



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

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

December 10, 2021

SUNDAY WORSHIP

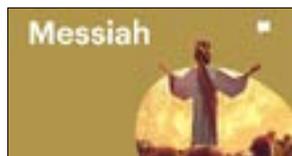
This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. Here are the Sunday readings:

- Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Luke 3:7-18



ADULT BIBLE CLASS

"HOW DO YOU DEFINE MESSIAH?"



How did Peter get it wrong when he told Jesus that he thought Jesus was the Messiah? St. Matthew answers this and other questions in the first book of the New Testament. [Watch a brief video highlighting Matthew:14-28.](#) We will watch and discuss this Sunday at 9am. We hope you'll join us. ~Jack Campbell

WEEKLY PRAYERS

WE PRAY FOR NEW* PARISH MEMBERS

Judd Cornell and Katie Ownby
 Tony Dao
 Matthew and Emily Doane, Samuel
 Brad and Ashley Hillis, Thomas
 Eric and Noe Jamieson, Penelope
 Shirley Fallon

Please include these people in your prayers.

**In the final weeks of the calendar year, we recognize visitors and new members to St. Stephen's!*

A FINAL NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

With this Enews announcement, the "formal" part of the Stewardship campaign will come to an end. However, financial pledges as well as time and talent pledges are still being accepted. Vestry will finalize and adopt the 2022 budget during its January meeting. In the meantime, committees are also being formed.

It is too early for the Stewardship Committee to give a final report. Look for one during the first half of January. For now, I will say that, on many levels, we are very encouraged by the results of the campaign: increases in (1)the total amount pledged, (2)the total number of pledges received, and (3)the number of new pledgers. There have also been many continuing and new commitments to the volunteer activities of the parish.

On behalf of the entire Stewardship Committee, thank you for your generosity in all of these areas and for your continuing support of St. Stephen's in all of the many ways that you do. And, as always, if you have pastoral concerns, please call our clergy.

"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 have we given you."

-1 Chronicles 29:14

-- Dan DiGregorio

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

"Love Came Down in Bethlehem" is this week's focus in our Advent Book Study with The Rev. Dr. Paul Scheirer.



EYF

EYF will meet this Sunday, December 12th. It's our turn to prepare and serve lunch for the Sunday School kids. Since we still have plenty of mix and because they are so popular, we will be preparing pancakes and sausage! As you know, when we do pancakes, a lot more than the Sunday School kids join us for lunch. So, we need to be ready to mass produce them. I will have everything set-up by 10:00 am (mix prepared, griddles, warmers, etc. ready) so please come to kitchen when you arrive at church. We need to start promptly at 10:00 am. Following kitchen clean-up and Sunday School, we will relax in the Youth Room and watch a Christmas movie. We will have plenty of popcorn and drinks. Pick-up will be around 2:30 pm.

~ Craig Brent

2022 GIVING ENVELOPES

If you requested giving envelopes for 2022, you can find them in the Narthex. Please pick up your envelopes and be sure to sign the sheet indicating that you have collected your booklet! Thank you!



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!





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Advent & Christmas Schedule

3 ADVENT: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021: HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I, 7:45 AND 10 A.M.

BLUE CHRISTMAS - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

This is a solemn, quiet service that recognizes that the holidays are not a joyful time for everyone. We find comfort in the quiet presence of the Christ child through this meditative liturgy that gives us an opportunity to remember and give over to God what we have lost.



BLUE CHRISTMAS

4 ADVENT : SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

- Holy Eucharist Rite I - 7:45 and 10 A.M.
- Lessons and Carols - 5 P.M. - A traditional Anglican celebration of nine lessons with hymns and anthems led by our choir. A great way to enjoy the beautiful music and Scriptures that vividly portray the hope of Christmas.



CHRISTMAS EVE : FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

- Children's Pageant/Holy Eucharist Rite II - 4:30 P.M. in the Parish Hall - Our traditional Christmas pageant led by our children with communion following. Special guest musicians The Missing Goats, who will be playing familiar Christmas hymns in bluegrass style!
- Carol Singing - 10 P.M. in the Nave
- Holy Eucharist Rite II - 10:30 P.M. - This will be a "high" church celebration of Christmas with choral music and incense. This service will be live-streamed.

CHRISTMAS DAY : SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

- Holy Eucharist Rite I - 10 A.M. - Come in your pajamas if you wish! A good hour on Christmas Day to help keep the focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

FEAST DAY OF ST. STEPHEN : SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

- Holy Eucharist Rite II - 10 A.M. only (no early service) - December 26 is the feast day of our patronal saint, Stephen. We will sing Christmas music, but our readings and sermon that day will focus on the life of Stephen and keep us mindful of the contributions of the saint whose name we bear.



Merry Christmas