



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

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

November 19, 2021

SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday is the Last Sunday after Pentecost, when the long, green growing season is over, and we recognize **Christ the King** Sunday on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. This feast, also celebrated in the Roman Catholic and the Lutheran Churches celebrates Christ's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation. It has been observed on the last Sunday before Advent since 1970. Altar frontal, hangings and vestments will be white.



Sunday Readings:

- 2 Samuel 23:1-7
- Psalm 132:1-19
- Revelation 1:4b-8
- John 18:33-37

Looking for a refresher about our reading from Revelation? Check out Fr. Bailey's [Lenten Study video](#) on this very chapter!

THANKSGIVING DAY

We will have a worship service at 10 A.M. on Thanksgiving Day, but there will not be a meal this year. We hope you come to enjoy a special day of thanks!

WEEKLY PRAYERS

We pray for Parish Members

Erik and Julie Weatherford
Julie Webber
Susan Wells
Vicky White

Please include these people in your prayers.

COMPASSION CLOSET

Christian Education will be collecting items for the Compassion Closet in Oak Ridge all through November 2021. 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. They also serve birth families, aging-out youth, kinship placements, and domestic/international adoptive families as God allows and the needs arise.

There are currently 8,468 children in foster care in the state of Tennessee, 567 in our immediate region that includes Anderson County. The need for support of these children and families is significant. 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



ADVENT FAIR

This **Sunday, November 21, 2021**, is our "Falling into Advent" Fair & Feast!

Activities will include wreath making, Christingles, St. Nicholas bags, Advent paper chains, angel cookies, Chrismon ornaments, and pinecone birdfeeders!



A barbeque lunch will be provided. Festivities will begin after the 10 A.M. worship service. No Sunday School for children that day. Come have some Advent fun!

If you would like to volunteer to bring a side dish for our BBQ lunch, please complete this [online sign-up sheet!](#)

~ Sherry Burchfield

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Bible study will not meet Thanksgiving week, November 23, 2021. Some folks are traveling and others have holiday company, so we'll meet again on November 30, 2021.

~ Jim Rousey

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, so we know how to begin casting our Pageant! ~ Sherry Burchfield



EYF

EYF will not meet the following two Sundays, November 21st and November 28th due to the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday. Our next meeting will be Sunday, December 5th. In the meantime, I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving Holiday.

~ Craig Brent



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ADULT BIBLE CLASS

A 9:00 A.M. Sunday Adult Bible Class will begin 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



HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed on **Thursday and Friday, November 25-26, 2021**, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



ADVENT BOOK STUDY

FINDING BETHLEHEM IN THE MIDST OF BEDLAM

James Moore writes: Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam... Which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don't have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our chaos. God breaks into our noisy disorder and is made known in Jesus Christ. Christmas and confusion—weren't they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that. 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 during the Sundays of Advent starting on Nov. 28th by the Rev. Dr. Paul Scheirer, a retired United Methodist minister of the Memphis Conference who attends at St. Stephen's with his wife Barbara.

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!



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We continue to see very encouraging results to our stewardship campaign—on many levels: an increase in financial pledge participation, including many new pledgers, an increase in contributions, and an increased willingness to join in volunteer opportunities. There certainly appears to be a new positive energy and momentum in the parish. Let us continue with that energy and momentum.

While we are justifiably encouraged, we are still asking and encouraging everyone who has not already done so to return pledge cards and opportunity sheets.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for the first Tuesday in December. We are hopeful that we will have enough pledge data for the committee to study and give to Vestry at its December meeting one week later. Vestry can then have a preliminary glimpse of the expected resources in preparation for finalizing the 2022 budget at its January meeting.

On behalf of the entire Stewardship Committee, thank you for your support for St. Stephen's with your treasure, time, and talents. Please continue to return your pledge cards and opportunities sheets, and stay tuned for continuing updates.

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own hand have we given you."

—1 Chronicles 29:14

~ Dan DiGregorio & Tom Clary