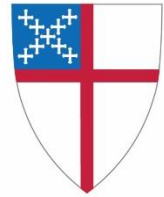




St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



July 2023

email: mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org

Telephone: (520) 458-4432

From our Rector:

Sizzling July Greetings,

As we enter the month of July, I count our blessings for being safe from hurricanes, tornados, and floods, but we have our own concerns in this part of the country... wildfires!

The National Weather Service says we might have a dryer and warmer summer this year as the oceans return to an El Nino pattern... we have already had a rash of wildfires around us in June and if the rains are less than hoped for those wildfires may continue. Please be ready to evacuate should that happen.

Have a "GO" bag ready with clothing, important documents such as passports, insurance info, credit cards, etc... Also have a checklist of things to grab and put in the bag such as phone chargers, medications, laptop computer, etc... Remember your pets and have them ready to go also... pet food, leashes, carriers that are easy to grab.

Please also stay safe from heat exhaustion and heat stroke. The temperatures being above 100 are dangerous to us and our pets. If you walk your dog, do so early in the morning or late in the day after the sun goes down... puppy paws can burn on the sidewalks. Limit your own sun exposure as much as possible and keep everyone hydrated.

Otherwise, enjoy this month of celebrating our nation's independence and summer breaks. Your vestry is taking July off and will resume meeting in August. May you also consider a time of rest and relaxation this month, I hope you can find opportunities to just be in the moment and let go of any busy-ness, worries, or stress... soak in a pool, enjoy a cool glass of iced tea, and hopefully thrill to the sound and sight of a thunderstorm soon.

Praying and Dancing for Rain,

Rev. Allison





From our Reverend Deacon

One Extra Hand

We come here, hand in hand with each other,
but look, and see... you and me, each has an extra hand
to bring another.

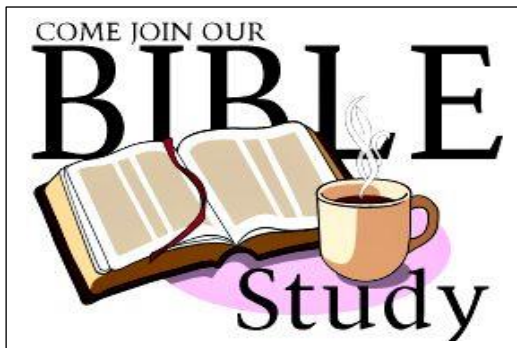
And, then, they two have an extra hand for bringing yet another one.

And, on, and on, and on we go, until, don't you know,
in all the whole wide world around,
there's not any one to be found, no, not one
who is alone for we are all here
together

Author unknown Just a favorite of mine, Deacon Dottie g

Faithfully and with Grace,

Dottie Gutwein



Bible Studies are held weekly on Tuesdays at 5 pm via Zoom. We are finishing up on a study of the Psalms. Our next study entails the study of Proverbs.

Sessions are no more than an hour in length.

It's fun and a lively experience as we engage in the study.

Please see Sherry for the link or call 520-210-2026

Education for Ministry registration is open for sessions 23-24. The first session of this year will be on August 31st at 3.30 pm. We are a Hybrid Group where some zoom in and some meet in person. Sessions are 2.5 to 3 hours long and run for a period of 9 months beginning in September of each year.

If you have not completed EFM and desire more information about this proven program, please give Sherry a call at 520-210-2026 or Peggy Brown at 520-456-4859 for more information. You may also speak with Reverend Allison or Deacon Dottie about the program.

If you are a graduate of EFM and desire to complete any year sessions of EFM you are welcome to do so. EFM opens the door for the faithful to find purpose in life and encounter the benefits the breadth depth of the Christian tradition. EFM brings participants into conversation with others through study, worship and engaging in Theological Reflections utilizing individual world experiences. It is a fun and engaging way to grow.

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 and meditation, nature and creation and other topics. Stay tuned for workshops and other activities that you are invited to and which will be led by members of our church and community.

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 to visit with them for a bit.

If you are interested, please sign up for this ministry.

Coming July Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th - Deacon Kim Crecca will join us for worship and a presentation on Prison ministry and capital punishment.

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

Step up to the plate to help with our Sunday refreshments and fellowship hour – Come a little earlier to get coffee and snacks ready and stay a little after to help clean up. Sign up on the calendar in the parish hall.

Koffee Kitty – We appreciate your donations for the refreshments, snacks and decorations that are available to you during our Fellowship Hour. Consider dropping a little cash into the kitty jar before you leave.

July Collection of school supplies for the most rural and neediest schools in the county – We ask that you begin donating school supplies, i.e., 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.

Save your Aluminum Cans and Pull Tabs!

Sierra Vista's Animal Shelter accepts crushed cans and pull tabs to help fund shelter needs. We will have a trash barrel to accept your rinsed, crushed cans tabs and will drop them off when the barrel gets full.

Help care for pets and animals at our shelter.

New Program for giving in Sierra Vista – Better Bucks: The vestry voted 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. See Website

<https://betterbuckssierravista.org/>

Change for change – Coming soon! Want to get rid of some of your loose change on your dresser, in your car, or between your sofa cushions? The United Thanks Offering (UTO) blue boxes will be available soon to receive your change in order to help others change their communities and fund various ministries seeking to make positive changes. Take a blue box and fill it with your loose change as a way to help others around The Episcopal Church.

From our Treasurer

We are “in the black.” The bills are paid. And we hope people will keep up with their pledges during the summer months. Thanks to everyone who has been so faithful all year! Anne V Roth.

From our Administrator Mark

Please notify the church Office when you move or change your phone or emails. If you change your email address, 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 flexible.

Standard hours are: Tues, and Thurs, 9 am to 2 pm
Wednesdays 11 am to 2 pm.

Photos Wanted

Please send Mark any photos of events or happenings around our church for him to have in refreshing our photo library.

Can be photos of various activities around the church or decorations or even the flowers/trees on our property.

Sunday's Service will be in Person and Live stream At 10 am

Saturday evening Worshippers – Please recycle your bulletins for Sunday worshippers unless you wish to take them home with you.

Restarting 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 sign-up sheet if you are interested in helping out!

Christian Ed Forum

Study of the Book of Revelations continues Saturday 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 Crosson. Copies of the book are \$12 from Rev. Allison.

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

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.



9th July James O'Neil
15th July Bruce Dockter
20th July Anne V Roth
28th July Cheryl Stone

First Friday night Film July 7th at 5pm

We will watch 'Seven Pounds' – A man with a fateful secret embarks on an extraordinary journey of redemption by forever changing the lives of seven strangers.

Starring Will Smith.

A light supper of salad is offered. Bring your own beverage. All are welcome. Bring a friend

Duplicate Bridge Club to begin meeting at St Steven's in the Ed Building on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 to 4pm. Classes for new players are offered. Anyone interested please get in touch with Bob Walton at publius92@yahoo.com or phone 520 -249-6635.

With the wet will come the weeds!

If you are physically able, we appreciate volunteers to help us keep the weeds and grasses around the church buildings cut back when we get the monsoon rains. We have mowers in the blue shed along with a field and brush mower back 40 when it gets crazy overgrown. If you would like to volunteer and be trained for the grass mowing team, contact Pete Criscuolo or Tim Holsonback, our Church Wardens.

Making Wildflower Seed Bombs – Early July date to be arranged.

Come and get your hands dirty making small dirt balls (bombs) to then cast into our property as the Monsoon Season begins. Each ball will have seeds, dirt and clay to hold together, rolled into balls, dried in the sun and ready for casting around our property for the rains to activate. Part of our Creation Care Ministry.

Taking Time to Pray:

I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day,
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task,
Why doesn't God help me? I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on grey and bleak,
I wondered why didn't God show me,
He said, "You didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence,
I tried all my keys at the lock,
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning
And paused before entering the day,
I had so much to accomplish,
I had to take time to pray.

-- Author unknown

Submitted by Andy Anderson

Tuna Salad

Many people enjoyed Maryhelen's Tuna Salad after the service on Sunday June 25th and asked for the recipe. She has kindly obliged and has submitted this:

2 to 3 cans of tuna in water.

Place in a fine mesh strainer.
Using a paper plate, hand press out the water. Place in a bowl and set aside.

As much as you like, diced celery, finely diced white onion and chopped fresh parsley, folded into the tuna.

In a separate bowl, whisk together, Mayonnaise,
Lawry's brand season salt,
Garlic powder,
a few dashes of Tabasco brand sauce,
and
1 packet of True Lemon brand crystallized lemon (or lemon juice).

Taste and adjust as needed.

Fold into tuna and chill before serving.

NOTE: to prevent oxidation / discoloration press plastic wrap directly onto tuna in an airtight container.

Enjoy, Maryhelen Henthorn

"Monsoon Season"

The thunderbird flaps its great wings, and the fresh fragrance of imminent desert downpours tantalizes the nostrils. Nature is ready to explode onto Arizona another monsoon season.

Carle Hodge

As your new editor I would like to welcome individual contributions for future newsletters. Perhaps a poem, inspirational quote, a prayer, recipes etc. Please send your submissions for August by July 24th to dianepyancey@gmail.com Looking forward to hearing from you, Diane.

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
2 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Also live stream)	3	4 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm Via Zoom	5 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	6	7 <i>Movie Night</i> 	8 Supper 6.30pm At Manda Lé All are welcome
9 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Also live stream)	10	11 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm Via Zoom	12 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	13	14	15 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
16 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Also live stream)	17	18 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm Via Zoom	19 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	20	21	22 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
23 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Also live stream)	24 Newsletter Articles Due	25 Bible Study (Psalms) 5 pm Via Zoom	26 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	27	28	29 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
30 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Also live stream)	31					

Ministry Teams Schedule for July

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

Saturday 15

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

Saturday 22

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

Saturday 29

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

Sunday 2

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

Sunday 9

LEM – MJ Mahland Lector – Wilma Swartz Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 16

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

Sunday 23

LEM – Nancy Rea Lector – MJ Mahland Altar Guild – Deb Ash Deacon – Dottie Gutwein

Sunday 30

LEM – Sherry Simon Lector – Peggy Brown Altar Guild – Deb Ash