



St Stephen's E-News

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From Your Publication Editor

Yes! This is a LONG E-Newsletter this week! There's so much going on at St. Stephen's that it took a lot of work just to get it all in!

Your Clergy are active in ensuring that everything that's fit to print is included - and that means a long list. We are extremely blessed to have such active trusted disciples, both ordained and parishioners, who keep our parish vital and alive in the body of Christ.

So read the articles, mark your calendar, and we'll see you on Sunday (or Wednesday or Thursday or.... :-)

Peace of the Lord, Your Publication Editor

Calendar for the Week

September 24, 2023 - Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

There will be two services on Sunday - 7:45 a.m. Spoken Eucharist and 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist. Both services will be held in the Nave.

The 10:00 service will be live-streamed.

Bulletins for the services can be downloaded [here](#).

September 26, 2023 - Holy Eucharist + Healing Service - 11:30 AM

Parish Life Events

Reminder - Parish Directory Updates

If you missed our Ice Cream social, please make sure to stop by the church office or email your parish directory information soon. We want to make sure we don't miss you in our directory!

Wednesday, September 27, 2023 - Tex-Mex Potluck



Don't miss this event! Parish Life and Outreach have put together an incredible night of fellowship, dining, and sharing. It all starts in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Earlier this year, the parish donated the Lenten Mite Box offerings to Fr. Mike Wallens and the Rio Grande Borderline Ministries (RGBM). The RGBM works in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) to provide humanitarian support to vulnerable people in our border communities, and to provide support to our men and women working in U.S. Customs and Border Protection

- **5:30 PM - Potluck**
 - Please bring a favorite Tex-Mex dish. Parish Life will provide drinks and desserts.
- **6:00 PM - Presentation by Outreach**
 - Zoom call with Fr. Mike Wallens, who spearheads the RGBM.
 - Presentation about our new project to serve our Hispanic neighbors in Anderson County - with Emily Doane and Olivia Cox, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Oak Ridge, TN

For more information about how Fr. Wallens and RGBM are making a difference - [click here](#)

Sunday, October 1, 2023 - A Morning Tea Party!

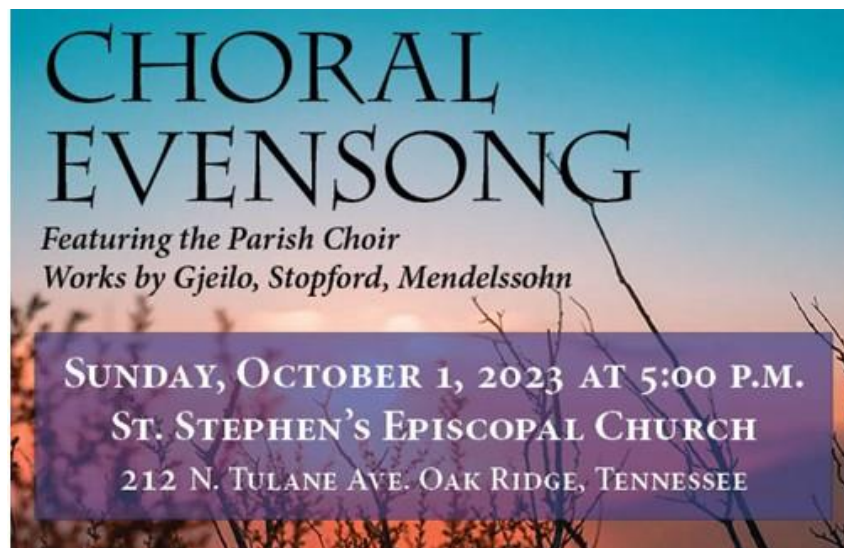


We are breaking out our finest china and the cloth tablecloths for this auspicious event. We have our teapots ready for YOU!

On Sunday, October 1, we will present our own interpretation of a proper English tea. Come join us as Simon and the St. Stephen's Choir share with us their stories and photos of their recent trip to London.

We are still seeking volunteers to assist in making tea sandwiches, scones, a tea loaf, or sticky toffee pudding. So, if you have a teapot to loan, or are willing to help, please contact Leah Bailey at lbailey667@comcast.net.

Sunday, October 1, 2023 - Choral Evensong



Treat yourself to a unique Sunday evening of spiritual nourishment through prayer and song. This is not to be missed!

After the morning service, our English tea and a quiet afternoon, come join us for a Choral Evensong. Our esteemed team of Music Director Simon, Fr. Ashton, and our world-renowned choir have put together this evening service to share with the parish. The service will be combining the 1662 Book of Common Prayer with a moving selection of music from a group of international composers: Norwegian Ola Gjeilo; British Philip Stopford; and German Felix Mendelssohn. ***Please join us!***

Saturday, October 7, 2023 - OR Disabilities Fair

Oak Ridge Disability Awareness & Resource Fair



Saturday, October 7

Oak Ridge Disability Awareness & Resource Fair

Come meet individuals, organizations, community partners, and providers who offer services and products to individuals with disabilities and their families.



From Fr. Bailey

Please mark your calendars for an important community event – the Oak Ridge Disabilities Fair – on Saturday, October 7 from 11 AM – 3 PM at the Oak Ridge Civic Center and Senior Center.

This is sponsored by the Oak Ridge Disability Advisory Board and is being supported by the Oak Ridge Ministerial Association and other organizations. The goal of the event is to foster relationships with those in our community who have disabilities and eliminate the stigma and fear that people feel about having disabilities.

I'm inviting the Parish to support this event through two ways:

- First, **just show up!** Those who attend can bring back some of what they have learned to bring greater awareness within our congregation.
- Second, **we will need some volunteers** who would be interested in helping put together 50 sandwiches for the boxed lunches that day. We need help with purchasing, preparing, and delivering the sandwiches by 10:30 that morning. Please reach out to me if you can help out.

The activities planned for that day are “extraordinary.”

- Ten different speakers, along with ASL translators, will discuss a variety of topics, such as disability etiquette, how talk to people with disabilities, and a Q & A session with people who have a variety of disabilities answering audience questions.
- 50 vendors will be located in the Civic Center gym, offering information on housing, education, employment, transportation, etc.
- There will be demonstrations such as wheelchair basketball, young children with disabilities dancing, adaptive sports equipment such as grit wheelchairs for hiking.
- Discussions rooms will be open to the public for topics related to Seniors, such as aging in place, independent living, home modifications and tools for independent living.
- Local artists will be holding a show which recognizes and lifts up those with disabilities.
- Weather permitting, there will be a large tent set up in the Civic Center park with live music from five different groups.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Peace, Bailey

Sunday, October 8, 2023 - Blessings of the Animals



Each year on October 4, The Episcopal Church celebrates the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. An Italian friar and beloved saint, he is one of the most venerated individuals in Christian history. He is widely known for his love of nature and animals.

This year we're combining our 10:00 AM service with this tradition. The service will be held outdoors in the Grove. Bring your pet - cat, dog, rabbit, bird, turtle, etc. - or even a favorite stuffed animal - to receive a blessing.

Please bring your pet in an appropriate carrier and/or a leash.

In case of inclement weather, the blessing of the animals will be postponed, and the service will be held in the Nave.

Most high, almighty Lord - Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets. Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. Amen.

Sunday, October 29, 2023 - Good Lord, It's A Gourd!



Parish Life and the Liturgics Team have put together our very first Boo-Charist! We hope this will become a new St. Stephen's Tradition.

This is a family friendly service where we invite EVERYONE - regardless of age - to wear your costume to church. (Of course, you can come as an Episcopal Communicant - that "costume" always works.)

Following the service, we will celebrate with a feast all things pumpkin - and all the other wonderful tastes and aromas of fall. Think pumpkin and apple pies, pumpkin soup, apple cider, pumpkin bread, spice loaves, ginger cookies and apple cake...YUMMMMM!

Share with us your fall favorite - sign up by email to [Leah Bailey](#).

Liturgical Update

Wednesday Night Adult Formation - Starting Soon

We're almost ready to kick-off our Wednesday Night supper with adult classes and activities for kids. The evening will start at 5pm with promises that everyone will be on their way home at 6:30pm.

Look for details in next week's e-newsletter.

Lay Pastoral Caregiving Program Coming This Fall



Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Gal. 6:2 (RSV)

St. Stephen's Clergy and the Pastoral Care Committee **are excited to announce** a new lay pastoral caregiving program beginning this fall, which we are terming "Companioning."

The goal of the program is to *equip parishioners to serve as supportive partners to persons going through difficult life challenges.*

Those who complete the program will become Companions who will work to provide a “safe place,” so that persons who are hurting can find a comfortable and caring listening presence. This program will complement the activities of St. Stephen’s current caregiving programs, such as the Eucharistic Visitors, the Daughters of the King, and the Meals Ministry.

St. Stephen’s implemented a similar program in the early 2000s, known as the Stephen Ministry. This will be a less intensive training program (15 hr vs. 50 hr; think “Stephen Ministry Lite”).

Those parishioners who may want to join this program include: (1) those who feel called to this type of Companion ministry; (2) those who are already part of our ongoing parish caregiving programs and want to develop their skills; and (3) those who desire to learn the lay pastoral skills of listening and communicating caring, so as to add to their own discipleship.

We are planning to start this program in October 2023. Look for more details and sign-up information in next week’s e-newsletter.

News from Christian Education

We've got a lot going on at St. Stephen's this fall! We want our families to be able to experience our events together - so we've adjusted our Children's Education program. See the calendar below - we've included where Parish-wide events will take place and there will be no Sunday School.

And stay tuned...we're already starting to plan for the Christmas Pageant - so we'll see you around the parish!

Peace, Sherry B.

October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
Oct. 1: British Tea Party	Nov.5: All Saints Day	Dec. 3: NO Sunday School
Oct. 8: Blessing of Animals	Nov. 12: TBD	Dec. 10: TBD
Oct. 15: Lesson 7	Nov. 19: TBD	Dec. 17: TBD
Oct.22: Lesson 8	Nov. 26: Thanksgiving	Dec.24: Christmas Eve
Oct. 29:Boo-charist		Dec. 31: New Year's Eve

TBD: To Be Determined

Every Sunday – Adult Formation Series

Join us as we imaginatively explore central topics of Christianity.
We are meeting after the 10:00 AM Service in the Pollard Room

Animate: Bible

Imaginatively explore central topics of Christianity.



In each Animate: Bible session, we will view a video which blends live action with animations to provide thought-provoking perspectives, and beckons discussions.

In this class, we will:

- Focus on building authentic conversation about God.
- Engage in personal reflection on faith learnings and prayer.
- Gain perspectives on canon, history, testaments, gospels, genre, interpretation, and grace from seven Christian thought leaders.

To learn more about this exciting way to explore the Bible - click [here](#)

Every Sunday – Lectionary Bible Study

Our lectionary Bible study is back as well! This Bible study is held in the Pollard Room starting at 9:00 a.m., just after the 7:45 service and fellowship in the Parish Hall. Each week we take a deep dive in the gospel passage for the week. Join us in a conversation to enlighten our understanding of the Gospel and the message of the good news of Christ.

Every Sunday – Children's Sunday School



Reminder: All Sunday School Parents need to complete the registration and photo release forms. Both are available in the classrooms.

Our Episcopalian Children's Curriculum meets upstairs on the church level:

- Kids in grades 1-3 will meet in Room 202.
- Kids in grades 4-6 will meet in Room 204
- Kids in grades 6-8 will meet in Room 209

If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Burchfield, Christian Education at 865-661-9413, or email Sherry by clicking [here..](#)

Outreach Spotlight

Updates from the Outreach Committee



The Outreach committee would like to thank the Parish for both financial donations and Blessing Box donations. We have been very active reaching out to the community, and that discipleship is proof of the love and support we receive from YOU!

We're always looking for new volunteers; just call/text Liz Herbes 865.228.2537.

This Week's Loose Offering

This week's loose plate offering will go to the Family Resource Center.

The Episcopal Church of the Visual Arts



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH & VISUAL ARTS



Our own Nancy Carow is a part of the new exhibition at The Episcopal Church & Visual Arts (ECVA). This short-film exhibition is the result of a spring class where participants bravely learned new software and experimented with editing techniques to present their view of faith through color, sound, still shots, and motion.

Nancy Carow's Faith in Motion showcases a beautiful presentation of the symbols, sacred gestures, and words of corporate worship. If you would like to watch her video, just [click here!](#)

Ministry Updates

Vestry Minutes Posted on the Website

Our vestry has been very busy seeking God's guidance for St. Stephen's parish, to ensure the mission of the Parish and its health both now and for the years to come.

The most recent Vestry minutes are now available on the website. [click here](#)

Support our Blessing Box - This Week's Request: Cleaning Supplies

This week, we ask the parish for donations of cleaning supplies. Please be aware of size limitations inside the Box - thank you!

If you bring a few items, please feel free to place them directly in the Blessing Box. If you bring multiple items, we ask that you drop it off inside the church. We try to ensure that the Box remains stocked throughout the week.

Of course, we welcome any donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries. Donated items may be placed in the bins located in the Narthex and Hospitality Room, or directly in the Blessing Box.

Family Quiet Room - Room 209

We want to invite families with infants and babies to know that we have a quiet room just down the hall from the main church. It's a lovely space for families who may need to tend to babies or need a quiet moment!

Daughters of the King - Reflecting God's Love

The Order of the Daughters of the King is made up of Christian women, both lay and ordained, at different stages of our Christian journey. Our primary goal is the same – to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others.

- There are no special spiritual attributes needed to become a Daughter of the King – only a sincere desire to draw nearer to God, and to help others do the same.
- We meet on the second Sunday of each month following the 10 am service (approximately 11:45 am-1:00 pm) in the Chapel. Our next meeting will be Sunday, October 8, 2023 (No September meeting).
- All women of the parish are welcome and invited to attend these meetings.

Save the Date! Saturday, November 18, 2023, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Fr. Ashton Sims will lead a Quiet Afternoon and mini retreat in preparation for Advent. All are welcome. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Ongoing Church Events

Tuesday Bible Study - Pollard Room, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

The Tuesday Bible Study continues with its program of Prayer, a guided study by Tim Keller For more information email james.rousey@aol.com.

Wednesday Men's Group - 8:30 AM

The Men's Group meets every Wednesday in the Pollard Room.

Thursday Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) - Resumes This Week

The Contemplative Prayer Group will resume this week on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 4:00 PM, to continue its discipline of silent contemplative prayer. If you'd like to join us, feel free to call/text us (Steve Herbes: 865.250.9123; Liz Herbes: 865.228.2537)

Helpful Links

[Those Who Serve](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[News and Events from the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee](#)

To request after-hours assistance please call the church's landline, 865-483-8497, and follow the voice prompts to "Pastoral Emergency" (Option 2).

The church's office hours are 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Offices are closed on Fridays and weekends.

Please email articles, announcements, and photos for future E-News to editor@ststephensor.org. | Our deadline is Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church | 212 N Tulane Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Oak Ridge, Tennessee
[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)