



Announcements - Inclement Weather Status

Let me stress first that your safety is our priority. I do not like canceling services, and in this case, a funeral as well, unless circumstances leave me no choice. Each of you will make the best decision as to whether it is safe for you to come out. Please use your best judgment in that regard. It's not just the driving conditions - the bitter cold may also prevent you from venturing out! For Sunday services, I'm a big believer that, if the bare minimum number of ministers can make it to church (which would be clergy, organist, and a person to run the live stream), we will have services and the 10AM service will be live streamed on our YouTube channel. ***Please keep that in mind as you decide whether or not you can safely come to church.*** We are making arrangements to have the parking lots all around the church plowed and the sidewalks salted after Friday's system passes through.

In addition, at this time we will still have the 7:45 service and all adult education classes. After talking with our Christian Ed director Sherry Burchfield, we have cancelled Children/Youth Sunday school and Children's Chapel for this Sunday.

If the weather prevents our clergy and stewards from coming in, we will go ahead and cancel. I will be sending an e-news announcement Sunday morning with the final information regarding both services.

Please continue to be safe in these hazardous and arctic cold conditions. Do not hesitate to contact me directly at 865-323-1417 if you have any questions or need to pass on any information. My personal thanks to all of our diligent and faithful stewards who have continued their good works over the past week!

Christ's Peace, Fr. Bailey

Important Dates: January - February 2024

▶ **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

St. Stephen's Website Links

NOTE: Due to the inclement weather, there may be a delay in the posting of this week's bulletins. Please keep checking the website, as they will be posted shortly! We appreciate your patience and support.

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for January 19, 2024](#)
Download the bulletins for this week's services: [Home](#) | [St. Stephen's](#)

This Week in Our Faith - January 21, 2024

Service for Etsuko "Happy" Johnson - Saturda

The funeral service for Etsuko "Happy" Johnson will be held this Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 1:00 pm, with burial in the St. Stephen's Memorial Garden. A reception sponsored by the Daughters of the King will follow. Please continue to keep her husband Ed and their children, Phil, Mary and Diane in your prayers.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

This Sunday, January 21, 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



The season of Epiphany is when we celebrate the revealing of Christ to the world. We mark the arrival of the One who is the light of the world: a light that brings life, a light that brings hope. This light shines its brightest when we are in community – with God and with one another.

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

What's Happening!!
This Sunday January 21st
No Children's Chapel
No Sunday School
No Nursery



Tuesday, January 23, 2024 - Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

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

Tuesday Bible Study - January 23, 2024, 10:00 AM

Join the Tuesday Bible Study group on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Pollard Library. We are following a 12-session study entitled "Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today" and using the book and DVD of the same name. Our second is Rebekah, wife of Isaac. She had tremendous strength but also profound weaknesses that God used for His purposes. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Rousey at james.rousey@aol.com.

Loose Plate Offering

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

This Week's Outreach Spotlight - Blessing Box

Please keep the Blessing Box needs on your shopping list. This week we are requesting canned or ramen soup, canned fruit, cereal, protein bars, and breakfast bars. Please be aware of size limitations inside the Box - thank you!

Outreach Recap - 2023

THANK YOU to everyone that contributed to this past week's Oak Ridge Warming Shelter. Oak Ridge Universalist Unitarian Church (ORUUC) opened their doors as a warming shelter, providing temporary shelter at their church to keep the homeless warm during the freezing weather. One of the many ways that St. Stephen's contributed to this ministry was by donating a full meal through Buddy's BBQ!

Outreach Recap - 2023

"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

The goal of St. Stephen's Outreach is to partner with local non-profit organizations to pool resources and to create lasting connections and relationships built on kindness, empathy, and the ever-reaching love of Christ. We work to help the most vulnerable, especially families and children who are without the basic necessities. Due to your generosity in 2023, we were able to provide financial support to 11 different ministries!

- ▶ Rio Grande Episcopal Diocese Borderland Ministries - \$1511
- ▶ Episcopal Relief & Development Fund - \$1060
- ▶ Clearfork Community Institute and Reading Camp - \$2202
- ▶ Brysonn's Closet. A Storehouse of Hope - \$1296
- ▶ TORCH (TN Out-Reach Center for Homeless) - \$1005
- ▶ St. Stephen's Blessing Box - \$2767
- ▶ Compassion Closet Assistance to Families and Children - \$1107
- ▶ Family Resource Center of Oak Ridge Schools - \$769
- ▶ Haiti Medical Clinic - \$1783
- ▶ Church Women United Blankets+ Campaign - \$1212
- ▶ Christmas Tree/Gifts to Children at Compassion Closet - \$700

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



Warm up with an
ORCMA Coffee Concert

Musical Language, Meaning, and Expression:
Chamber Music with Philosophy of Music

Sunday Jan 28 @ 3:00 p.m. (Doors open 2.30 pm)
FREE ADMISSION

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 - as of 1/18/24

Last Week's Offering: \$ 22,225
2024 YTD Offering: \$ 53,502
2024 YTD Budget: \$ 26,176
Over/Under: \$ 27,326

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 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 | 212 N Tulane Ave, Oak Ridge, TN
37830