



Important Dates: February 2024

► **Lenten Fair - Sunday, February 18, 2024:**

Held in the Parish Hall following the 10:00 AM Service.

► **Outreach Meeting - Tuesday, February 20, 2024:**

Held in the Pollard Room at 5:00 PM

► **Inquirer's Class and Dinner - Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

Held in the Parish Hall from 5:30 - 6 PM (Dinner)

Held in the St. Alban's Chapel from 6:00 - 7:00 PM (Class)

► **Lenten Season Simple Soup Supper - Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

Held in the Parish Hall from 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Also held February 28, March 6, March 13, March 20

A Lent Message from Father Bailey

Earlier this week, Fr. Bailey sent out a Lent Message to the Parish. If you missed it, you can read it by clicking [here](#).

St. Stephen's Website Links

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for February 16, 2024](#)

Download the bulletins for this week's services: [Home](#) | [St. Stephen's](#)

This Week in Our Faith - February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

This Sunday, February 18, 2024:

► 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I (spoken) *Location: St. Stephen's Nave*

► 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist Rite I *Location: St. Stephen's Nave*

You can watch the 10:00 AM service on our [YouTube channel](#).

Lent Begins



This season called Lent is an opportunity to work on healing and restoring relationships of all sorts. Lent began as a time of solidarity with those who were preparing for baptism at Easter. It marks the beginning of a special relationship with new members of the body of Christ.

When we are baptized, we promise to stay in that relationship. Those ancient Lenten exercises of prayer, study, fasting, and almsgiving are ways of reminding and training ourselves to be better stewards of our relationships with each other and with God. Shape your prayer to promote healing in all relationships, both very personal ones and in the larger society. Study and reflect on the biblical vision of a healed world, and on the ministry of Jesus – what can we learn from His own loving choices? Fast from self-centered satisfaction and give alms in abundance so that our loves begin to turn outward. This season is simply a practice of turning away from primary focus on ourselves and toward the life-giving possibility of more loving relationships with God and neighbor.

Excerpts from "the First Sunday in Lent", Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori

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 Continues**

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.

▶ **No Adult Education after 11:15 AM this week**

The Animate Practices class is cancelled this week, so that everyone can attend the Lenten fair. See you next week!

Sunday - Children's Christian Education



**This Week - Christian Education Presents
The LENTEN FAIR**

Sunday, February 18, 2024
Following the 10:00 AM Service

Come Join Us at the Lenten Fair! This is a great opportunity for families to kick-off the 40-day season of Lent, a period of preparation for the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and giving. Speaking of fasting: join us for fresh pretzels and learn why this is the perfect food when fasting! Crafting/learning activities will also be available for the children (and young at heart adults) at the Fair.

Stations of the Cross

You may notice that our beautiful banners have been taken down and replaced with Stations of the Cross. Booklets entitled *The Way of the Cross*, are available in the narthex and in the hallway outside the sacristy. This resource will guide you through the stations as you walk the Way of the Cross.

Tuesday- Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

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

Tuesday – Bible Study 10:00 AM

Join the Tuesday Bible Study group on Tuesday mornings in the Pollard Library. We start at 10:00 AM, and end prior to the Tuesday Healing Service. 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. This Tuesday, we will focus on Hannah, the mother of Samuel. Hannah was subjected to ridicule but kept faith that God would use her to further God's plan for salvation. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Rousey at james.rousey@aol.com.

Wednesday, February 16, 2024 - Inquirers' Class 5:30 PM

Got questions?



Looking for answers?

We will meet in the Parish Hall for dinner, served from 5:30 to 6:00. Classes begin **promptly at 6:00 PM in the St. Alban's Chapel**. Childcare will be available - parents, if you request childcare and are unable to attend a class, please let us know ahead of time so that we can plan appropriately.

Wednesday - Lenten Simple Soup Suppers and Fellowship

We also begin our Free Wednesday Lenten Simple Soup Suppers at 5:30 - 6:30 PM. You are welcome to join us, even if you are not going to the Inquirer's class! Dinner includes soup (one vegetarian), bread, crackers, and fresh fruit. For those just coming for fellowship, we offer peanut butter, jelly, and pimento cheese. This week's soup: Taco Soup and Vegetarian Vegetable.



Christian Education News

Christian Education Lesson – Pretzels!



Making and enjoying pretzels has a long been associated with the Lenten season of the Christian Church. Stories regarding pretzels go back at least 1500 years. Lent became a time of fasting and abstinence when meat, dairy and eggs were forbidden.

One story tells of a European monk in the 5th Century who was looking for a way to reward his students. With only flour salt and water, he stirred together a bread dough and twisted pieces into the familiar "crossed arms" pretzel shape.

The monk had created pretzels, or “little rewards.” He wanted his students to be reminded of the traditional prayer pose of crossed arms. And as an extra bonus, the three holes in the pretzel would represent the Christian Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There are pretzel stories & art throughout the Middle Ages. One story from the 16th century (1529) credits pretzel making with the defeat of the Ottoman Empire’s siege of Vienna. Pretzels are not only yummy, but often seen as a token of good luck.

Parish News

Mite Boxes Available

As part of our Lenten tradition, Mite Boxes can be found in the Narthex, Parish Hall or Hospitality Area. We invite you to take one home and for everyone in your family, both young and young at heart, to use it to collect coins during Lent. Donations collected will go towards the Rio Grande Borderline Ministries (RGBM). The RGBM works in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) to provide humanitarian support to vulnerable people in our border communities, and to provide support to our men and women working in U.S. Customs and Border Protection. St. Stephen's has been an active supporter of this ministry in the past; we're excited to continue this year.

Envisioning Committee Thanks You

The Envisioning Committee Focus Sessions were very successful, thanks to you! In the next few weeks, we will be finalizing our report to the parish. We hope to have that ready by the end of March or early April. If you didn't get a chance to attend, or if you have any questions, please reach out to one of the committee members, listed below.

Heather Hartman drhhartman@gmail.com	Craig Brent cbrent@covhlth.com	Deborah Clary dpclary3@aol.com
Ray Evans Rnevens@bellsouth.com	Brittany Shassere bpshassere21@gmail.com	Brittany Tipton brittanyt04@gmail.com

Ongoing Church Events

Tuesday Bible Study - Pollard Room, 10:00 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

Loose Plate Offering

This week's loose plate offering is designated for WOW - Walk Over Wednesday.

Let's Go Krogering!



Do You Shop at Kroger? If you do, there's a very simple way you can help St. Stephen's! Have you heard of the Community Rewards Program? All you have to do is simply link your Shopper's Card to your account - just scan the QR code on the left - it's that easy!

Through this program, Kroger helps to support local nonprofit organizations. and you can now link your account to St. Stephen's. Then every time you shop, your visit will be applied to the Rewards program, at no added cost to you! Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations. You can find out more at the [Kroger's website](#).

Upcoming Parish Events

Free Pool Party - Saturday, March 9, 2024



What a great way to start Spring Break! Join us for a church-wide pool party and pizza at the Civic Center and the Oak Ridge Indoor Pool. This is a great chance to connect with other families and enjoy a great Saturday night out! We'll start the church for pizza at 5:00 PM, then head over to the Pool to go swimming from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. City lifeguards will be provided. We'll see you there for lots of fun and fellowship!

Focus on the Parish

This Week's Outreach Spotlight - Blessing Box

► Please keep the Blessing Box needs on your shopping list. This week we are requesting cereal, oatmeal, canned fruit and fruit cups Please keep the size of the Blessing Box in mind when you shop.

Outreach - February Spotlight - WOW

WOW is St. Stephen's ministry of providing a home cooked meal to the Oak Ridge High School juniors and seniors who have open campus lunch privileges. A \$3.00 donation is requested, but no student is turned away if they do not have the money.

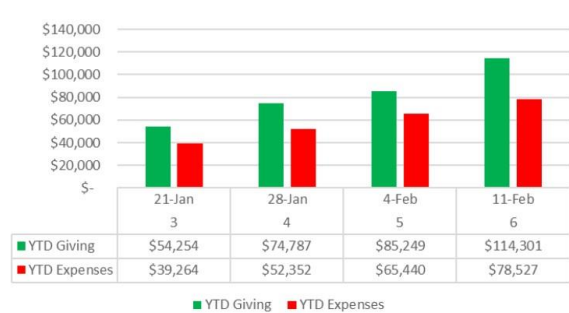
As grocery prices have increased over the past couple of years, the \$3.00 per student does not cover the meal cost. If you can help out, please donate via the website - [Click to Donate](#) - and place "WOW" in the Memo. Thank you!

Outreach - Family Resource Center - Urgent!

The Outreach Committee has set up collection boxes in the Hospitality Area, the Parish Hall and the Narthex to meet an urgent need in our community at large. The Family Resource Center has asked for help in providing care bags for families whose utilities are disconnected. This means these families have lost their electricity or gas and even their water. The care bags will have things like warm socks, flashlights, batteries, hand warmers, hand wipes, shelf-stable snacks, bottles of water, and grocery or gas cards. ***Due to the very cold evenings, it is especially important we help as quickly as possible.*** We hope the entire parish will join us in helping this ministry!

St Stephen's Financial Status - February 11, 2024

Starting this week, we will be publishing a chart showing the Giving Vs. Expenses at St. Stephen's. We're hoping this will give everyone a clear view of our financial health. If you have any questions, please contact our bookkeeper, Rachel Durfee, CPA, at rachel@ststephensor.org.

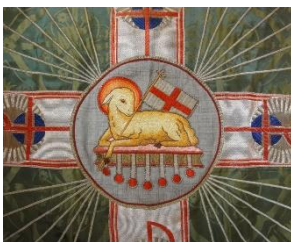


Latest Vestry News

The Vestry is the legal representative of the parish. Here at St. Stephen's we are honored to have a group of 12 stewards who ensure that the mission of the parish is supported by word and deed. The minutes of the Vestry are posted on our parish website and can be found here: [St. Stephen's Vestry Minutes](#). We invite you to take a moment and learn more about the behind-the-scenes work in our parish.

Other News

News from the Episcopal Church Visual Arts



Have you ever wanted to know more about the Clergy robes (*vestments*) and the hangings in the church (*paraments*)? This week the Sacristies of New York is presenting an online presentation on the symbolism and technique that goes into the creation of these ecclesiastical textiles. Anyone who appreciates these objects and their message of faith will find an abundance of information and inspiration.

When: Wednesdays, February 21, 2024 7:00 PM EST via ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81450768501?pwd=CFUK7OVLGXJ9BB04pRaulaKnoNgcE.1>

Special Guest Speaker: Marianna Garthwaite Klaiman [sacristiesofny.com]

Questions? please contact Nancy Carow at ncarow@mac.com.

MLK Community Event

Committed to strengthening community ties, St. Stephen's joins other Oak Ridge churches and organizations in supporting scholarships awarded annually on the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Our Outreach Committee donated \$300 to the scholarships.

We invite parishioners to attend the rescheduled program organized by Alpha Kappa Alpha on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Y-12 New Hope Auditorium, 602 Scarboro Road. Methodist Medical Center will provide lunch, and Church Women United will provide dessert. For more information, please visit: [Oak Ridger - MLK Events](#) (St. Stephen's is mentioned!)

Upcoming Community Event - Scarboro 85 Story

Master storyteller Sheila Arnold will return to Oak Ridge to tell her story of the Scarboro 85 in schools and in four free public performances the third week of February 2024:

- ▶ Feb. 20, 3:00 pm, Scarboro Community Center, 148 Carver Avenue;
- ▶ Feb. 21, 11:00 am, ORICL, RSCC, Goff Bldg., Room 107;
- ▶ Feb. 21, 7:00 pm, Oak Valley Baptist Church, 194 Hampton Rd.;
- ▶ Feb.22, 7:00 pm, AMSE, 115 E. Main St.

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



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