

DECEMBER 2019 &  
JANUARY 2020

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
212 N. Tulane Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
Tel: 865.483.8497  
www.ststephensor.org

**The Rev. Bowman Townsend**  
INTERIM RECTOR  
rector@ststephensor.org

**The Rev. Dr. Stephen Damos**  
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

**Simon Ballintoy**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
choir@ststephensor.org

**Caroline Wood**  
YOUTH MINISTER  
youthminister@ststephensor.org

**Cameron Ellis**  
TREASURER  
treasurer@ststephensor.org

**Elizabeth Pack**  
PARISH SECRETARY  
secretary@ststephensor.org

**Nancy Anderson**  
CHRISTIAN FORMATION  
cecoord@ststephensor.org

**Caroline Wood, Craig Brent,  
Mary Petersen**  
EPISCOPAL YOUTH  
FELLOWSHIP (EYF)  
eyf@ststephensor.org

**Jim Ball**  
WEBMASTER  
webmaster@ststephensor.org

**Sharon Thomas**  
NURSERY SUPERVISOR

**Courtney Manrod**  
SENIOR WARDEN  
seniorwarden@ststephensor.org

**Barbara Steele**  
JUNIOR WARDEN  
juniorwarden@ststephensor.org

# The Evangel

## A TIME TO WAIT

*Advent, from the Dictionary of the Episcopal Church*

*"The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for "coming." The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory."*

Advent is a time of preparation; getting ready for the holidays; decorating and buying presents; cooking and eating; being with family and friends. It is also a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus in our celebrating of His birth and in our celebration of His final return. That may come a lot later than we think or it may come a lot sooner. We are not to know but consider this, if He were to come right now, would we be ready and would we welcome that news?

There are times when I admittedly would just as soon He not appear at my door. I may be harboring resentment or anger or any number of other things that I would not want to share. Being ready is a constant vigil. It is important to find times to focus on that vigil; times like Lent and even Advent; getting our hearts right; seeking righteousness with God and one another.

Jesus is already here among us and He is also coming; coming to set the world right and we need to be right when He arrives; or at least making an effort in that direction. I hope your Advent can be a time of great joy and fellowship but also a time of reflection and preparation. Thanks be to God.

*Father Bo+*

*"Waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait,  
the more we hear about him for whom we wait."*

*~ Henri Nouwen*



# DECEMBER EVENTS

## OAK RIDGE CHORUS CONCERT

Saturday, December 7, 2019,  
7:30pm – 9:30pm at St. Stephen’s

### TICKETS

Adults: \$15.00; Young Adults (ages 19–29): \$5.00; Youth 18 & Under: Free

Brass players perform with the Oak Ridge Chorus to brighten your holiday season with music by John Rutter under the baton of Interim Choral Director Seth O’Kegley. Organ music by Simon Ballintoy.

Tickets available at [ORCMA.org](http://ORCMA.org)

## LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 22, 2019,  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Parish Choir will present the story of the coming of Christ with Advent hymns and carols during the 4th Sunday of Advent on December 22, 2019. This liturgy is centered around spiritual preparation, quiet reflection, and joyful expectation.

## BLUE CHRISTMAS: EXPERIENCING JOY THROUGH TEARS OR SADNESS

The theologian Henri Nouwen described the difference between joy and happiness: while happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is “the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death - can take that love away.” Thus, joy can be present even in the midst of sadness.

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. Come join us on **Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 3 p.m. in St. Stephen’s Nave.**

Instead of fretting about all you still haven’t done, reflect on all the good things life has given you. All are welcome.



## CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to give Christmas flowers as a Memorial or in Thanksgiving, contributions are now being accepted. Names will be listed in the Christmas bulletins.

Any and all contributions are welcome; there is no set amount for Christmas flowers. Please mark your checks with “Christmas Flowers” in the memo line.

Christmas Altar Flowers



Enclosed/attached is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Given as a Memorial       Given in Thanksgiving

For: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your request to the Parish Office by Monday, December 16, 2019.

# OUTREACH DURING THE HOLIDAYS

## FOOD BASKET COLLECTION

The Food Basket Ministry is the oldest continuous Outreach Ministry at St. Stephen's. Over the years, many parishioners have participated by volunteering to shop, filling baskets, distributing baskets, or by giving monetary donations.

**Winter distribution is December 14, 2019**

Please place your contributions in the carts near the office area, the nave, or on the stage in the designed areas.

### FOOD LIST:

- flour
- sugar
- cornmeal mix
- rice
- dry beans
- spaghetti
- spaghetti sauce
- macaroni and cheese
- cereal
- oatmeal, instant
- peanut butter
- jam/jelly
- apple sauce
- granola bars
- graham crackers
- cheese crackers
- peanut butter crackers
- cake mix
- icing

### CANNED ITEMS:

- fruit
- green beans
- corn
- peas
- tuna
- chicken
- soup/stew
- spaghetti O's

### NON-FOOD ITEMS:

- toothpaste
- bath soap
- laundry detergent
- dish soap
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- shampoo
- conditioner
- trash bags
- deodorant



## HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR MOMS

Moms sometimes get overlooked at Santa time! For several years, we have been giving the moms of our Food Basket families a small gift. If you have a piece of jewelry, scarf, winter hat, gloves or anything else appropriate, please place it in the "Gifts for Moms" basket near the food collection shopping carts.



## CHRISTMAS GIFT AND SHARING BAGS

We are now accepting donations for our sharing bags and gifts for the children of our food basket families. Our sharing bags include individual toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, soap, lip balm, granola bars, GORP (good old-fashioned raisins and peanuts), and pencils. We are also giving out hats, scarfs, gloves, low-cut "no show" ankle socks for ages 5-16, and boys and girls underpants for ages 5-10. Please leave your donations in the food basket carts. We ask that all items be in by **Tuesday, December 10, 2019**. Monetary donations can be made by designating a check as "Christmas Gifts".

## TURKEY STOCK

After your Thanksgiving dinner, don't throw out your turkey bones! Here's a great way to use the leftovers!

- Turkey carcass
- Water to cover (likely 3 gallons for a single carcass, about 12 liters)
- 2 tbsp Kosher Salt per gallon of water (¼ cup)
- 1 ½ tsp Pepper per gallon of water (⅓ cup peppercorns)
- 2 Bay leaves per gallon of water (6-7 bay leaves)
- 3-4 carrots
- 3-4 stalks celery

Put everything in a very large pot and bring to a moderate simmer. Simmer until the largest bones are soft or break easily, probably 10 hours or so. Remove bones and filter out any sediment, keeping just the liquid. Use immediately or freeze for later!

From there, you can make turkey soup with rice and vegetables...a healthy and delicious way to incorporate leftovers! See the bottom of page 6 for the recipe!

## ADVENT FAIR

The Advent Fair is upon us! Please join us from **9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 1, 2019** in the Parish Hall. We'll make Advent candle wreaths with fresh greenery (4-piece candle sets will be sold for \$6 per box), create Chrismon ornaments, decorate cookies, and make Advent calendar jars while listening to seasonal music, enjoying light refreshments, and sipping mulled cider. See you there!



Contact Nancy Anderson at 482-3285 or via email at [nanderson124@gmail.com](mailto:nanderson124@gmail.com).

## ADVENT RESOLUTIONS

We're all familiar with the new calendar year every January, the beginning of a fiscal year in July, and the academic school year starting in August/September. But, did you know that our church year starts at the beginning of Advent? Advent, meaning "to come" is a time of hope, joy, and expectation as we remember the birth of Jesus, and anticipate the second coming of Jesus Christ.

It's also a perfect opportunity to adopt a new spiritual resolution, or two! Here are a few ideas:

- start a gratitude journal
- resolve to digitally detox for 24 hours every week
- read one new book a month (check out the Library at St. Stephen's for some inspiration!)
- walk the Labyrinth every Sunday
- practice contemplative prayer for 5 minutes a day

According to the New York Times, "small, actionable and science-backed steps you can take...make immediate changes in your daily life. It's the idea that if you make the steps small enough, they'll become too-small-to-fail. And as research has shown, starting small makes new habits more likely to stick....A study from the University of Scranton found that 92 percent of people fail to keep their New Year's resolutions, and another found that 80 percent will have already failed by the second week of February." By starting a new resolution in December, you'll have a month of practice at your new resolution before January 1st!

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/s9pp55l>

## CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PAGEANT

The Children's Nativity Pageant has been part of the St Stephens' Christmas tradition for over 40 years, and is scheduled on Christmas Eve at 4:30 P.M. Sandi Robertson is looking forward to directing parishioners fulfilling the roles of the Holy Family, shepherds, angels, sheep, and a narrator. We invite you to participate in this celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ!



## THE HISTORY OF THE CRÈCHE

Are you putting up your Crèche any time soon? You'll be interested to know that the very first Nativity scene was created in 1223 and that St. Francis of Assisi was responsible for the idea. He asked Pope Honorius III for permission to arrange a manger scene in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. A living ox and an ass stood in attendance and he invited the townsfolk to the cave to hear him preach about the "Babe of Bethlehem." St. Francis, the Poor Man of Assisi, has inspired Christians for hundreds of years through his devotion to Jesus and his example of simple living. Did you know that you can follow his example by becoming a lay Franciscan in the Episcopal Church? To learn more, go to [tssf.org](http://tssf.org) (Third Order Society of St. Francis), or feel free to contact Judy Kidd at [judykidd13@yahoo.com](mailto:judykidd13@yahoo.com).



Photo by Walter Chávez on Unsplash

# DECEMBER 2019 SCHEDULE

## ADVENT FAIR

9:00 to 10:00 a.m., Sunday, December 1, 2019

## BLUE CHRISTMAS

3:00 p.m. Sunday, December 15, 2019

## ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS WITH HOLY EUCHARIST

10 a.m. Sunday, December 22, 2019

## CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 p.m. Children's Nativity Pageant & Holy Eucharist

10:00 p.m. Carol Vigil

10:30 p.m. Festal Choral Eucharist

## CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

## 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 29, 2019

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

No Christian Education scheduled

## OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 - Parish Office closes at noon

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 - Friday, December 27, 2019

Tuesday, Decemeber 31, 2019 to January 2, 20

*May your Advent be a blessed one filled with  
meaning and joy as you prepare for the greatest of guests!*

# JANUARY 2020 SCHEDULE

## FEAST OF LIGHTS

Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Please join the Youth of our church as they offer a Feast of Lights. This meaningful service will inspire us with readings, chants, and hymns, as we meditate on our Savior's birth as we continue our journey through Epiphany and beyond.



## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

At our next Daughters of the King meeting on **Wednesday, December 4, 2019**, we will be exploring Mary as she is portrayed in the Gospels, Occasionally Mary is at the forefront of the gospel story, as in Luke's rendering of the Annunciation and incarnation events. More often Mary seems to hover in the background emerging from invisibility to significance, as in John's account of the wedding at Cana and her standing with the Beloved Disciple at the foot of the cross. Then there is the occasional refrain, "Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." What are the Gospel writers trying to tell us about Jesus and our faithfulness?



At our **Wednesday, January 8, 2020** meeting we will begin an exploration of how and why Christians practice their faith by honoring the body. How has this way of life come to us from scripture and tradition? How do attitudes and practices of our culture support or distort our faithfulness- in thought or action? toward ourselves or others? We will continue this topic at our February meeting and complete the study at our March DOK retreat.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Though the Daughters normally meet the first Wednesday of the month, we will NOT meet on January 1st because of the New Year holiday. We WILL meet on January 8th in the Chapel at 10:00 A.M. followed by the study led by the Rev. Claire Keene. ALL are welcome!

~ Beth Stickle & Jeanne Kring

## TURKEY & RICE SOUP

In a large soup pot, over low heat, sweat the onions with 2 teaspoons of salt in the oil for 15 minutes. Do not let it caramelize. Add the celery and green bell pepper and another teaspoon of salt and sweat the mixture for another 15 minutes. Deglaze the pan with the wine. Raise the temperature to medium.

Add the bay leaves, carrots, pepper and 2 tablespoons of salt. Cook for another 5 minutes. Add the stock. Bring to a simmer over medium high heat. Taste and adjust the seasoning. Add cooked rice, garlic, peas, and turkey. Bring back up to a simmer. Serves approximately 20.

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

On Friday, December 6, 2019, Church Women United welcomes one and all to celebrate Human Rights Day at Spurgeon Chapel, AME Zion Church, 100 Houston Ave. Fellowship begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by a brief meeting and the worship program "Now Is the Time: Unite to Serve" at noon. A potluck will be held at 1 p.m. for those who can stay. Contact Gay Marie (logsburn@att.net) for further information.

Church Women United is supporting the MLK celebration and scholarship program on **Monday, January 20, 2020 at 10 a.m.** at the New Hope Center. All are encouraged to attend these events.



## WOMEN'S INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

On **Monday, December 2, 2019**, the Women's Interfaith Dialogue will hold a holiday potluck luncheon starting at 10:30 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 140 S. Jefferson Circle. All are welcome.

On **Monday, January 6, 2020**, Wanda Sobieski will give a talk "Women's Suffrage" at Women's Interfaith Dialogue, location to be announced. Fellowship will begin at 10:45 a.m., followed by a presentation at 11 a.m.



Canola (or vegetable) oil  
3 gallons Turkey Stock (approximate)  
3 large Onions, coarsely chopped  
8 stalks Celery  
2 green bell peppers (optional)  
2 cups white wine (Sauvignon blanc or similar)  
5 Bay Leaves  
5 Carrots, cubed or sliced  
4 cups Peas (frozen work best; canned peas do not work)  
4-8 cups cooked chopped Turkey (optional, as much or as little as desired)  
2 cups cooked Arborio Rice  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
Salt and pepper

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2020

Results from the stewardship campaign are encouraging so far. More than 80 households, including 10 new, have returned pledge cards. A significant majority of repeat pledging units have elected to increase their pledged amount for 2020. We express our thanks to those who have already responded. We still expect to hear from about 40 households.

Our stewardship campaign is still ongoing, and follow-ups will begin next week. Our Finance Committee is compiling the 2020 budget. Pledge data provides more than 95% of the information of what the 2020 receipts are expected to be. The Finance Committee meets on December 3, 2019.

**If you have not already turned in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible.** You can make your pledge electronically on the St. Stephen's website.

Below is the latest Stewardship Report as of Wednesday, November 20, 2019. This table shows our current status approximately halfway through the campaign. To clarify, "No change, Decrease and Increase" represent pledges that are the same amounts, decreased or increased, respectively, in comparison to 2019. "Not Yet Received" means we expect a pledge card, but have not yet received one.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rob Steele at [rsteale1001@comcast.net](mailto:rsteale1001@comcast.net).

*-Alan Liby, Stewardship Chair*

	Count	This Year's Pledges	Next Year's Pledges	Difference	Percent Change
No Change	24	\$116,300	\$116,300	\$0	-
Decrease	2	\$2,520	\$2,200	(\$320)	-13%
Increase	42	\$199,150	\$236,464	\$37,314	19%
New	10	\$0	\$19,232	\$19,232	0%
Not Yet Received	47	\$100,396	\$0	(\$100,396)	-100%
	125	\$418,366	\$374,196	(\$44,170)	-11%

Total Number with Amounts	115	78	68% of last year's #
Average Amount	\$3,638	\$4,797	

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Below is a snapshot of St. Stephen's income and operating budget in 2019. Operating expenses are budgeted at **\$9,495 per week**. St. Stephen's is encouraged and thankful for the contributions received this year.

Year to Date	Actual Income	Budgeted Operating Expenses	Net
Month: October (4 weeks)	\$34,605.00	\$37,980.00	-\$3,375.00
2019 Pledge: (Prepaid in 2018)	\$21,360.00	n/a	\$21,360.00
Total (39 weeks through September)	\$393,646.00	\$408,285.00	-\$14,639.00



# December & January Celebrations



## BIRTHDAYS

12/1	Danny Cantrell, Sr. Melanie Moore Savannah Owens	1/1	Brian Robertson
12/2	Liz Johnson	1/2	Anne Campbell
12/8	Pat Reuss	1/3	Lola Estes
12/10	Christine Gammage	1/4	Andrew Payzant
12/11	Mary Nell Campbell	1/5	Linda Twohig Alex Green
12/12	Happy Johnson	1/6	Jack Lee
12/13	Horia Iskander Daphne Giuliano	1/9	Donny Sams
12/15	Shafik Iskander	1/11	Judith Delaney David Johnson Pat Swinney
12/15	Cyril Meredith, IV	1/12	Anne Parks Johnson
12/18	Bonnie Nestor		Jennifer Kruzic
12/21	Paul Kruzic	1/13	Leo Mauk-Olson
12/23	Donna Riffe Ann Aaron		Bonnie Bautz
12/25	Wes Delaney	1/14	Katherine Grubb
12/26	Ed Johnson	1/15	Dustin Cox
12/30	Judie Liby Dean Hartley, III Nancy Higdon	1/16	Lindsay Mayes
		1/17	Goldie Kennedy Craig Brent
		1/20	Kelly Cooper

## ANNIVERSARIES

12/5	Roger & Glenna Derby
12/8	Marcia & Jim Todkill
12/12	Charlie Crume, Jr. & Bonnie Nestor Ruth & Blynn Prince
12/15	Leah & Matt Bailey
12/19	Jennifer & Paul Kruzic
12/29	Joy & Serge Fournier Jeanne & Jim Kring
12/30	Liz & Derek Baker
1/3	Carolyn & Stanley Parker
1/30	Judie & Alan Liby
1/21	Elwood Gift Carolyn Stanley Keegan Yearwood
1/23	Leah Bailey
1/26	Louis Pennoyer
1/27	Courtney Manrod
1/28	Ron Keyser Bryan Moore
1/31	Betsy Ellis Liz Herbes Wayne Rhoades



Where God is seen, love is felt, lives are changed!

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