



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

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

We need 50 qualified voters (16 years or older) present for a quorum.

Last day to submit Vestry Nominations: THIS SUNDAY October 29, 2023

St Stephen's E-News

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for October 27, 2023](#)

Veteran's Day Announcement

Every year, we recognize Veterans by name during our worship service by including their names in our Sunday bulletin. This year we will be publishing names in the bulletin for Sunday, November 12, 2023. **Please send names of our Veterans to be recognized by name by Wednesday, November 8, 2023.** Submissions can be sent via email to secretary@ststephensorg.org or by calling the Church Office.

This Sunday - October 29, 2023

Twenty-Second 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 Eucharist - Rite II - in the Nave (live-streamed)

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

Adult Christian Formation / 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.

No Children's Education this week so families can attend the Boo-Charist!

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

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 - Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

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

Wednesday, November 1, 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.
- 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!

New! Messages on the YouTube Channel

We have exciting new videos on our YouTube channel!

- Fr. Bailey is recording a series of videos on Stewardship.
- Fr. Sims takes a moment to talk about his ministry of pastoral care.
- Director of Music Simon Ballintoy talks about our music ministry, how you can join, and even shares a little history about the pipe organ!

You can find these videos by clicking here: [St. Stephen's You Tube Channel](#)

Upcoming Parish Events

Volunteers Welcome!

**THIS SATURDAY October 28, 2023, 10:00 AM
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

THIS SUNDAY October 29, 2023 - Join Us for the Family Boo-Charist - Followed By *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! Please join us for this family event that we hope will become a new St. Stephen's tradition.



THIS SUNDAY 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, pumpkin bread, a pumpkin roll, caramel apples, spiced date nut cake, and pumpkin squares.

- If you would like to share one of your fall favorites, please contact Leah Bailey at lbailey667@comcast.net.

Sunday, November 5, 2023 - All Saints Service

This year, All Saints Sunday is on November 5th. On that day, the church will recognize our loved ones and friends who have departed into eternal glory. In the Prayers of the People, we will read aloud the names of those who have died in the last year. We will also include others who have died in written prayers.

If you have someone you would like included in these prayers, please submit the names to the church office as soon as possible. Please note if they died in the last year, so that we may read those names out loud. You may call the office at 865-483-8497 or email at secretary@ststephensor.org.

Sunday, November 12, 2023 - Annual Meeting

Note: This will be live-streamed for those who cannot attend; however, all voting will be done in person only.



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. After the meeting, please join us for a brunch. Parish Life will provide 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 will also be voting on representatives and alternates to the Diocesan Convention. 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.

You can see an advanced copy of the proposed changes to the bylaws on our website by clicking here: [Proposed Bylaw Changes](#)

In addition, 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 THIS 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!

Stewardship Opportunities

Saturday, November 4, 2023, 10:00 AM - Acolyte Training

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.

Saturday, November 11, 2023, 10:00 AM-Usher Training

We are always in need of ushers and many hands make light work. Ushers serve in a vital role at our parish services. We greet newcomers, assist worshipers, distribute the offering plates, and serve as the important communion "traffic cops"!

On November 11, 2023, John Cox will present an Usher Orientation training, at 10:00 AM in the Nave. The training will take from 1 to 1.5 hours. If you wish to become an usher and cannot make this date, please email John Cox at johncox2155@gmail.com

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Message from our Stewardship Chairs

It is our sincerest prayer that all are well! A huge thank you to Joe Womble for his sincere message last Sunday! We were impressed that during his family's search for a church the first and last place they needed to go was St. Stephen's. That is how it was for Olivia and myself - St. Stephen's served our needs perfectly!

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2023. It is very important to this year's pledge drive that everyone is well informed of the church's financial well-being. St. Stephen's is the light on the candlestick, and we need to show it to everyone.

Sincerely, John and Olivia Cox

Message from Fr. Bailey

St. Stephen's friends - We are blessed to be a growing and vibrant parish community that has a wonderful future ahead of it. I want to emphasize that your pledge is highly important. However, we have to begin looking at renewed ways of funding - particularly how we fund the ministries of St. Stephen's.

So, moving forward - I think most of you may not know this: we rely on pledge income for most of our funding (at least over 90%). It's why we have our annual pledge drive. However, Episcopal churches in our diocese - and in other denominations for that matter- are all facing the same reality: **that giving by pledging is going down across the board**. The way forward is for all of us to look at how we can diversify our funding. Your Finance committee is working on fundraisers to augment the budget. The committee is also looking at ways in which we can shape the budget to fit the current ministry needs of St. Stephen's.

One other thing you will hear about with the new year is planned giving. That activity is one that none of us want to do, but we all have to plan for the end of life. When we talk about disposition of our material wealth, please consider a gift to St. Stephen's. If you are retired and receive a required distribution, consider giving a portion of that as a gift to St. Stephen's. Know that it is tax deductible (of course talk to your accountant about that).

Thank you for all that you do - thank you for your presence here – and thank you for contributing to God's work in this community, in Oak Ridge, and in the wider world – because of your love of the Lord.

Peace, Bailey

Giving Statements and Pledge Cards

Just a reminder - pledge cards for 2024 were sent out via mail. 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 <https://www.ststephensor.org>.

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. 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!

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 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)

Our special Outreach project for November 2023 is the Blankets+ Campaign, conducted by Church Women United for Church World Service (CWS). For over 75 years, this program has provided blankets to families and individuals suffering from disaster and displacement in the U.S. and throughout the world. Current events are making the program more vital than ever, as blankets are

invaluable. They can be used as warm bedding, cloaks, totes to carry belongings, overhead shelter, privacy curtains, and even floor coverings. This program also provides tools for recipients to earn a living. Charity Navigator gives CWS the highest possible rating as a nonprofit.

Parishioners at St. Stephen's and other Oak Ridge churches have supported the Blankets program for many years. It takes only \$10 to buy a large and durable blanket which is specially made to be suitable for the recipients' climate. Our Outreach Committee is setting aside \$300 for the project, and we invite you to help us increase this contribution.

Starting the second Sunday in November, the loose offering will be dedicated to the Blankets+ campaign. You may mail a check to St. Stephen's or donate online at <https://www.ststephensor.org>. If using the website, select the "Explain in Memo" option. Whether online or via check, please mark any contributions with the memo "For Blankets."

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

A Big Thank You and a Hug from the Compassion Closet



Last week, Liz Herbes presented the August 2023 loose offering collection to the Compassion Closet. The Compassion Closet exists to provide quick-turn assistance to foster, kinship, adoptive, and other families in East Tennessee. You can read more about this charity on the website at <https://compassioncloset.com/>

This Week's Loose Offering - October 2023

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

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

Ministry Updates

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

This week, we ask the parish for donations of cleaning supplies, such as dish and laundry detergent and household cleaners. 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](#)