



Note: The Church office will be closed from Wednesday, November 22, 2023, through Friday, November 24, 2023, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

St Stephen's E-News

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for November 17, 2023](#)

2023 Annual Meeting Video

We apologize that some technical difficulties prevented live streaming of yesterday's service and annual meeting. These can now be seen here: [St. Stephen's YouTube](#).

This Sunday - November 19, 2023

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost - November 19, 2023

There will be two services on Sunday:
- 7:45 AM: Spoken Holy Eucharist - Rite II - in the Nave (no streaming)
- 10:00 AM: Choral Eucharist - Rite II - in the Nave (live-streamed)
Bulletins for the services can be downloaded [here](#).

Adult Christian Formation

There will be no Adult Christian Formation this Sunday.

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

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 - Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

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

Saturday, November 18, 2023 - Quiet Day - 1:00 - 4:00 PM



We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Advent, Book of Common Prayer, p. 160

Good afternoon, friends. By this time, you will all have seen several announcements regarding the pre-Advent quiet day I will be leading this coming Saturday afternoon. As stated in the announcement there will be intentional chunks of time set aside for your own reflection, prayer, spiritual reading, and/or silence. Though, in some sense, there is an implicit suggestion, I want to explicitly suggest that for those of you attending to bring whatever would be beneficial to you during our quiet times. Some examples might be, bringing a Bible, prayer beads, other spiritual reading, a journal, something to occupy your hands, or just anything that will feed your soul.

Looking forward to being with you all, Father Ashton

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 - 6:00 PM Movie! A Plymouth Adventure



We all love the adventure and powerful meaning that the first Thanksgiving brings. Take a few minutes to recapture the joy and thrill of it all and to learn more about it.

This movie won an Academy Award for Special Effects and was directed by Clarence Brown (ring a bell?). Spencer Tracey captains the vessel and rules with an iron fist.

Other stars on the Mayflower are Gene Tierney, Van Johnson, Lloyd Bridges and others.

So, join this cast on 1620 in England as they board the Mayflower to sail for the New World.

The movie will be shown in the Parish Hall - *Popcorn and soft drinks included!*
Sorry, no subtitles!

Thursday, November 23, 2023 - Turkey!

Be Thankful
Be Grateful
Be Blessed

St. Stephens will have a 10:00 AM Thanksgiving Day Eucharist Service followed by a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal.

We will be providing the turkey and ham - we need your help in providing the side dishes. If you can contribute, great! If you can't contribute, no problem - please just come and join us.

Here's the link to sign up: [Thanksgiving Meal Sign Up Form](#)
The sign-up form shows various side dishes and up to four people can sign up for the same dish. If you'd like to bring something else, please sign up next to "Other" and list the dish you are bringing next to your name. We look forward to seeing you as we share a wonderful feast as a St. Stephen's Family!

Saturday, November 26, 2023 - Sewing Love



Come join us to "sew love" on Saturday, November 26, 2023, from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the Parish Hall. We will be making no-sew blankets for the Family Resource Center. No sewing experience is required - just bring a pair of sharp scissors! We hope to see you there!

Christian Education News



Hark the Herald Angels!

Last week our youngest parishioners made Christmas ornaments and decorated trees for donation to the East Tennessee Children's Hospital Fantasy of Trees

Our next event to celebrate the Season will be the Advent Fair on Sunday, December 3, 2023. And of course, our annual Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 24, 2023. Mark your calendars and we'll see you there!



Mark your Calendars!
Advent Fair
December 3rd!
A traditional Family Day
at St. Stephens
Following the 10am service
Food, Crafts, & Fun!

Upcoming Parish Events

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.

You can make a donation or see the donated options on our website - check it out!

[St. Stephen's Silent Auction](#)

Your help is needed by donating and then coming to the Auction and bidding!
DONATING - The options for donations are endless!

Items that have been donated so far include:

This week: 2 tickets to the Knoxville Zoo, a piano, A Day at the Racktrack for 3 adults, an afternoon pontoon boat ride on Watts Bar Lake for 6, and a gardener's basket filled with locally-made supplies!

Previously donated: hand-made charcuterie boards, sterling silver earrings, 2 tickets to Wicked, offers to wrap Christmas gifts and decorate Christmas trees, framed prints and photos, children's bikes, a tea-lovers basket, and a "Buc-ees"- lovers basket.

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

On Saturday, December 2, 2023, the auction will begin at 5:30 PM. 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!

Thursday, December 14, 2023: Blue Christmas - 7:00 PM

On Thursday, December 14, 2023, St. Stephen's will hold its annual Blue Christmas service. This service is held close to the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, and is a time when we can acknowledge with others the "blue feelings" that come during this time of year. For those who have lost a loved one, these feelings can be intense. For others who have suffered a different loss, such as health or financial hardship, this can be a time of pain and fear.

We hope you will join us in the fellowship of the spirit, as we can come together in the everlasting grace of God and the eternal love in Christ.

Sunday, December 17, 2023 - Lessons and Carols - 5:00 PM



DINNER MENU

- Parmesan Herb Baked Chicken Breast or Roast
- Pork Loin with Gravy
- Redskin Mashed Potato Casserole
- Sautéed Vegetable Medley
- Tossed Salad / Assorted Dressings
- Yeast Rolls
- Cookie Assortment (from our Choir)

Our annual service of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 17, 2023. The dinner will be catered, so you just need to bring yourselves. Please come be a part of this Advent tradition!

The service will be held at 5:00 PM, with dinner in Parish Hall at 6:00 PM. The cost will be \$15 per person/ \$45 per family. **We need an accurate headcount for the caterer**, so we are requiring those who wish to attend to sign up. There are two ways:

- On our website: [RSVP - Lessons & Carols Dinner](#)
- On the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk.

Daughters of the King (DOK)



The next meeting of the St Agnes Chapter of Daughters of the King will be on Sunday, December 10, 2023, in St. Alban's Chapel following the 10:00 AM service. Our ministry highlights for that meeting include Altar Guild and the Caring Meals ministry.

Keep your eyes peeled! We will be hosting an informational meeting mid to late January. We would love for you to join us and see if DOK is the right fit for you. As a Daughter of the King, we take a vow of prayer, service, and evangelism, sharing Christ's love with the world! At the interest meeting, we will give more information about our order and what we do inside and outside of our parish. Based on those who are interested, we will gauge the best time for everyone to meet. We hope to begin the class sometime in February. There is a 12-ish week discernment process (we try to have a little flexibility for school breaks etc., hence the "ish"). We would meet once a week, discussing the study sessions that are done at home, and are usually meeting for around an hour.

At the heart of discernment is one's desire for God. This process allows time for you to listen to God's voice and direction, gifting you with the insight to know if becoming a Daughter is right for you!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Beth Reed (865)850-6135 or Jenny Meredith (865)414-7899. Thank you!

Stewardship – Ingathering of Pledge Cards

Pledge cards will be collected and blessed at both services.

Lay Pastoral Caregiving Program – January 2024

Mark your calendars! 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). If you have questions about the Companionship training program, or to express interest in participating, please email Frs. Bailey or Ashton.

Outreach Spotlight

This Week's Loose Offering: November 2023

This week's loose plate offering will go to the Church Women United's Blankets+ Campaign.

This November, Think Blankets!

Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me. - Matthew 25:40 (KJV)

You can read more about this mission at [Website: Church Women United](#). Thank you for your support!

Clearfork Community in Appalachia

On December 2, 2023, the St. Stephen's Clearfork team will be returning to visit the families of the Clearfork area and share a dinner. It is not so much for Thanksgiving or Christmas as a get together of the camp children, their families, and maybe with a few others in the community who really could enjoy a full meal. St. Stephen's provides the turkeys, hams, and drinks, while others in the community will bring "potluck" dishes. Little "to-do" bags are also provided to the kids. If anyone would like to go with us and meet some fine folks, please contact Cameron Ellis.

Ministry Updates

Support our Blessing Box - This Week's Request: Thanksgiving Meal Items

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. Philippians 4:4-5*

Our Blessing Box is being visited frequently, and Thanksgiving is a fitting time to remember those who are in need. This week, we are requesting donations of canned pumpkin, canned cranberry sauce, canned fruit, stuffing mix, and chicken broth. Please be aware of size limitations inside the Box - thank you!

Ongoing Church Events

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

For more information email james.rousey@aol.com.

Wednesday WOW will not be held this week due to Thanksgiving.

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

Thursday Contemplative Prayer will not be held this week.

Helpful Links

[Those Who Serve](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

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