you are invited to join and which will be led by members of our church and community.

Coffee Hour Coordinator wanted – We would like to have someone who can arrange/ask for volunteers to get our Sunday morning coffee hour set up and cleaned up each week, and to note when we need coffee hour items like, well, coffee, tea, creamer, sweetener, napkins, plates, pastries, etc... Please see Rev. Allison if interested in being the coordinator.

Ministry Teams Schedule for April

Wednesdays 5, 12, 19, 26

LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 1

LEM – Sherry Simon Lector – Sandra Calhoun Altar Guild – Sherry Simon

Saturday 8

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

Saturday 15

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

Saturday 22

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

Saturday 29

LEM – Sherry Simon Lector – Sandra Calhoun Altar Guild – Sherry Simon

Sunday 2 (2nd Lent)

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

Sunday 9 (3rd Lent)

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

Sunday 16 (4th Lent)

LEM – Peggy Brown Lector – MJ Mahland Altar Guild – Sherry Simon Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 23 (5th Lent)

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

Sunday 30 (5th Lent)

LEM – Nancy Rea Lector – Wilma Swartz Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Thursday 6 (Maunday Thursday)

LEM – None Needed Lector – ? Altar Guild – None Needed

Friday 7 (Good Friday)

LEM – None Needed Lector – Wilma Swartz Altar Guild – None Needed

April						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 5:00 pm Spoken service w ith Holy Communion
2 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	3	4 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	5 9:30 am Spoken service w ith Holy Communion	6  Maundy Thursday	7  Good Friday	8 No Supper for April. Join us for Easter Brunch on Sunday
9  Happy Easter	10	11 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	12 9:30 am Spoken service	13	14  Movie NIGHT	15 5:00 pm Spoken service w ith Holy Communion
16 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream	17	18 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	19 9:30 am Spoken service w ith Holy Communion	20	21	22 5:00 pm Spoken service w ith Holy Communion
23 11:00 am Choral service w ith Holy Communion	24 New sletter Articles Due	25 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	26 9:30 am Spoken service	27	28	29
30 11:00 am Worship In person and Live Stream						