



## St Stephen's E-News

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for October 13, 2023](#)

### This Sunday - October 15, 2023

#### Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

There will be two services on Sunday:

- 7:45 AM: Spoken Holy Eucharist - Rite II - in the Nave (no streaming)
- 10:00 AM: Choral Holy Eucharist - Rite II - in the Nave (live-streamed)

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

#### Christian Education Schedule

##### Lectionary Bible study - following the 7:45 AM service in the Pollard Room

- 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.

##### Animate: Bible session - following the 10:00 AM service in the Pollard Room

- We will conclude this week, with the topic: "Grace: Love is the Bottom Line". Join us as we imaginatively explore central topics of Christianity. We will view a video which blends live action with animations to provide thought-provoking perspectives, and beckons discussions.

##### Children's Sunday School - during the 10:00 AM Service

- We meet 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
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## This Week's Events

### Tuesday, October 17, 2023 - Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

Join us in the St. Alban's Chapel for the weekly Holy Eucharist / Healing Service.

### Wednesday, October 18, 2023 - Supper & Study: 5:30 to 6:45 PM

Our Wednesday night program continues this week and is ongoing through the middle of November. Each week we have a supper followed by study of the Gospel of Mark.

- Supper starts at 5:30 PM. This week's menu is Penne pasta with meat sauce, bread, salad, and Italian Cream Cake cupcakes.
- We are using a study guide provided by Daily Grace called "Follow Me". It will take us through this very quick-moving and action-packed account of Jesus' life and ministry.
- Our nursery will be open, and we will provide activities for our kids during the time the adults are in study.

No RSVP for dinner is necessary - just come and join us!

## Upcoming Parish Life Events

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

Crisp apples, cinnamon sticks, bonfires and the beguiling aroma of pumpkin spice—fall is here, and we want to celebrate it!



On October 29th, Parish Life is partnering with the Liturgics Team as we hold our first Boo-Charist. This family friendly service encourages costumes for young and old!

Following the service, we will enjoy all things pumpkin--along with the other flavors we associate with fall. Think pumpkin and apple pies, pumpkin soup, apple cider, pumpkin bread, spice loaves, ginger cookies and apple cake... Thus far, parish members have volunteered to make pumpkin and apple pies, pumpkin soup, and pumpkin squares. If you would like to share one of your fall favorites, please contact Leah Bailey at [lbailey667@comcast.net](mailto:lbailey667@comcast.net) Please join us for this family event that we hope will become a new St. Stephen's tradition.

## Sunday, November 12, 2023 - Annual Meeting



Please mark your calendar for the upcoming St. Stephen's Annual Meeting. We will vote for four new vestry members. Elected vestry members will serve for a 3-year term. If you are interested in running for a rewarding role in the church, please email Barbara Steele at [rsteale58@comcast.net](mailto:rsteale58@comcast.net). The Vestry has also approved a change to our Bylaws to enable the vote of delegates and alternates to the Diocesan Convention. This change requires parish approval and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Attending Convention is an exciting opportunity for interested parishioners to serve and to strengthen relationships within our Diocese, and Parish wide election of delegates and alternates provides more visibility of this unique opportunity. We invite you to consider becoming a delegate to Diocesan Convention. Please contact Fr. Bailey or Fr. Ashton with questions and nominations. Nominations need to be submitted to the Church office by Sunday, October 29, 2023. FYI: The children will go to their Sunday School Classes while the Parish Meeting is going on. Classes will be dismissed when the meeting ends so that they can rejoin their families for the Brunch.

You can read more about the Diocesan Convention by visiting the website at [The 40th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee](#)

## Sunday, December 2, 2023 - SHHH...IT'S A SILENT AUCTION!



On Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 5:30 PM, St. Stephen's will hold a Silent Auction to support the mission and ministry of the church.

- A Silent Auction is not a Rummage or Tag Sale. It is ***not*** for used clothing or toys.
- A Silent Auction offers the opportunity to bid for donated items, goods, or services, all for the benefit of our church.

Your help is needed in two ways; donating, and then coming to the Auction and bidding!

### **DONATING - The options for donations are endless!**

Items that typically do well include—but are not limited to:

- tickets to sporting and/or cultural events;
- get-away weekends at the lake or in the mountains;
- offers to perform a needed service (rake leaves/pet sit/clean out gutters/put up holiday decorations/take down holiday decorations, etc.);
- restaurant certificates, meal preparation;
- hand-made items, gift baskets, and holiday decor.

Donations will be stored in a safe location at the church and will be displayed in the Parish Hall prior to the Auction.

- Please complete the attached form for your donation, by completing it online at this link: [\*\*Donation Form Submission\*\*](#).
- Alternatively, a paper form is available in the service bulletin or from the Parish Office. Please place it in one of the baskets at church or return to the Office.
- Please complete one form for each item/service.

### **COME TO THE AUCTION - Fellowship, food, and the auction!**

On Saturday, December 2, 2023, the auction will begin at 5:30 PM. For the next hour, you may enjoy appetizers and beverages while you peruse the options and write down your bids for the items that interest you. Highest bid wins! Afterwards, we will have an Italian-themed potluck. Parish Life will provide beverages and bread. Please consider what you can contribute to this endeavor and make plans to attend as we enjoy time together. Thank you in advance for your support!

## Notes From Father Bailey

### **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

We had a chilly but "paw"-some morning in the Grove this past Sunday at 10 AM. About a dozen animals showed up, not counting the photos their owners brought and the stuffed animals some of our kids brought! Thank you to all who also donated bags of pet food.

### **A BIG THANK YOU**

A big thank-you to all who participated in several of our recent events, including Simon Ballintoy, Leah Bailey, and many others for organizing the Great British Wrap-Up and Tea on Oct. 1; Emily Doane and Olivia Cox, along with Parish Life, for organizing the conversation with Fr. Mike Wallens of Episcopal Migration Ministries and the wonderful Tex-Mex dinner on Sep. 27; and for those of you who assisted in making sandwiches and/or volunteered at the Access Oak Ridge Disabilities Fair on Oct. 7.

### **CLOTHESLINE PROJECT**

Beginning this Friday, you'll notice a strange addition to our front yard. There will be a raggedy clothesline that you may have seen in other places around town. This is part of a wider effort by the Anderson County Family Justice Center to bring awareness to domestic violence. The clothesline contains shirts emblazoned with quotes from survivors of domestic violence as well as a QR code taking you to this link where you can learn more about this project as well as resources to identify and support victims of domestic violence: [The Clothesline Project — Anderson County Family Justice Center](#). The clothesline will remain with us for a week before it moves to another location.

## **New Lay Pastoral Caregiving Program Coming in January 2024**

In January, St. Stephen's Clergy and the Pastoral Care Committee will begin a new lay pastoral caregiving program (postponed from this Fall due to scheduling challenges). The goal of the program, which we have named "Companioning," is to *equip parishioners to serve as supportive partners to persons going through difficult life challenges*. The role of Companions will be to provide a "safe place," where persons who are hurting can find a comfortable and caring listening presence. In doing so the program will complement the activities of ongoing caregiving programs, such as the Eucharist Visitors, the Daughters of the King, and the Meals Ministry.

The Companioning program will involve a training program of 6 weekly sessions of 2.25 hours each. Participants may include: (1) persons who already think that they will want to participate in this new role; (2) persons currently involved in other ongoing parish caregiving programs, who want to improve their skills in what they already do; and (3) persons who simply want to enhance their own skills of listening and communicating caring.

If you have questions about the Companioning training program, or to express interest in participating, please email Frs. Bailey or Ashton. We are excited to begin!

## 2024 Stewardship Campaign - All Month Long

This past week, our 2024 Stewardship Campaign kicked off! At the services last week, our Stewardship chairs John and Olivia Cox spoke about our calling to be stewards of our parish and proactive in welcoming and incorporating new people and gifts for ministry into our parish. Hopefully each parish household received a pledge card; if not, contact the parish office. You may also make your pledge online at our website at [www.ststephensor.org](http://www.ststephensor.org).

You can also listen to Fr. Bailey Norman as he introduces our upcoming Stewardship 2024 Campaign in [the video here: 2024 Stewardship Video](#).

## Outreach Spotlight - Next Meeting October 17, 2023

The Outreach Committee will meet this Tuesday, October 17, 2023, in the Pollard Room, starting at 5:00 PM. We are looking forward to an active holiday season!

Please come out and join us. For more information contact Liz Herbes at [liznsteveherbes@yahoo.com](mailto:liznsteveherbes@yahoo.com).

## This Week's Loose Offering

This week's loose plate offering will go to the Haiti Mission.

## Ministry Updates

### Support our Blessing Box - This Week's Request: Hygiene Products

This week, we ask the parish for donations of shampoo, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products. Please be aware of size limitations inside the Box - thank you!

## Ongoing Church Events

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

We continue our program of Prayer, a guided study by Tim Keller. For more information email [james.rousey@aol.com](mailto:james.rousey@aol.com).

### Wednesday WOW - lunchtime for ORHS juniors and seniors

Our Walk Over Wednesday (WOW) will start up again this week.

### Wednesday Men's Group - Pollard Room, 8:30 AM

### Thursday Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) - 4:00 PM

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](#)

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



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Oak Ridge, Tennessee  
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