



SAVE THE DATE: St. Stephen's Annual Meeting and Potluck

Sunday, November 12, 2023 - following the 10 A.M. Service.

Last day to submit Vestry Nominations: October 29, 2023

St Stephen's E-News

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for October 20, 2023](#)

This Sunday – October 22, 2023

Twenty-First 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

- We start at approximately 9:00 AM
- 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.

Adult Formation Class: following the 10:00 AM service in the Pollard Room

- We start at approximately 11:30 AM.
- Making the Bible Mysterious Again - see article for more information.

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.

New Christian Education Class - Making the Bible Mysterious Again!

If you've read through the Bible (or even turned to some random page in it), you've likely discovered some random story that just doesn't make any sense. Why are these stories included? Why are they so weird? And what benefit, if any, can they provide to our journey of faith?

Well, now you can find out! Starting this Sunday, we will have a new Adult Formation class following the 10:00 AM service. Fr. Ashton and Fr. Bailey will guide us through five of these strange stories. They won't try to explain or rationalize the stories. They will touch on these stories in their own context as well as in the wider perspective that the Bible speaks the living Word of God - a Word which cannot be easily tamed or understood. Indeed, mystery can and should be an integral part of our faith.

Come join us for any and all!

- October 22 - God tries to kill Moses immediately after sending him to liberate the Israelites from Egypt (Exodus 4:24-26)
- October 29 - The Witch of Endor: Saul conjures up the spirit of Samuel from the dead (1 Samuel 28:3-25)
- Nov 5 - The Nephilim: Giants and their role in Scripture
- Nov. 12 - The book of Revelation as interpreted through Daniel and other OT prophets
- Nov. 19 - Ezekiel lies on his side for over a year as a warning to the people of Israel (Ezekiel 4)

This Week's Events - Diocese of East Tennessee

Saturday, October 21, 2023 - DIOET Featured Event: East TN ECW 2023 Annual Meeting

The Episcopal Church Women of East Tennessee invites all women in the Diocese of East Tennessee to attend this year's annual meeting to be held at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension on Saturday, October 21, 2023, beginning at 9:00 am and continuing until 12:30 pm. The day will feature a Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Brian Cole, a lunch and business meeting, and our featured speaker, Sylvia Peters, to culminate the day. Lunch is \$15. You may register your attendance and lunch choice here: [East TN Episcopal Church Women Gathering](#)

This Week's Events – St. Stephen's Parish

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 - Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

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

Wednesday, October 25, 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 chicken casserole (chicken breast over dressing), cole slaw, green beans and brownies.
- 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 Events

Volunteers Welcome! Parish Life Setup for Good Lord, It's A Gourd!

Calling all volunteers! Come and experience the joy of fellowship we share as we work "behind the scenes". We will be setting up for this Parish Life Event on Saturday, October 28, 2023, in the Parish Hall at 10:00 AM. Then on Sunday, October 29, 2023, we'll be putting out the food that morning. After the service and the Boo-Charist buffet, there will be a need for cleanup help.

Looking forward to seeing you then, Leah

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!

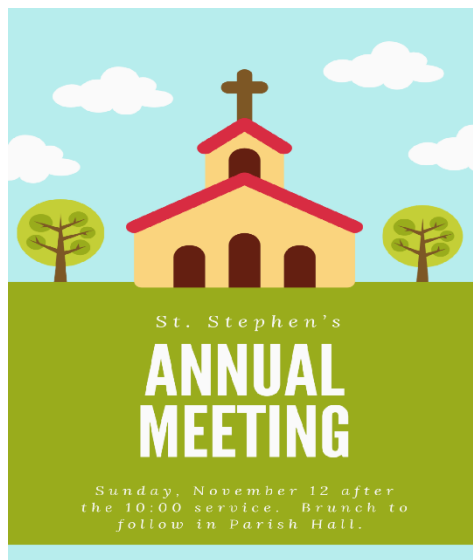


Following the service, we will enjoy all things pumpkin--along with the other flavors we associate with fall. Think pumpkin and apple pies, pumpkin soup, apple cider, pumpkin bread, spice loaves, ginger cookies and apple cake...

Parish Life will provide hot mulled cider, coffee, and juice. Parish members have volunteered to make pumpkin and apple pies, pumpkin soup, and pumpkin squares.

It would be nice to have some non-pumpkin offerings as well! If you would like to share one of your fall favorites, please contact Leah Bailey at 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



Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2023 in the Parish Hall, following the 10:00 service at approximately 11:30 AM. Parish Life will provide a brunch, complete with a ham, juices and hot beverages.

Please bring a favorite brunch dish-sweet or savory- to share with your fellow "St. Stephenites". If you'd like to contribute, please contact Leah Bailey at lbailey667@comcast.net

We have much to celebrate; we will take time to thank the four wonderful representatives of the congregation who are rotating off: Barbara Steele, Jim Rousey, Rachel Kirk, and Cyril Meredith III. We will vote on four new Vestry members and welcome them to this stewardship. We are fully staffed with two priests and a Parish Secretary after a time of Vicars and volunteers! Come join us for a time of fellowship and thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

Annual Meeting Information

Here is a partial agenda for the Annual Meeting:

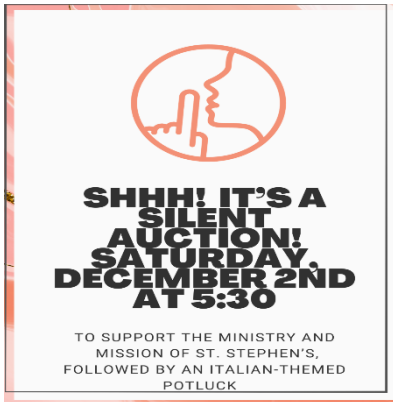
- We will vote for four new vestry members. Elected vestry members will serve for a 3-year term. If you are interested in running for a rewarding role in the church, please email Barbara Steele at rsteele58@comcast.net.
- The Vestry has approved a change to our Bylaws to enable the vote of delegates and alternates to the Diocesan Convention. This change requires parish approval and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.
- We will be voting on the selection of three (3) Diocesan Convention delegates and three (3) alternatives.

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](#)

Saturday, 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!

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Message from our Stewardship Chairs

Dear St. Stephen's Parishioners,

We would like to thank Tony McFarland for his heartfelt stewardship message on last Sunday. His recognition of the beautiful ability of St. Stephen's to fulfill his spiritual needs is a true testimony to the beauty in our parish. It reinforced the message of this year's drive to be proud stewards of our church and the need to adapt to the daily changes happening around us. In the coming weeks we will have more lay testimonies, both on Sunday and at the annual meeting. We urge you to listen, learn and reflect on all that is presented prior to deciding your pledge amount.

We are all in this together. Olivia and I could not come close to accomplishing all that must happen during this pledge drive on our own! It has taken the support of several church members and the warm and caring encouragement we receive from all your smiling faces. We send thanks to all!

Sincerely, John and Olivia Cox

Message from Fr. Bailey

Stewardship! It's that word that strikes terror into all Episcopalians as it's all about money. And yet, it's more than that. During the next few weeks, I'm going to give you some short video clips. It won't be just me that you're hearing from, but from different people who are relatively new to St. Stephen's, and from people who are very active in their own ways telling you how St. Stephen's has enriched their lives. I invite you to participate in what stewardship is all about, and to figure out what is your ownership stake in this little institution that we call St. Stephen's, which is part of this bigger dynamic entity known as the kingdom of God.

- *Listen to Fr. Bailey Norman as he introduces our upcoming Stewardship 2024 Campaign in the video here: **2024 Stewardship Video**.*
- *Listen to Tony McFarland as he shares his stewardship message in the video from the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, October 15, 2023 - Video link here: **Tony McFarland Stewardship Message***
- *Listen to Fr. Bailey Norman as he shares on investing in the life and mission of the parish in this video here: **2024 Stewardship Video #2***

I invite you to pray, to think, and to discern where your ownership stake is here in this wonderful place that we call our spiritual home - see you soon!

Peace, Bailey

Giving Statements and Pledge Cards

Giving statements for the third quarter were sent out via email from notifications@onrealmmail.org. Please check your junk mail folder if you have not yet received them. For those that requested it, giving statements were sent out via regular postal mail. In addition, pledge cards for 2024 were sent out via mail.

If you have not received your giving statement and/or your pledge card, please contact the parish office and we will be happy to help!

You may make your pledge by returning the card to the parish office or dropping the envelope in the offertory plate at any service. You can also make your pledge online at our website at www.ststephensor.org.

Christian Education Update - Next Meeting



Acolyte Training Coming in November

Attention ALL acolytes and anyone wishing to serve at the altar: St. Stephen's will have a training/brush-up session for ALL acolytes and anyone wanting to become one. Become an important part of our worship service as we head into the Advent and Christmas season!

We will meet on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at 10:00 AM in the Nave. We plan to be finished by 11:30 AM, and then we will enjoy refreshments in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact our Acolyte Master, Sandi Robertson. She can be reached by phone at 256-714-5457, or by email at robertsonsandi@gmail.com.

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!

Outreach Spotlight

This Week's Loose Offering

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

If you would like to know more about this virtual outreach, please read about it on our website here: [Haiti Mission](#)

Ministry Updates

Support our Blessing Box - This Week's Request: Beans and Tomatoes

This week, we ask the parish for donations of dried beans, canned beans, and canned tomatoes. 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.

Wednesday WOW - lunchtime for ORHS juniors and seniors

Our Walk Over Wednesday (WOW) will continue 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](#)

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
[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

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