



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.

REMINDER: Turn Back Your Clocks!

Daylight Saving Time is coming to an end this weekend. Make sure to turn back your clocks one hour, or you may come to church very early!

Fire departments encourage everyone to use Daylight Saving Time as a reminder to replace the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The Oak Ridge Fire Department's Smoke Alarm Program is a **FREE** service provided to the residents of Oak Ridge, funded by Grants to provide working smoke alarms to residents in need. ORFD will come inspect your alarm for you, change your batteries, and/or deliver and properly install a new 10-year battery smoke alarm for free. Please call 865-425-3520 to schedule the free appointment.

St Stephen's E-News

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for November 3, 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@ststephensor.org or by calling the Church Office.

This Sunday - November 5, 2023

Sunday after All Saints'

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/Holy Baptism Rite II - in the Nave (live-streamed)
- Bulletins for the services can be downloaded [here](#).

At the 10:00 AM, we will share in the legacy of the circle of life. We will be celebrating Holy Baptism for Barbara and Rob Steele's granddaughter. In addition, we will be praying for those who have departed this life in the past year, and the bulletins contain the names of those who are remembered by family and friends. We hope to see you there!

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 into 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: 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 Chapel: held during the service in the Pollard room

Children's Sunday School - following 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.

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

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.

Clergy Conference - Monday - Wednesday This Week

Both Fr. Norman and Fr. Sims will be out of the office this week from Monday, November 6, 2023 thru Wednesday, November 8, 2023, as they attend the Clergy Conference. The Church Office will be open normal hours.

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 - NO Service this Week

The Holy Eucharist Rite I + Healing Service will not be held this week due to the Clergy Conference.

Upcoming Parish Events

Sunday, November 12, 2023 - Annual Meeting One Service at 10:00 AM

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



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. If you are able, please bring a favorite brunch dish-sweet or savory- to share with your fellow "St. Stephenites".

We have much to celebrate! We are blessed to be a growing and vibrant parish community that has a wonderful future ahead of it. We are very thankful to be fully staffed with two priests and a Parish Secretary after a time of Vicars and volunteers. And we come together to thank **each one of you** for your presence here - and for contributing to God's work by being a part of the St. Stephen's family. So come join us for a time of fellowship and thanksgiving for God's many blessings!

Annual Meeting Information

There will be three votes at the Annual Meeting:

- Vote to amend the By-Laws
- Election of 4 Vestry members
- Election of Diocesan Convention delegates (3) and alternatives (3)

We are proud to introduce Craig Brent, Alan Liby, Benjamin Shassere and Tyler Walker as the 2024 Vestry nominees. The Delegates for Convention are Judith Delaney, Bill Lawrence, and Leah Bailey, and the alternates are Roger and Deb Johnson, and Linda Twohig. We will also thank the four wonderful representatives of the congregation who are rotating off: Barbara Steele, Jim Rousey, Rachel Kirk, and Cyril Meredith III.

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

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

During the frenzied preparation for Christmas, we all experience difficulty finding quietness essential to listening to God. The Advent Fast beckons us to intentional watchful waiting such that Christ will find in us "a mansion prepared for himself." We invite you to join us with an afternoon of rest, re-orienting ourselves towards the spirit of holy expectation.

St. Stephen's Daughters of the King (St. Agnes Chapter) will be sponsoring a **Quiet Day on Saturday, November 18th from 1 to 4 pm**. Fr. Ashton will provide a very meaningful time of preparation for Advent with the exploration of Advent themes found in three stories from the Gospel of St. Luke. Periods for prayer, silence and reflection are included. The afternoon will conclude with a service of Holy Eucharist. This event is open to everyone - women AND men. Please join us!

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!

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

On Sunday, December 20, 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



Watch for more information in a future e-newsletter....

Daughters of the King (DOK)

There will not be a regular monthly DOK meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Instead, please make plans to attend **St. Stephen's Annual meeting** which will be held that morning following the 10 am service.

Our next regular DOK meeting will be on Sunday, December 10, 2023, in St. Alban's Chapel following the 10 am service. Our ministry highlights for that meeting include Altar Guild and the Caring Meals ministry.

Stewardship Opportunities

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

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: 1st Week in November 2023

This week's loose plate offering will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

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)

Reminder - 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!

Ministry Updates

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

This week, we ask the parish for donations of deodorant, shampoo, conditioner and feminine hygiene products. . 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](#)