



## Advent at St. Stephen's

Use this quick list to mark your calendars!

**Saturday December 2:** Clearfork Community Meal

**Saturday December 2:** Silent Auction and Italian Potluck

**Sunday, December 3:** St. Stephen's Advent Fair

**Sunday, December 10:** Camino De Santiago Informational meeting

**Sunday, December 10:** Daughters of the King Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, December 14:** Blue Christmas

**Sunday, December 17:** Lessons & Carols and Catered Dinner

**Sunday, December 24:** Nativity Pageant

**Sunday Eve, December 24:** Carol Vigil and Festal Choral Eucharist

**Monday, December 25:** Christmas Day Eucharist

There's a lot of other activities going on - our parish is very active during this season! We hope that you take the time to **read all the way** to the bottom of the e-news - we don't want you to miss ANYTHING!

## St Stephen's E-News

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for November 24, 2023](#)

## Streaming and Recordings

We apologize that some technical difficulties have prevented live streaming and/or recording of some services. We will have these issues resolved by Sunday. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## Saturday, November 25, 2023 - Sewing Love



Come join us to "sew love" on Saturday, November 25, 2023, from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM in the Parish Hall. We will be making no-sew blankets for the Family Resource Center. No sewing experience is required - just bring a pair of sharp scissors! We hope to see you there!

*A light lunch will be provided.*

## This Sunday - November 26, 2023

### Last Sunday After Pentecost - November 26, 2023

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](#).

### This Sunday: The Feast of Christ the King

Today, many parishes within The Episcopal Church celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. It celebrates Christ's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation. This feast day falls on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the Sunday before the beginning of Advent. The feast is a relative newcomer to the liturgical calendar; it was first instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925

[www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org) - Bulletin Insert - Christ the King Sunday

### Adult Christian Formation / Christian Education

There will be no Adult Christian Formation and no Christian Education classes this Sunday.

### This Week's Outreach Spotlight

- ▶ This will be the last week of the loose plate offering being given for the Church Women United's Blankets+ Campaign.
  - ▶ The Outreach Clearfork team is looking for donations of egg cartons.
  - ▶ Please keep the Blessing Box in your shopping list.
- You can read more in the "Outreach Spotlight" section of this e-newsletter.

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

### Tuesday, November 28, 2023 - Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

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

### Saturday, December 2, 2023 - Clearfork Meal - 1:00 PM

On December 2, 2023, the St. Stephen's Clearfork team will be returning to visit the families of the Clearfork area and share a meal. This is a new event, set up as a get together of our church community, camp children and families, and maybe with a few others in the community who really could enjoy a full meal. St. Stephen's is providing the turkeys, hams, and drinks. Since this is a "potluck" meal, we encourage you to bring a side dish. If anyone would like to go with us and meet some fine folks, please contact Cameron Ellis at 865-414-5742.

**Saturday, December 2, 2023 - 5:30 PM**  
**SHHH...IT'S A SILENT AUCTION!**

**ONE MORE WEEK TO GO! IT'S ALMOST HERE!**



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.

You can make a donation or see the donated options on our website - check it out!

[St. Stephen's Silent Auction](#)

**DONATING**

You can donate items in advance at this link: [Donation Form](#) - and then bring them with you the night of the auction. Or you can bring them by the parish office during the week. Items can be donated up to the start of the actual auction - so don't worry if you haven't donated yet - we're still looking for more! Just this week, we've had beautiful paintings, kitchen gadgets, gym memberships, tickets for "Oliver," salon gift certificates, holiday decor, and food items donated.

**THE AUCTION**

Check out the website - [Auction Listing](#) - and start planning your bidding. We have something for everybody's tastes and pocketbook! On the night of the auction, bidding will begin at 5:30 PM and will last until 6:30 PM. Winners will be announced during the Potluck.

**PASTO ALLO BUONA - A GOOD MEAL!**

During the auction, you will enjoy beverages and appetizers. At 6:30 PM, the Italian Themed potluck dinner will be served. Parish Life will provide beverages and bread. Please bring a favorite Italian dish, such as lasagna, spaghetti, manicotti, antipasto platters, or cannoli to share. These may be dropped off prior to shopping the auction. The Italian-themed potluck promises to have excellent food and will provide an opportunity for great fellowship.

Please plan to support this effort to benefit the ministry and mission of St. Stephen's.

## Upcoming Parish Events

### Sunday, December 3, 2023: Advent Fair



**Mark your Calendars!**  
**Advent Fair**  
**December 3<sup>rd</sup>!**  
**A traditional Family Day**  
**at St. Stephens**  
**Following the 10am service**  
**Food, Crafts, & Fun!**

After the 10:00 AM service, Christian Education will present the annual Advent Fair! This is a wonderful opportunity for families of all sizes to make their own Advent crafts. There will be several "stations" to choose from - we look forward to seeing you there!

### Sunday, December 10, 2023: - 9:00 AM Camino De Santiago 2024 Informational Meeting



Coming Next Year:  
September 28 - October 7, 2024  
(Oak Ridge Schools Fall Break 2024)  
The Pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago  
de Compostela in Northern Spain  
Led by Fr. Ashton Sims and Leah Bailey

In 2024, we will walk the last 116 km of the Royal French way of the Camino - from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela. This is an ancient pilgrim/Roman trade route walked by many over the millennia. This trip is focused on middle school age and up. This will be an unforgettable experience, as we travel the route with a rich history of over 1200 years.

Come join us in the Parish Hall for this informational meeting and to find out more. Our own Leah Bailey will share her own experiences of walking the Camino. Fr. Ashton Sims will have a word to say about the importance of pilgrimage, as well as reflect on his experiences of pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

## Thursday, December 14, 2023: Blue Christmas - 7:00 PM

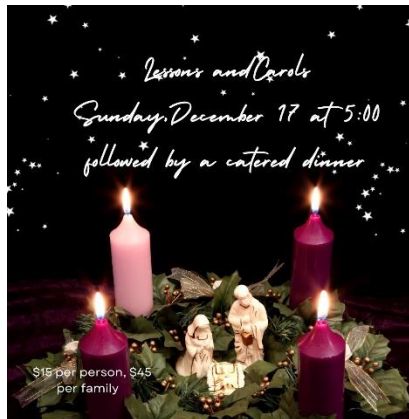


Christmas is not always a joyful time for everyone. Memories of loved ones who have died rise to the surface, reminding us of their absence during the holidays, and we feel keenly the heaviness of loss. We may be feeling overwhelmed with too many activities, not enough time, or trying to complete an insurmountable list of things to do.

The Blue Christmas service at St. Stephen's will give you an opportunity to slow down and receive some healing in worship with fellow strugglers.

All are welcome. We invite you to come reflect on all the good things God has given you and to know that joy can be present even in the midst of sadness.

## Sunday, December 17, 2023 - Lessons and Carols - 5:00 PM



### DINNER MENU

- Parmesan Herb Baked Chicken Breast or Roast
- Pork Loin with Gravy
- Redskin Mashed Potato Casserole
- Sautéed Vegetable Medley
- Tossed Salad / Assorted Dressings
- Yeast Rolls
- Cookie Assortment (from our Choir)

Our annual service of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 17, 2023. The Parish Choir will present the story of the coming of Christ with Advent hymns and carols. Following the service, we will have a festive catered dinner - so you just need to bring yourselves. Please come be a part of this Advent tradition!

The service will be held at 5:00 PM, with dinner in Parish Hall at 6:00 PM. The cost will be \$15 per person/ \$45 per family. **We need an accurate headcount for the caterer**, so we are requiring those who wish to attend to sign up. There are two ways:

- On our website: [RSVP - Lessons & Carols Dinner](#)
- On the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk.

# Sunday, December 24, 2023 - Christmas Pageant

**December 24**



**Christmas Pageant**

Our annual Christmas Pageant returns this Christmas Eve. This is a St. Stephen's tradition for over 40 years! We're excited to be back in the Nave, and we're hard at work getting ready. We need YOU to help us by coming and being part of this celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

**4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Eucharist & Nativity Pageant**  
**Location: St. Stephen's Nave**

If you have any questions, please contact our Christian Education director, Sherry Burchfield, at [mommaburch@gmail.com](mailto:mommaburch@gmail.com).

## Focus on the Parish

### St Stephen's Financial Status update - As of October 30, 2023

We are 83% into our fiscal year, and both Income and Expenses are at 86%. This puts us slightly over budget. To keep the budget balanced, we have used \$20,000 of investment income to supplement overall income. If our income doesn't increase by year end, there is a potential to use more of our reserves. The table below shows this information and actual figures.

Submitted by Tom Clary, St. Stephen's Treasurer

*\*YTD Actual Income includes the \$20,000 investment income*

	2023 Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Actual/Budget%
Total Income	\$ 581,302	\$ 497,241*	86%
Total Expenses	\$ 646,075	\$556,677	86%

## Daughters of the King (DOK)



The next meeting of the St Agnes Chapter of Daughters of the King will be on Sunday, December 10, 2023, in St. Alban's Chapel following the 10:00 AM service. Our ministry highlights for that meeting include Altar Guild and the Caring Meals ministry.

We will be hosting an informational meeting mid to late January. We would love for you to join us and see if DOK is the right fit for you. As Daughters of the King, we take a vow of prayer, service, and evangelism, sharing Christ's love with the world! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Beth Reed (865)850-6135 or Jenny Meredith (865)414-7899. Thank you!

## 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

*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)*

## This November, Think Blankets!

For over 75 years, through help from St. Stephen's and other Oak Ridge churches, the Blankets+ program has provided blankets to people displaced by conflict and disaster in the U.S. and around the world. In 2022, nearly 60,000 blankets were distributed - and many more are needed this year. Blankets are invaluable as bedding and can be used as cloaks, totes for belongings, overhead shelter, privacy curtains, and floor covering. To learn more about Blankets+, visit the website at <https://cwsblankets.org/>

Every \$10 buys a specially made large, durable blanket suitable for the recipients' climate. Through the month of November, you may donate online ([Home | St. Stephen's](#)) or send a check to St. Stephen's. Either way, include in the memo "For Blankets." Thank you for your support!

Blankets+ Campaign is conducted by Church Women United on behalf of Church World Service (CWS). CWS is a 4-star charity on Charity Navigator - the highest possible rating.

## A Clearfork Christmas - We Need Egg Cartons!

The Outreach Clearfork volunteers are busy! And we need your help!

Since 2020, we have prepared Christmas activity bags for the families and children. In the past, we have included such goodies as crafts, books, snacks, and fun activities that the family can do together. Last year, we recognized the need for hygiene products that are not included in gov't assistance programs.

This year, we've put a lot of thought (and love) into the crafts activities that we will include, such as several books, snacks, and a lot of cool "surprise items". We are SO excited to have received a generous donation of rocks and minerals from an amateur geologist. These will be a special addition to the activity bags, to help keep the children occupied over the Christmas break.

**The ideal way to distribute these rocks and activity kits is in egg cartons!** We would like to enlist your help by asking you to donate your empty egg cartons. We'll put the kits together - we just can't eat that many eggs on our

own! Please bring your empty, clean egg cartons to the church, and leave them in the mailroom right next to the church office. There is a plastic bin marked "egg cartons" for the donations, and the deadline is Sunday, December 10, 2023.

Thank you for helping us spread Christ's love in this season of hope!

## Coming in December: The Compassion Tree

This December, our Outreach program will be the Compassion Tree. You will see this Tree set up in the Parish Hall by the stage. The Compassion Tree will be decorated with tags that represent various items and gifts needed for children placed in foster care in the weeks before Christmas, as well as for those coming into care without any clothing or personal items.

It's easy to help out - simply look over the tags and determine where you can help. Pricing begins at \$10. When you find a tag, remove it from the tree and take it with you. After purchasing the item(s), place both the tag and the item(s) under the tree. You don't have to wrap them - we'll do that!

We ask that all items be returned with the tags no later than Wednesday, December 20, 2023. We invite all parishioners to take a tag and make a foster child's Christmas a little brighter!

Here is a partial list of items on the tags:

- ▶ Toy List: Lego (any age), arts/crafts kits, Barbie dolls, remote control cars
- ▶ Other gifts: Scooters, Children's Bibles, \$25 gift cards for teens
- ▶ Necessities: All sizes pajamas, underwear, socks, crib and twin sheets
- ▶ Larger items: cribs, car seats, crib and twin mattresses, pack 'n plays

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

Our Blessing Box is very active, and we continue to grow in meeting this genuine need for this ministry. This week, we are requesting donations of canned chicken, beef and tuna. Please be aware of size limitations inside the Box - thank you!

## This Week's Prayers

Please join us in this week's Prayers of the People and for our Parish Family:

- ▶ Diocese of East TN: St. Timothy's and St. Christopher's, Kingsport, TN
- ▶ Diocese of South Dakota: St. John's, Deadwood; St. James, Greenville; St. Thomas, Sturgis; St. James, Belle Fourche
- ▶ Diocese of Haiti: St. John the Evangelist Church and Medical Clinic
- ▶ Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Church of Nigeria.
- ▶ Prayers for those dealing with illness: Elizabeth Pack, her family James and Philip



- ▶ Those in assisted living: Jo Ann Baker, Dianne Davis, Roger Derby, Mary Rhoades.
- ▶ Our parish members: Eric and Julie Weatherford; Julie Webber; James Welch, Arwyn; Susan Wells; Vicky White.
- ▶ Those currently serving in the armed forces: Thomas Bautz, Brian Bustle, Courtenay Clary, Robert Graf, Jr., Reid Hartman, Alex Mol, Thomas Stickle, and Kyle Zirkel.

## Ongoing Church Events

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

For more information email [james.rousey@aol.com](mailto: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](#)

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**The church's office hours** are 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Offices are closed on Fridays and weekends.



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