



## St Stephen's E-News

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### This Sunday - October 8, 2023

#### Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

There will be two services on Sunday:

- 7:45 AM: Spoken Holy Eucharist - Rite II - in the Nave (live-streamed)
- 10:00 AM: Choral Holy Eucharist - Rite II - in the Grove (no streaming)

In case of inclement weather, the 10:00 AM Service will be held in the Nave.

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

#### Christian Education Schedule

- **9:00 AM - Lectionary Bible Study - the Pollard Room**
  - A deep dive in the Gospel passage for the week
- The Animate: Bible study will not meet this week.
- The Children's Education classes will not meet this week.

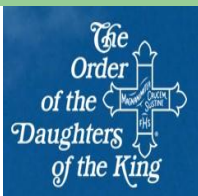
#### The Blessings of the Animals - Bring a Bag of Pet Food



It's here! The Blessing of the Animals is this Sunday. The 10:00 AM service will be held outdoors in the Grove and will include the Blessing. Bring your pet - cat, dog, rabbit, bird, turtle, etc. - or even a favorite stuffed animal.

- Please consider bringing a bag of cat or dog food to the service as a donation to the Anderson County Animal Rescue Foundation. A collections area will be set up in the Grove.
- ***Please bring your pet in an appropriate carrier and/or a leash or otherwise "contained".***
- ***In case of inclement weather, the blessing of the animals will be postponed, and the service will be held in the Nave.***

## Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost



The St Agnes Chapter of the Daughters of the King will meet in the Chapel following the 10:00 service. We welcome all women who are curious about and/or interested in the Daughters of the King and are pleased to have new faces.

We will have a short business meeting, followed by personal sharing.

- Members will explain their service and how it has expanded their faith.
- Fr. Bailey will be joining us to discuss his view of his role in the parish as we explore the role of spiritual growth through servanthood offered by our various ministries.

Father Bailey has granted us permission to have coffee in the chapel, being mindful to tidy up and being mindful of the sacred nature of the altar and the surrounding room.

We hope to see you there! *For His Sake, Beth*

## This Week's Events

### Saturday, October 7, 2023 - OR Disabilities Fair



The Oak Ridge Disabilities Fair will be held on Saturday, October 7 from 11 AM – 3 PM at the Oak Ridge Civic Center and Senior Center.

St. Stephen's is joining with other churches in the area to support this event. I'd love to have a strong contingent of St. Stephen's people come out to the Fair. Those who attend can bring back some of what they have learned to bring greater awareness within our congregation.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there! *Peace, Bailey*

### Tuesday, October 10, 2023 - Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

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

### Wednesday, October 11, 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. This week's menu is Sheet Pan Chicken with Vegetables, Rolls and Carrot Cake.
- 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!

## Upcoming Parish Life Events

### Sunday, October 29, 2023 - Good Lord, It's A Gourd!



Parish Life and the Liturgics Team have put together our very first Boo-Charist! We hope this will become a new St. Stephen's Tradition.

This is a family friendly service where we invite EVERYONE - regardless of age - to wear your costume to church. (Of course, you can come as an Episcopal Communicant - that "costume" always works.)

Following the service, we will celebrate with a feast all things pumpkin - and all the other wonderful tastes and aromas of fall. Think pumpkin and apple pies, pumpkin soup, apple cider, pumpkin bread, spice loaves, ginger cookies and apple cake...YUMMMMMM!  
Share with us your fall favorite - sign up by email to [Leah Bailey](#).

### Sunday, November 12, 2023 - Annual Meeting



## Outreach Spotlight - Next Meeting October 17, 2023

We're always looking for new volunteers; just call/text Liz Herbes 865.228.2537. Our next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2023 in the Pollard Room, at 5:00 PM.

### Haiti Update



Many of you know that St. Stephen's along with certain other parishes in the Diocese have been involved with alleviating malnutrition and poor health, education, and clean water in Haiti since 1994. Petit Harpon is a remote farming community in the mountains of the southern peninsula. People there have been isolated from medical care except by travel that starts with a several mile walk.

St. Stephen's began a free medical clinic in 2015 operating in St. John the Evangelist Episcopal church building and supports it with medications, a part-time nurse and doctor. Another parish in the Diocese supports a school close by but St. Stephen's provides medical care.

Although the region in and around the capital is chaotic and dangerous, life in this impoverished area goes on mostly as usual. In fact, some people from the terrorized areas around Port-au-Prince are even moving into this community.

After a short suspension due to a personnel change, we resumed fund transfers this month and received confirmation of receipt. Pharmacy and case reports are resuming. We typically treat 40 to 50 cases each week. Some of the highest incidences of problems are respiratory difficulty, hypertension, diabetes, anemia and mal nutrition, wounds, reflux, and scabies infections. Although more complex issues may be referred to a nearest city (Leogane or Jacmel) patients almost never follow through due to the cost of treatment elsewhere.

Communication with the priest and indirect communication with the medical staff assures us that the community remains safe. It is hoped that conditions will improve soon since the UN has just announced formation of a multi-national task force to restore peace and stability within Haiti.

Please pray for our mission in Haiti, especially those who are working at the clinic.

### This Week's Loose Offering

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

# Ministry Updates

## Memorial Garden Wall Update



The Memorial Garden wall has a fresh look to it. Work began several weeks ago to re-point the grout in the wall. The old grout had deteriorated over time, allowing water to seep into the grout and promoting mold.

- The first contractor removed about a half-inch of the old grout and replaced it with new grout.
- Finally, the new grout dried sufficiently for a second contractor to paint, using a special concrete paint.
- Soon, new mulch will help the garden's 'winter look' as we wait for spring.

The purchase of an interment plot provides for the perpetual care of the garden. These funds are separate from the church finances for all other programs and ministries.

We invite you to take a moment to visit the Memorial Garden. It is a vital part of St. Stephen's parish life and history.

## Support our Blessing Box - This Week's Request: Canned Food

This week, we ask the parish for donations of canned chicken, tun, and roast beef. Please be aware of size limitations inside the Box - thank you!

## 2024 Stewardship Campaign - Kickoff Sunday, October 8, 2023

John and Olivia Cox will introduce the campaign at both services. Letters and pledge cards have gone out from the office. You can return them to the church office, or you can fill out your pledge online. Please prayerfully consider how you may financially support the life-changing ministry of our parish for this upcoming year.

## 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 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.