



# St. Stephen's E-NEWS

WHERE GOD IS SEEN, LOVE IS FELT, LIVES ARE CHANGED.

November 26, 2021

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent, our liturgical new year!

Sunday Readings:

- Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Psalm 25: 1-9
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- Luke 21:25-36



## MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service will be held for The Rt. Rev. William Sanders on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville with visitation beginning at 12:30 P.M. Central Time and a service at 2:00 P.M. Central Time. A Committal of Ashes will take place at St. John's Cathedral, Knoxville in January, details to be determined soon.



## EYF

EYF will not meet this Sunday, November 28, 2021, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Our next meeting will be Sunday, December 5, 2021.

~ Craig Brent

## WEEKLY PRAYERS

We pray for Parish Members

Cathy Whitten  
Wendy and William Whitten  
Melisha Willis  
Caroline Wood  
Pat Wykoff

Please include these people in your prayers.

## COMPASSION CLOSET

**This is the last week that we will be collecting clothing and goods for Compassion Closet.** The Compassion Closet exists to show the love of Christ by providing quality clothing and tangible goods to children in foster care and the families caring for them.



The greatest need includes underwear: all sizes toddler-teen/adult, hygiene, diapers, wipes, socks, gift cards for teen clothing/shoes, car seats and boosters and fast food gift cards for children waiting at the DCS offices for placement. Donations can be made in the Narthex or near the Parish Office.

~ Sherry Burchfield

## ADULT BIBLE CLASS

The 9:00 A.M. Sunday Adult Bible Class will begin this Sunday, November 28, 2021, in the Pollard Room. It will be a class for beginners and those who want a review. The class material will be at a summary level. No books will be needed as the material will be short videos and discussion. We will center on the books of **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**. This is a friendly class and we hope you'll come give it a try. ~

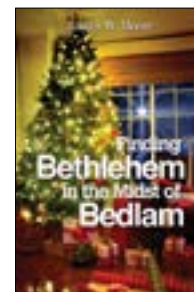


Jack Campbell

## BETHLEHEM ALWAYS HAPPENS IN THE MIDST OF BEDLAM

Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam...Which will you choose this year? Christmas and confusion—weren't they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? That's what this study is about—how Christ breaks into our chaos and confusion and brings Christmas—how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam.

This study will be held on the Sundays of Advent starting this **Sunday, November 28th** by the Rev. Dr. Paul Scheirer. We have 10 copies of the book available. Donations are gratefully accepted, but not required.



## 2022 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The 38th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in East Tennessee will be **February 5, 2022**. The deadline for the certification and registration of delegates and clergy is **Wednesday, December 15, 2021**.

Please contact the Parish Secretary if you are interested in attending as a delegate or alternate. Thank you!



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We are in the midst of planning an exciting, new Christmas Pageant this year, and we are looking for a headcount for kids visiting during the holidays who would like to participate in the pageant! Please contact Sherry Burchfield at [cedco@ststephensor.org](mailto:cedco@ststephensor.org), so we know how to begin casting our Pageant! ~ Sherry Burchfield





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## OUTREACH FOOD BASKET MINISTRY

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food...”  
~Mathew 25:37

The Outreach Food Basket Ministry is the oldest Outreach ministry at St. Stephen's. While what we give out and how we interact with those we serve has changed over the years, our basic ministry of feeding the hungry hasn't changed. We receive names of families and individuals in need from the Oak Ridge Resource Center and from parishioners. This year, we have 27 families and individuals and 4 Hope House Units. Some of these are families we have known for awhile, and some are new. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we gave out baskets four times a year. During the Winter distribution, we gave out various things such as Christmas gifts and gift bags, gloves, socks, hats, and calendars. Books were given out during Fall and Winter distribution.

Our last distribution of food baskets and non-food items on March 14, 2020. This was a time of fellowship not just with those who helped but with our sponsored families although we could no longer hug each other. Since then, we have distributed envelopes with Aldi gift cards (the amount varied from \$100 to \$150 depending on family size) at the portico entrance to the office area. This December 4, 2021, we will distribute the Christmas cards with an Aldi gift card and a \$25 Walmart gift card for each of the 70 children on our list (that we suggest be used for gifts or other necessities). We are also again distributing wall calendars. Please keep our families and those of us who serve this ministry in your prayers. In addition, please consider a monetary donation designated to Food Baskets.

“...And the king will answer them, ‘ Truly I tell you just as you did it to one of the least of those who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”  
~ Mathew 25:40

## COPING WITH GRIEF DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Steve Herbes will be leading a one-hour program entitled “Coping with Grief During the Holidays”. The program is to help those who are feeling that burden of loss acutely this holiday season, and will be held at our neighboring church, **First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge on Monday, November 29, 2021 from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.**

Steve Herbes, M.S.S.W. is retired from a private counseling practice in Oak Ridge. He has led periodic community grief support groups several times a year since 2007.

Grief is always challenging, but for those who have recently experienced the death of a loved one, the holidays are especially difficult, according to a church news release.

“The Christmas season is filled with familiar sights, sounds, even smells and tastes, that stir up memories of those who are no longer physically present with us. The pain of loss may be particularly difficult at a time when the world around seems to be filled with happiness and joy.”  
~ *The Oak Ridger*



The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this already heavy burden of grieving by disrupting the culture's normal processes for grieving. Visiting those who lost loved ones, offering them food, and attending “receiving of friends” and funerals have been more difficult than normal.

Grieving persons cannot avoid pain, but they can find ways to manage the pain during this time. This workshop will provide an opportunity for grieving persons to learn and discuss ways to cope with the special burden of grief during the Christmas season.

## BLUE CHRISTMAS

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. 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 **Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 6 P.M.** in St. Stephen's Nave.



## BLUE CHRISTMAS

