



St Stephen's E-News

Download printable copy here: [St. Stephen's E-News for August 25 2023](#)

Calendar for the Week

August 27, 2023 - Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Service bulletins for Sunday's 7:45 a.m. Spoken Eucharist and 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist will be available on the church's website [here](#).

Both services will be held in the Nave. The 10:00 service will be live-streamed.

August 27, 2023 - Holy Eucharist + Healing Service - 11:30 AM

Sunday, August 27, 2023 - Adult Formation Series

Join us for our new **Adult Formation Series**
as we imaginatively explore central topics of Christianity.
We are meeting after the 10:00 AM Service in the Pollard Room

Animate: Bible

Imaginatively explore central topics of Christianity.



In each Animate: Bible session, we will view a video which blends live action with animations to provide thought-provoking perspectives, and beckons discussions.

In this class, we will:

- Focus on building authentic conversation about God.
- Engage in personal reflection on faith learnings and prayer.
- Gain perspectives on canon, history, testaments, gospels, genre, interpretation, and grace from seven Christian thought leaders.

To learn more about this exciting way to explore the Bible - click [here](#)

Sunday, August 27, 2023 - Lectionary Bible Study

Our lectionary Bible study is back as well! This Bible study is held in the Parish Hall immediately after the 7:45 service. 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.

(note - Gospel means good news!)

Sunday, August 27, 2023 - Children's Sunday School



It's back to school time! We have a variety of Christian Education to offer to our children and youth.

- The Pre-K group will meet in the Catechesis Room 108, located downstairs at the end of the hall from the Parish Hall.

Our Episcopalian Children's Curriculum will 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

If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Burchfield, Christian Education at 865-661-9413, or email Sherry by clicking [here..](#)

Sunday, September 17, 2023 - Free Ice Cream!



Mark your calendars to join us for a farewell to summer with ICE CREAM!

On Sunday, September 17, 2023, we will have only one service at 10:00 am.

Then - the ice cream truck from Lolli and Bobo's will be in the Grove to serve a FREE single scoop to everyone. If you've haven't experienced this new Oak Ridge tradition, please join us for another wonderful Parish Life event!

Non-dairy options will be available.

Outreach News

Established in 1984, the Ecumenical Storehouse helps people when they need it most, by collecting and distributing nearly every type of household good. It is operated by all volunteers on a rotating basis by 12 congregations.

In September, the Outreach committee of St Stephen's will take its turn staffing the Ecumenical Storehouse. Slots are every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, and 1:00-3:00 pm on Saturday. You do not need to be able to load goods, as some are needed to assist those who come for help.

Right now, all 2-hour volunteer slots are currently filled. If you'd like to volunteer as a backup, please contact Elizabeth in the Parish Office.

Learn more about their mission and read stories of hope on their website:

[The Ecumenical Storehouse, Inc.](#)

Save the Date! Wednesday, September 27, 2023 - Time TBD

Parish Life and Outreach have put together a night of fellowship, dining, and sharing about how funds are being used to help out both the local community and God's congregation as a whole. This should be a wonderful and informative evening for our entire congregation.

The evening will begin with a Zoom presentation from Fr. Mike Wallens and the Rio Grand Borderline Ministries (RGBM). The RGBM works in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) to provide humanitarian support to vulnerable people in our border communities.

Then our own Emily Doane and Olivia Cox will do a presentation about their new project to serve our Hispanic neighbors in Anderson County. A BIG "Thank You" to Emily for being persistent and helping to make this happen!

Stay tuned for more information!

Saturday, August 26, 2023 – Vestry Retreat

Our Vestry is blessed to be getting away together on a day-long retreat this Saturday at Church of the Resurrection in Loudon, TN. A big part of their work will be talking about the vision of where God is leading St. Stephen's over the next 5-10 years AND our work in participating and cultivating the work of the Holy Spirit in our community.

Please keep the Vestry and clergy in your prayers as they enter this joyful and meaningful time of prayer and discernment.

Ministry Updates

Family Quiet Room – Room 209

We want to invite families with infants and babies to know that we have a quiet room just down the hall from the main church. It's a lovely space for families who may need to tend to babies or need a quiet moment!

Wednesday Night Suppers – New This Fall

This fall Adult Formation will be hosting a Wednesday Night supper with adult classes and activities for kids. The evening will start at 5pm with promises that everyone will be on their way home at 6:30pm. More information soon!

Daughters of the King



DATE CHANGE:

The DOK meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 10, 2023, has been deferred to the October meeting. The DOK members will be providing the reception following the funeral for Mary Lou Murphy at 4:00 PM on that Sunday.

All women of the parish are welcome and invited to attend these meetings.

- There are no special spiritual attributes needed to become a Daughter of the King – only a sincere desire to draw nearer to God, and to help others do the same.

- We meet on the second Sunday of each month following the 10 am service (approximately 11:45 am-1:00 pm) in the Chapel.

Save the Date! Saturday, November 18, 2023, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Fr. Ashton Sims will lead a Quiet Afternoon and mini retreat in preparation for Advent. All are welcome. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

This Week's Loose Offering

This week's loose plate offering will go to The Compassion Closet.

Learn more about their mission and read stories of hope on their website:

[The Compassion Closet - Compassion Closet](#)

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

This week's focus is on items related to hygiene - deodorant, shampoo, soap, feminine products, etc.

If you bring a few items, please feel free to place them directly in the Blessing Box. If you bring multiple items, we ask that you drop it off inside the church. We try to ensure that the Box remains stocked throughout the week.

Of course, we welcome any donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries. Donated items may be placed in the bins located in the Narthex and Hospitality Room, or directly in the Blessing Box.

Ongoing Church Events

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

The Tuesday Bible Study continues Prayer, a guided study by Tim Keller
For more information email james.rousey@aol.com.

Wednesday Men's Group - 8:30 AM

The Men's Group meets every Wednesday in the Pollard Room.

Thursday Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) - On Hiatus

The Contemplative Prayer Group will not meet on the following days:
Aug. 31, Sep. 6, and Sep. 13, 2023. The Group will resume on September 21, 2023.

Helpful Links

[Those Who Serve](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

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

To request after-hours assistance please call the church's landline, 865-483-8497, and follow the voice prompts to "Pastoral Emergency" (Option 2).

The church's office hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Offices are closed on Fridays and weekends.

Please email articles, announcements, and photos for future E-News to editor@ststephensor.org. | Our deadline is Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.



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