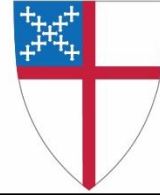




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



May 2023

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From our Rector:



Happy May to you,

With the better than average winter rains we have had a spring filled with blossoms and blooms... our "May flowers." It is so beautiful to see the colors and the greenery return faithful as God's promises of new life during our Easter season (and a challenge for those of us allergy prone, unfortunately).

I have always loved the seasons, all of them, for the insights they can teach us about our lives and faith. Autumn has always been my favorite, the cooling days and fall colors, a time to celebrate harvest and thanksgiving. I even like winter with its dormant earth, cold temps, and snows – a time to reflect on when things appear to be at an end or stalled. Summer reminds me of vacation and relaxation – a time to let things grow and develop on their own.

And of course, spring. Spring always gives me hope and a sense of newness and promise. Just as the earth resurrects itself from the deadness of winter, Jesus showed himself to his followers overcoming their deadness of spirit and resurrects in them hope and joy. May you find in the greening of nature and the profusion of flowers a reminder of God's faithfulness to each of us and a promise of new life and new beginnings. Christ is risen! And so are we!

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Allison



Senior Warden



Fellow Parishioners

April showers bring May flowers. Colors are starting to bloom all around us as Jesus did for all his followers. Bring that brightness with you not only in church, but every day of your life.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
May 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.

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.

First Friday Film Night May 5th at 5pm – We will watch "Michael" in which John Travolta plays the Archangel Michael leading some people on a journey of self-understanding and faith. Light supper of salad is offered. Bring your own beverage. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

No Supper for May Second Saturday of the month – With Mother's Day occurring on Sunday, this will be our time to come together and thank all the "Mom's" for all they have done for their families.

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/>

July collection of school supplies for the most rural and neediest schools in the county – We ask that you begin donating school supplies (paper, notebooks, pencils, crayons, markers, etc...) in July so that we can get them to the schools in our county which need them most by start of school in August. The schools in the smaller towns and which don't get much attention are the ones we are hoping to help this year.

Making Wildflower Seed Bombs - Early July date TBD: Come get your hands dirty making small dirt and seed balls (bombs) to then cast into our property as the Monsoon season begins. Each ball will have seeds, dirt and clay to hold it together, rolled into small balls, dried in the sun and ready for casting around our property for the rains to activate. Part of our Creation Care Ministry.

Junior Warden:



As the flowers start to show their beautiful colors, we all need make sure that same beauty is in the church. Let's all come together to ensure everybody sees what we see and that is the beautiful church we all worship in.



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 May: Joe DePaul
- 14 May: Tim Holsonback
- 16 May: Alesia Ash
- 18 May: Tony Roselli
- 22 May: Mark Sowards



Mother's Day Lunch – May 14th: Join us for Sloppy Joe Sandwiches, salad, beverages, dessert following our worship in the Parish Hall. Happy Mother's Day to all our moms and those who have been like a mom to us.

June 18th – Our own Tim Ash will guest preach this Sunday in honor of Juneteenth celebration (June 19th). Tim did such a great job last year, we want to hear from him again about the significance of Juneteenth in light of our present day work to improve our communities with respect to African Americans and other ethnicities struggling for equality.

Coming in July 9 – Deacon Kim Crecca will join us for worship and a presentation on prison ministry and capitol punishment.

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.

Memorial Day Weekend Cookout – Stick around after worship on Sunday May 28th for a cookout of burgers and hotdogs, chips and sodas. Invite your friends and family to come and celebrate the unofficial start of summer. Signup coming soon.

SINGALONG ON FRIDAY on May 19th at 6pm - Email Rev. Allison (revallison@ststephensaz.org) with your favorite songs from folks lady singers like Carly Simon, Carol King, Bonnie Raitt, Helen Reddy, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, etc...

“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 Rev. Allison (520-458-4432 or email revallison@ststephensaz.org) 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.

Thank you to Wilma Swartz and Maryhelen Henthorn who are working together as our new Coffee Hour Coordinators. Please sign up to help occasionally with snacks and setting up coffee hour.

July 23rd – Special guest preacher/presider The Rev. Canon Laura Adelia, Canon for Veteran’s Ministry of the Diocese of Arizona will be with us. Come and hear about opportunities to minister to/with our members of the Armed Forces.

Ministry Teams Schedule for May

Wednesdays 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
LEM, Lector, Altar Guild – Dottie / Sherry

Saturday 6		
LEM – Sherry Simon	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Sherry Simon
Saturday 13		
LEM – Ed Stone	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Ed Stone
Saturday 20		
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector – Jeff Speer	Altar Guild – Jill Holsonback
Saturday 27		
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Altar Guild – Jeff Speer

Sunday 7 (2nd Lent)			
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Judy Davis	Altar Guild – Nancy Rea	Deacon – Dottie Gutwein
Sunday 14 (3rd Lent)			
LEM – Sherry Simon	Lector – Nancy Rea	Altar Guild – Sherry Simon	Deacon – Dottie Gutwein
Sunday 21 (4th Lent)			
LEM – Peggy Brown	Lector – MJ Mahland	Altar Guild – Sherry Simon	Deacon – Dottie Gutwein
Sunday 28 (5th Lent)			
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Deb Ash	Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Rev. Allison will be out of town for her niece’s high school graduation May 22-26.

REMEMBER STARTING SUNDAY MAY 7th: NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME IS 10AM!!!!

May						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 	6 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
7 10:00 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 No Supper for April. Join us for Easter Brunch on Sunday
14 	15	16 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	17 9:30 am Spoken service	18	19	20 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
21 10:00 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 New sletter Articles Due	26	27 5:00 pm Spoken service with Holy Communion
28 10:00 am Choral service with Holy Communion	29 	30 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm via Zoom	31 9:30 am Spoken service			