



Please note: the church office will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024, in observance of the federal holiday.

## Important Dates: January - February 2024

▶ **Envisioning Survey Due, TODAY - Friday, January 12, 2024:**

Please respond to the survey concerning the mission of St. Stephen's

▶ **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Monday, January 15, 2024:**

9:45 AM (Outreach): Scholarship Event at Y-12 New Hope Auditorium

1:00 PM: Celebration and Reception, Oak Valley Baptist Church

▶ **Outreach Committee Meeting, Tuesday, January 16, 2024:**

Held in the Pollard Room at 5:00 PM

▶ **ORCMA Coffee Concert at St. Stephen's, Sunday, January 28, 2024:**

Held in the Nave at 3:00 PM - Doors open at 2:30 PM

▶ **Camino do Santiago Deposit Deadline - Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

Please contact Father Ashton for more details

▶ **Inquirers' Class Begins - Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

More information to come.

▶ **Mardi Gras Family Fete, Saturday, February 3, 2024**

Held in the Parish Hall from 5:30 - 8:30 PM

▶ **Lenten Fair, Sunday, February 18, 2024:**

Held in the Parish Hall following the 10:00 AM Service

## Ongoing Church Events

Tuesday Bible Study - Pollard Room, 10:30 AM

Wednesday WOW for ORHS Students - Parish Hall, 10:00 AM

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

Thursday Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) - 4:00 PM

## Survey from Envisioning Committee

**The Envisioning Survey deadline is TODAY Friday, January 12, 2024.** You can complete the survey here - [Envisioning Committee Survey](#) Or you can come by the church office and fill out a hard copy of the survey. If you have any difficulty with the survey, please contact Heather Hartman at 865-803-1817 or [drhartman@gmail.com](mailto:drhartman@gmail.com). Thank you!

## St. Stephen's Website Links

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for January 12, 2024](#)

Download the bulletins for this week's services: [Home](#) | [St. Stephen's](#)

## This Week in Our Faith - January 14, 2024

### Second Sunday after the Epiphany

#### This Sunday, January 14, 2024:

▶ 7:45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (spoken) *Location: St. Stephen's Nave*

▶ 10:00am Choral Eucharist Rite II *Location: St. Stephen's Nave*

You can watch the 10:00 AM service on our [YouTube channel](#).

### Epiphany: The Light of God's Promise



Having passed the winter solstice, the days gradually grow longer in the months of January and February. The Epiphany season builds on the impression of "light coming into the world" as the Sunday gospel proclaims the Sermon on the Mount. -Rev. Julia Gatta

"May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world" *The Book of Occasional Services*

### Sunday - Adult Education

**All classes are held in the Pollard Room.** We invite you to join us after a service, to learn more about the Christian faith and the Episcopal way of life.

▶ 9:00 AM - Lectionary Study: We take a deep dive in the gospel passage for the week, seeking to enlighten our understanding of the Gospel and the message of the good news of Christ.

▶ 11:15 - The Animate Group: Through discussion, multimedia, and the Animate Practices Journal, we explore core practices of the Christian faith together.

### Sunday - Children's Christian Education



**1<sup>st</sup> Semester of 2024 Begins!!**  
**Children's Sunday School is held after the**  
**10:00 AM Services.**

Room 202: Grades 1-3 (Primary)

Room 204: Grades 4-6 (Primary)

Room 209: Grades 6-8 (Intermediate)

Primary classes will be studying:  
**ECC Unit 4: Church in the Prayer Book**  
*We use the Book of Common Prayer*

Intermediate classes will be studying:  
**ECC Unit 4: The Catechism**  
*An Outline of the Faith*

## Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

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

## Tuesday Bible Study Begins – January 16, 2024, 10:00 AM

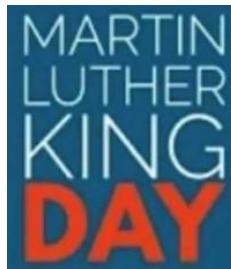
Join the Tuesday Bible Study group on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Pollard Library. Beginning this Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, we will begin a 12-session study entitled "Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today". We will be using the book and DVD of the same name. The first study looks at the story of Eve and how today's women face some of the same issues that confronted Eve. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Rousey at [james.rousey@aol.com](mailto:james.rousey@aol.com)

## Loose Plate Offering

This week's loose plate offering is designated for Outreach and Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

## This Week in the Parish

### A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday, January 15, 2024 - 9:45 AM



Committed to strengthening community ties, St. Stephen's joins other Oak Ridge churches and organizations in supporting scholarships awarded annually on the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Our Outreach Committee donated \$300 to the scholarships..

We invite parishioners to attend the MLK program organized by Alpha Kappa Alpha at 9:45 a.m. on Monday, January 15, at the Y-12 New Hope Auditorium, 602 Scarboro Road. The program will include youth performances and a keynote address by Rev. Erica Haigler, Pastor of Spurgeon Chapel, A.M.E. Zion Church. Methodist Medical Center will provide lunch, and Church Women United will provide dessert. For more information, please visit:

[Oak Ridger - MLK Events](#) (St. Stephen's is mentioned in the article!)

## It Begins With Me: Creating a Beloved Community Monday, January 15, 2024 - 1:00 PM

***"Our goal is to create a beloved community and it will require a qualitative change in our souls and a quantitative change in our lives."***

*-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

At 1 p.m. all are welcome to a celebration and a reception at Oak Valley Baptist Church, 194 Hampton Road, Oak Ridge. This program was organized by the members of Oak Ridge Solutions of Race (ORSOR) and supported by the local branch of the NAACP and Joyful Reconcilers. Valeria Roberson serves as the Mistress of Ceremonies for this inspiring, music-and-spirit-filled event. Among the speakers will be new City Manager Randy Hemann and the Rev. Derrick Hammond, Oak Valley pastor. I invite you to join me there!

*Blessings, Bailey*

### This Week's Outreach Spotlight - Blessing Box

► Please keep the Blessing Box needs on your shopping list. This week we are requesting canned chicken, tuna, individual toothbrushes, and soap. Please be aware of size limitations inside the Box - thank you!

### Sleep in Heavenly Peace

The loose offering recipient for January is for "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" (SHP), a nonprofit organization that works to build and provide comfortable beds to children.

One of our parishioners and Vestry member, Emily Doane, referred a family to SHP through her work in Anderson County schools. This family's children had never had a bed to sleep in. Emily tells us that SHP was very responsive, and the referral process was easy. It was a wonderful and positive experience for everyone involved!

SHP believes that all children deserve a comfortable bed for proper physical, emotional and mental growth. Lack of proper beds and bedding for children is both a national and local problem, as many children from 3 to 17 years old spend their nights sleeping on sofas, blankets or even floors. Unfortunately, this is also true in Oak Ridge and surrounding areas.

SHP contacts a family to find out what is needed and what kind of bedding each child prefers. Volunteers then build the beds, deliver them, and set them up in the family's home.

SHP is a platinum-level GuideStar participant, the highest level of recognition given. SHP has more than 270 chapters nationwide, including seven in Tennessee.

Your gift can help provide a bed for a child to sleep in. Please be generous.

Thank you! St. Stephen's Outreach Committee

## Parish Events Coming Soon

### ORCMA Coffee Concert - Sunday, January 28, 2024 - 3:00 PM



**ORCMA Coffee Concert: Musical Language, Meaning, and Expression: Chamber Music with Philosophy of Music**  
Sunday, January 28, 2024 - 3:00 PM  
Admission: Free  
**Doors open 2:30p.m**

Margaret Moore, violin, flute, Ruth Bacon, violin, Noelle Harb, voice, Marcelo Urias, piano; Works by Telemann, Schoenberg, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff and Vaughan Williams

We are thrilled to invite you to the latest Coffee Concert sponsored by the Oak Ridge Civic Music Association (ORCMA) - being held here at St. Stephen's Church. This community organization, founded in 1943, presents these concerts with featured local players - and it's free! Please plan to arrive between 2:30 - 2:45 pm. That gives time for the musicians to complete their setup, and for everyone to be seated on time. Over the next few weeks, look for more information - and mark your calendars now!

Thanks, Simon Ballintoy, St. Stephen's Director of Music

### Inquirers' Class Begins - Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Got questions?



Looking for answers?

If you are new to St. Stephen's or simply interested in a refresher of a good overview of our church, please mark Wednesday, January 31, 2024, on your calendar! This will be the first inquirers class of many leading up to the visitation of Bishop Brian Cole on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

The Inquirer's Class is for newcomers, visitors, or anyone who is looking to "inquire" about the Episcopal Church. Instruction typically includes information concerning the beliefs, history, worship, and practices of the Episcopal Church. The Church notes that inquirers' classes belong to the "Pre-catechumenal Period," or first stage of the catechumenate, by providing "sufficient preparation to enable persons to determine that they wish to become Christians."

## Mardi Gras Family Fete - Saturday, February 3, 2024

*Laissez les bons temps rouler!*



### St. Stephen's 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Family Fete Sponsored by Parish Life

Gather in the Parish Hall from 5:30-8:30 with family and friends on Saturday, February 3, 2024. The menu will include Gumbo with rice, Jambalaya, and King's Cake, along with other Cajun and Creole dishes. Please complete the online sign-up [here](#) so that we will have enough Gumbo! Feel free to add your favorite Cajun/Creole dish to the list! We can't wait to see you and ***Laissez les bons temps rouler!***

## Focus on the Parish

### St Stephen's Financial Status - January 2024

Last Week's Offering: \$ 31,277  
2024 YTD Offering: \$ 31,277  
2024 YTD Budget: \$ 13,088  
Over/Under: \$ 18,189

# 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 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Offices are closed on Fridays and weekends.

Glossary definitions provided courtesy of Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY,(All Rights reserved) from "[An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User Friendly Reference for Episcopalians](#)," Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors



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