



Summer Happenings at the Church



The Lord Be With You! Hopefully the rain hasn't damped your spirit! Keep watching this space as we share news of parish life and fellowship, as well as exciting changes to our e-news.

And make sure to see the news about our July 2, 2023 event - "As American As...Pie!"

Welcome Changes Coming to E-News!

"I love the E-Newsletter - but why is it so LONG?"

"Can't we just hit the high points - and be brief in the e-mail?"

"It takes so long to find what I want in the e-newsletter!"

We hear you!

Starting next week, we'll be using a new format that will be brief and to the point - with web links to more details. Thanks for your patience!

A printable copy of this e-newsletter can be found on the church website.

St Stephen's is a Safe Space for ALL

The Vestry and the Clergy wishes to emphasize their desire for St. Stephen's to be a Safe Space for anyone looking to find a refuge to be themselves and not be judged, ostracized, or persecuted in any way.

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Calendar for the Week

June 25: Fourth 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](#).

June 29: The Feast of Saint Peter & Saint Paul



The Feast of Saint Peter & Saint Paul is celebrated on June 29. On this day, the Church will remember the martyrdoms of Sts. Peter and Paul.

If you'd like to learn more about this Feast, please click through the link below - after all, the history hasn't changed!

[Bulletin Insert: The Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul \(2022\)](#)

Picture Credit: Stained glass, Sts. Peter and Paul and the instruments of their martyrdoms. Church of St. Thomas, Jersey

Weekly Trivia Question:

While both Peter and Paul are considered apostles, they have very different beginnings of their calling. One was called by Jesus in person, and the other had a vision. Do you know which is which?

Answer at the end of this e-newsletter

Parish News for June 25- July 1, 2023

Lemonade in the Grove (weather permitting)

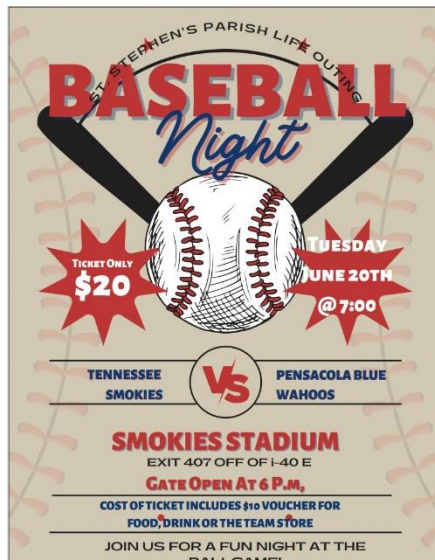


Hopefully the rain will hold off until the afternoon on Sunday - so please join us for Lemonade in the Grove after the service. If it does rain, we'll be inside in the Parish Hall.

In either case, please join us for the fellowship!

THE OLE BALLGAME—PART DEUX!

Wow! Did Mother Nature show off on Tuesday night! So our Parish Life event is now rescheduled.



Sunday, June 25, 2023 - gates open 1:00 PM, game 2:00 PM

St. Stephen's has a new block of tickets for the game, and they will be available at the WILL CALL window.

There is no need to have your tickets from Tuesday evening, as the Smokies are reissuing tickets for us...AND they still have the \$10 voucher, even if you used yours up on Tuesday! If you have your parking pass from Tuesday evening, they will honor those as well and you will not have to pay \$5 for parking.

Unfortunately, now that the game is on a Sunday, there will be regular concession prices. Also, there will be no "Kids Run the Bases After the Game".

If you cannot go on Sunday afternoon, do not worry! Your tickets will still be at the Will Call window when in the future you can take in a game. In order to expedite claiming your tickets, you will need to contact Steven Haselton at the Smokies (865-286-2304) so that he can pull your tickets from the packet and have them at the window for you to pick up.

Please keep in mind that Smokies Stadium is a COMPLETELY CASHLESS VENUE. You will need to pay the \$5 parking fee with a credit card.

Diocesan News for June 25 - July 1, 2023

The Diocese of East Tennessee is committed to being a community of prayer and action, caring for the people of our beautiful East Tennessee region - and its office is right over the hill in Knoxville - on your way to Turkey Creek.

Events for the Week - [Click Here](#)

Sunday, June 25, 2023 - 3:30 PM

- The 2023 Knoxville Pride Mass will take place at Church of the Good Samaritan, Knoxville, on Sunday, June 25, at 5:00 pm and will feature the Rev. Kevin L. Strickland, Bishop of the Southeastern Synod ELCA, and music by The Rev. John Tirro and community members.
- A Reconciling Panel Discussion on the Rainbow Initiative and LGBTQ+ displaced persons will take place at 3:30 pm ahead of the service featuring panelists from Episcopal Migration Ministries, the State Department, Bridge Refugee Services, and others. Bishop Brian Cole, bishop of the Diocese of East Tennessee, will serve as moderator.

Upcoming Opportunities for Lay Ministry Formation - [Click Here](#)

All baptized Christians are called to ministry. Some of you are called to be more deeply formed for specific ministries and licensed for more confidence and credibility in the practice in your parish.

The Episcopal Church in East Tennessee has dedicated staff and other resources to the discernment, formation, support, and licensing of lay ministers for more than two decades. There are a number of classes upcoming for training in such ministries as Eucharistic Visits, Worship Leader, and Scriptural Foundation.

For more information, contact Beverly Hurley Hill, Canon for Mission & Lay Ministry at (205) 213-6640 or bhurleyhill@dioet.org or Emily Kirk, Parish Support Specialist at (865) 966-2110 or ekirk@dioet.org. You must make contact no later than Friday, August 4, 2023.

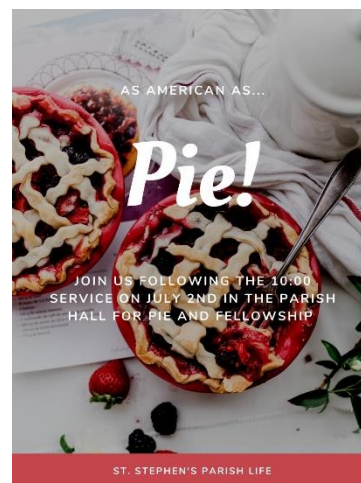
Upcoming Events - July 2023

CALLING ALL PIE BAKERS!!

On July 2nd, Parish Life is hosting a new event: "As American As...Pie!".

While the original phrase does have a particular type of pie in it, we have no desire to be constrained by that one flavor! We currently have 12 volunteer pie bakers, who will be baking a wide variety of pies, some of which will even be gluten-free.

If you are interested in baking a pie, please contact Parish Life Chair Leah Bailey at lbailey667@comcast.net. The more the merrier!



There will be a "guest judge", who will gladly taste all pies and make a determination as to the best pie! Rest assured, they will all be delicious, and the judge will have a difficult time rendering a decision.

So on Sunday, July 2, 2023, please plan to wear your red, white and blue and join us in the Parish Hall at 11:15 (after the 10:00 service) for fun, fellowship and PIE!

St. Stephen's Choir Upcoming London Trip

Please keep our Choir in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for their upcoming trip to London! Take time on Sunday to enjoy this international singing sensation in our own services, and wish them well on their travels.

Ministry Updates

Loose Plate Offering: TORCH



This month, the loose plate offering will go to TORCH - Lighting a Path to a Brighter Tomorrow.

TORCH (Tennessee Out-Reach Center for the Homeless) is a non-profit whose mission is to rapidly house the homeless and help stabilize the family once placed.

Outreach Update: Camp Clearfork 2023

This past week, the Outreach committee met to summarize Camp Clearfork for 2023 - and in a nutshell:

- There was more laughter and joy observable than sadness or frustration.
- The community and certainly the children were served.
- Love was expressed.
- Our relationship and mutual trust with the community grew.

More will be posted on the St. Stephen's website in the very near future. Thanks again to everyone who supported this outreach ministry.

Outreach News: Ecumenical Storehouse Fundraiser



You are invited to a
FREE Community Concert and Fundraising Party for the
Ecumenical Storehouse, Inc.
Music by Wendel Werner and The Strange Relationship
Saturday, July 29, 2023, 7:00-9:00 PM (doors open 6:00 PM)
The Historic Grove Theater
123 Randolph Road, Oak Ridge, TN

*The Ecumenical Storehouse, Inc., is a United Way agency that supplies donated furniture, appliances, and housewares to those in need. Donations Welcome
We are located at 134 East Division Road, Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Phone: 865-481-0274; Email: ecumenicalstore@gmail.com*



Ongoing Church Events

Tuesday Bible Study



Prayer life is vital to the daily walk with the LORD. Join your fellow pilgrims in the Tuesday Bible Study group. The group meets Tuesdays in the Pollard Room library from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Currently we are following a Tim Keller guided study that addresses corporate prayer, personal prayer, meditation, praise & adoration, and confession & repentance. Study materials are provided.

For more information email james.rousey@aol.com.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets every Wednesday, at 08:30 AM in the Pollard Room.

Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)

If you have been considering starting (or re-starting) a discipline of silent contemplative prayer, attending our Zoom gatherings each Thursday at 4:00 p.m., might be a way to help you do that.

In our weekly gatherings we sit in silence for 20 minutes. Some of us practice Centering Prayer, as taught by Fr. Thomas Keating. Some of us silently follow our breath. Some of us may silently repeat a sacred word. We're pretty flexible — the only expectation is that we sit reverently in silence throughout the period.

If you'd like to join us, feel free to email or call/text one of us (Steve: 865.250.9123; Liz: 865.228.2537) if you have comments or questions. (The best way is to text!) Whether we see you or not, we wish you a blessed week!

Steve and Liz Herbes
Contemplative Prayer Zoom Co-hosts

Trivia Answer

Trivia Question: While both Peter and Paul are considered apostles, they have very different beginnings of their calling. One was called by Jesus in person, and the other had a vision. Do you know which is which?

Answer:

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells Peter to go into the deep water and let down his nets for a catch. Peter and his partners James and John then have a miraculous catch of fish. Jesus promises that from now on they will be catching people (Lk 5:4-11). Peter was at the heart of the organization of the Christian church after Jesus' resurrection.

Paul (original name Saul) was a zealous Pharisee and a persecutor of the Christian church. He went to Damascus with authority to persecute, but he was converted to Christ on the way (Acts 9:1-22). He subsequently recalled that Jesus appeared to him (1 Cor 9:1, 15:8), and viewed this experience as authority for apostolic ministry (Gal 1:15-17)

Source: "An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians", provided courtesy of Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY (All Rights reserved) - [An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church](#)

Helpful Links on Our Website

[Announcements and Weekly Schedule for June 25 - July 1, 2023](#)

[Those Who Serve](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

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 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 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.
