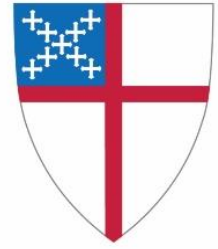




*St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church  
Newsletter  
March 2024*



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**From our Rector**

Greetings and Meditations for a Holy Lent,

Our Lenten season is with us and will conclude on March 31<sup>st</sup> with our Easter celebration. As spring is starting to appear around us in flowers and trees budding with flowers and leaves, we are reminded of the renewal of the earth and hopefully a spiritual renewal within us as well. I like to take this time of year to do a bit of spring cleaning... to reflect on how I am doing spiritually... do I have some spiritual dust-bunnies to banish to the dust bin? Do I have some stains/sins I need to get out? Do I have some un-tidy thoughts that need a bit of sorting and disposing of? Where am I being arrogant instead of humble? Where am I less forgiving than I ought to be? Where am I uncharitable when I should be generous... or at least understanding? Lent is a season for me to think and act upon the second part of the Serenity prayer:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

I want to have the courage to change the things I can change and those things are almost exclusively within me... because myself is the only person I have any real control over...

May your own spiritual spring cleaning bring about a brighter and better inner peace and joy!

Holiness and wholeness be with you,  
Rev. Allison Cornell

## Why do we wave palms on Palm Sunday:

Palms have a rich history. It was a customary practice in the ancient world to welcome home a king by placing palm branches on the ground for him to walk or ride on.

Palms have also been recognized as a symbol of peace, victory, and eternal life.

In other societies, palms have added meanings:

- Ancient Greece and Romans: The palm branch represented “victory.” It was awarded to winning athletes or to gladiators when they were victorious at events.
- Assyria: The palm is viewed as a sacred tree connecting heaven to earth. Images of winged creatures holding palm fronds have been found in this region.
- Egypt: the Egyptians believed palms represented eternal life and immortality. Egyptian funeral processions carried palms.

For Christians, the simple palm branch is a reminder that God is a God of change. He can change blindness to sight. The lame walk. Lepers are cleansed. The deaf hear. He can transform sickness into health. Death to life. He can change a Good Friday into an Easter Sunday. That small palm branch in parishioners’ hands reminds them every day that God can transform their lives.

Accessed from [https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Article\\_16786764332354](https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Article_16786764332354) on 2/28/24.

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## What are the “Stations of the Cross” or the “Via Dolorosa”?

One of the practices of Christians during Lent (and other times as well), is to recite or pray through the “Stations of the Cross” the 14 stations that Jesus is reported to have followed from being condemned to die by crucifixion to his actual death on the cross. The stations include some of the people Jesus encountered along the way as he struggled to carry the cross beam of his cross to Calvary hill.

This pilgrimage through the stations is also referred to as the “Via Dolorosa” or the way of sorrow. It is a way to reflect upon and to enter into the story of Jesus and his last hours on earth, a way to understand the suffering of the innocent man we know as the Messiah.

St. Stephen’s has several pictorial images of the stations and we rotate them each year. We have a couple of different “Stations of the Cross” booklets to guide you from one station to the next. Anyone can pray the stations at any time, just make arrangements to be in the church with the church office. We will have a service of “The Stations of the Cross” on Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am and again at 6pm.

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## What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin “Mandatum” meaning commandment. This refers to the Scripture in which Jesus tells his disciples on the last night of his life following the Last Supper “I give you a new commandment: that you love one another.” This is one of the Scriptures that is part of the Maundy Thursday readings for the day.

On Maundy Thursday we remember that Jesus also washed his disciples’ feet and told his believers that they also should wash each other’s feet. Additionally, Jesus instituted the practice of what we call “The Lord’s Supper” or the partaking of Holy Communion in which Jesus asked his followers to heed his instructions to “Do this for the remembrance of me.”

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## **Why is Good Friday called Good when it is the day we recall Jesus dying on the cross?**

The sense of the word “Good” is from the idea of being pious or holy, not that something positive or beneficial has happened.

In other countries or traditions this Friday of Holy Week is called “Long Friday”, “Holy Friday”, "Friday of the Passion and Death of the Lord", "Mourning Friday", or "Friday of Crucifixion". Some references incorrectly suggest that the “Good” comes from “God”.

It is a day to recall Jesus’ crucifixion and death through worship services that may have different options for recalling the events of the day of Jesus’ death. There may be a reading of one of the Gospel accounts of the events leading to Jesus’ crucifixion and death, or a service of “The Stations of the Cross”, or reflections upon “The Last Seven Words of Christ”, or a “Tenebrae” service of light and shadow.

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## **What is Holy Saturday?**

Holy Saturday is the Saturday following Good Friday in Holy Week. It is a solemn day of worship while recalling Jesus laid in the tomb before his resurrection. It is a time of mourning and reflecting upon Jesus’ life, death, and descent to the dead. In the Episcopal Church the altar remains bare or draped in black. The worship is a simple liturgy of the word only and no communion is shared. The readings include the burial of Jesus and lamentations for his death.

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## **Holy Week Schedule –**

- March 24<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday 10am
- Wed March 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30am & 6pm Stations of the Cross
- Maundy Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> 6pm
- Good Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> 6pm
- Holy Saturday 5pm
- Easter Sunday 10 am with Easter Brunch to follow.

**Holy Week Pamphlets available to plan your Holy Week Calendar.** Please take extra copies to give to friends that you wish to invite to attend with you.



## *From Our Reverend Deacon*

Welcome almost spring! Those who travel on Foothills Drive from Hwy 92 South to El Camino Drive, or vice-versa, may have noticed the beautiful display of yellow and orange flowers planted there by residents in the area. They are such a delight and annual sign that spring is arriving. They are such a glorious display of God's Creation still being created!

Before I continue, our Editor in Chief, Diane Yancey, has a birthday this month and we are sorry we can't celebrate it with her. However, if she listens really close on March 31, we will all be singing Happy Birthday to You from St. Stephen's Church on that Sunday. We have begun celebrating monthly birthdays on the first Sunday of each month with cake and candles in Parish Hall after service. This is in addition to each celebrant receiving a birthday card from the whole church in the mail. And so, Diane, you are the first to be celebrated on March 3 and we will enjoy a cake in your name. But WE WILL SING TO YOU ON 3/31 ALSO!!!

Our church camp, Chapel Rock, in June, will be hosting children from ages 17 through 6 years old whose parents are incarcerated. The camp is called Camp Genesis during that time. I have names and ages of many children who will be going this year. As a project of the Diocesan Prison Ministry, we are asked to choose a name or 2 and write a simple note expressing wishes he or she will enjoy camp, have lots of fun, make new friends and renew friendships with old friends, etc. A short note to the child may be signed only by first name or a friend from St. Stephen's Church (no last name or city). I will collect them the end of April to send to the person in charge in Phoenix. The cards will be delivered in bulk to the Camp Genesis Counsellors for distribution. Please contact me as soon as possible so we can begin this much needed encouragement to these children in need of our love.

Also this month, our free will and gratitude donations will assist in the cost of some of Camp Genesis children as well as 2 young folks (Peggy Brown's granddaughter Tabitha and her friend) from our parish family this year. So let us be generous in giving to this cause also.

Soon we will have 2 or 3 newly trained Lay Eucharistic Ministers in our midst. Training will begin March 8 at 9:30 AM. If you have not already signed up or have questions about this ministry, please contact me.

Have been asked to conduct a class about the Book of Common Prayer and am glad to do so after the Bishop's June 9. More to come.

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE,

Rev. Deacon Dottie g.

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*From our Treasurer*

Each of us has pieces of the parochial report to do for the Diocese, and the report is due on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Aside from that, the Vestry agreed to let me consult with the man who has been my home landscaper. He will visit with myself and Rev. Allison to look at various pieces of the church property that need some updating. We will report back once we have some idea of what can be done.

Anne Roth

**March 2024 Lay Ministry Teams Schedule**

***NOTE: If you are unable to serve at the appointed time and day, you are responsible for finding a replacement. Please notify Robin of substitutions***

<b>Saturday 2nd</b>			
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Alter guild – Robin StClair	
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>			
LEM – Tim Holsonback	Lector - Jeff Speer	Alter Guild – Tim Holsonback	
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup></b>			
LEM –Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Altar Guild – Jeff Speer	
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>			
LEM – Robin StClair	Lector – Sandra Calhoun	Alter guild – Robin StClair	
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – MAUNDY THURSDAY 6pm</b>			
LEM –Tim Holsemback	Lector – Jeff Speer	Altar Guild – Tim Holsenback	
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> – HOLY SATURDAY</b>			
LEM – Jeff Speer	Lector – Tim Holsonback	Alter Guild – Jeff Speer	
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>			
LEM – Nancy Rae	Lector – Wilma Swartz	Alter Guild – Nancy Rae	Deacon - Dottie Gutwein
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>			
LEM –Robin StClair	Lector – Peggy Brown	Altar Guild – Robin StClair	Deacon - Dottie Gutwein
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>			
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector – Doris Millard	Alter Guild – Deb Ash	Deacon – Dottie Gutwein
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> - PALM SUNDAY – 10am</b>			
LEM – Nancy Rea	Lector – Ann Crandall	Altar Guild – Deb Ash	Deacon - Dottie Gutwein
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – GOOD FRIDAY 6pm</b>			
LEM – MJ Mahland	Lector - Robin StClair	Alter Guild – Robin StClair	Deacon - Dottie Gutwein
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> -EASTER SUNDAY 10am</b>			
LEM – Nancy Rae	Lector – Ann Crandall	Alter Guild -Deb Ash	Deacon - Dottie Gutwein

## March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)					1 <b>Film Night</b> <b>"The Chosen"</b> <b>Episodes 7-8</b> <b>3.50pm</b> <b>(see notes)</b>	2 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
3 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	4	5 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	6 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	7	8	9 5.00 pm Service followed by <b>Supper at</b> <b>R&amp;R Pizza</b> <b>6.30pm</b>
10 10.00 am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	11	12 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	13 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	14	15	16 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
17 10am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	18	19 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	20 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion	21	22	23 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10am Choral Service with Holy Communion (Live Stream)	25 <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Articles</b> <b>Due For</b> <b>April Issue</b>	26 Bible Study (Proverbs) 5 pm Via Zoom	27 9.30 am Spoken Service With Holy Communion <b>6pm</b> Stations of the Cross	28 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>6pm</b>	29 <b>Good Friday</b> <b>6pm</b>	30 <b>Holy Saturday</b> 5.00 pm Spoken Service with Holy Communion

**Please Note – Friday film night** will be held at the Cinemark Movie Theatre at Sierra Vista Mall  
on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 3.50pm.

Tickets can be purchased on line or at the theatre



**Diane Yancey**

**March 31st**

## From Your Kitchen Koordinator!

### Special Sundays in March

I was looking at the March calendar and saw there are several Sundays the Kitchen Koordinator is gearing up for –

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>      BIRTHDAY SUNDAY**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>    SAINT PATRICK'S DAY**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>    EASTER BRUNCH POTLUCK**

There are sign-up sheets on the wall in the fellowship room. Please indicate what you would like to bring for the potluck meal.

Wilma Swartz. Tel. 520-210-1006

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**From the Editor** – What a lovely time of the year it is right now with new signs of spring arriving daily. We've had a couple of hummingbirds that have stayed with us all year but are now welcoming back some of our old friends such as the curved bill thrashers and the pyrrhuloxias etc. Our resident quail have begun pairing up and are serenading us with their mating calls. I'm really hoping that the daffodils will still be in bloom when we get over to England, but even if not, there will be vast swathes of bluebells to look forward to in April.

I am very fortunate this year to be able to celebrate my birthday twice! This coming Sunday I am looking forward to celebrating with friends at St Stephen's during the first of their planned Birthday Sundays. Then on the actual date I will be celebrating with family and friends in the UK. It will be a double celebration this year as we shall also be celebrating Easter together. The next time Easter falls on March 31<sup>st</sup> will be in 2097, so I had better make the most of it this year!!

I have read and reread Reverend Allison's opening paragraph several times and have many things to ponder on during the rest of this Lenten season, and then put them into action.

Wishing you all fruitful pondering times and a Very Happy Easter

Diane  
(dianepyancey@gmail.com)

**Wishing You all A Blessed Easter**

