



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

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

May 27, 2022

SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday is the seventh and final Sunday of the Easter season, we will have worship services at 7:45 A.M. and 10 A.M. The readings will be:

- Acts 16:16-34
- Psalm 97
- Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
- John 17:20-26

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

This coming Sunday we will be studying **JUDAS, AND THE VALUE OF A DOLLAR**, at the Sunday Bible Study at 9 A.M. in the Parish Hall.



SUMMERTIME PSALMS

Join us for a study of Psalms on **Tuesdays at 10 A.M.** with the Tuesday Adult Bible Study in the Library. Simply show up as you are! In addition to the handout material available in the class, we will make use of the Psalter in the BCP or your Bible. Also please note that the group may take a several week hiatus during the summer due to vacations, company, and the other distractions of Summer. ~Jim Rousey



WEEKLY PRAYERS

WE PRAY FOR PARISH MEMBERS

Brenda Irwin
Shafik and Horia Iskander
Eric and Noe Jamieson, Penelope
Ed and Happy Johnson

Please include these people in your prayers.

A PENTECOST & ORDINATION CELEBRATION

IT'S HAPPENING TONIGHT! Ashton Lane-Ross Sims will be Ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests this evening, **May 27, at 7:00 P.M.** at St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Oak Ridge. All are welcome to attend! The service will be also livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

ORDINATION CELEBRATION RECEPTION!!

We will celebrate Ashton's Ordination on Sunday June 5, 2022, after the ten o'clock service!!

If you are still able to provide the finger food item you previously signed up to bring, there is no need to contact me. I have you on my list!! Please let me know if your plans have changed and you won't be able to come with your finger food item. THANK YOU, my parish family, for your overwhelming support of Ashton's Ordination Reception! As a friend of mine says, God can always untangle the tangles in our lives to bring us good things." We will joyously celebrate the goodness of Ashton's Ordination in God's time on **June 5, 2022**. Please contact me, Jeanne Kring, with any questions about the reception at jbk4ut@gmail.com.



COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Please come and join Fr. Bailey this upcoming **Wednesday, June 1, 2022**, at 6 P.M. in the Parish Hall for a chance for fellowship and guided conversation. Bring your own dinner if you'd like!

In the light of the recent shootings and some of the hard things that many of our own people are experiencing, we'd like to have these occasional forums over the summer to give people a safe and trusting community to speak about things troubling them. In addition, we will converse on how we as a church can come together to support each other and be a greater presence in our community for witnessing to the power of God's love. We welcome everyone, knowing that we will undoubtedly have disagreements and differing perspectives. But don't come for a debate; come to share your perspective on how God is calling us to serve the needs of the people of our local and wider community.



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

The diocese will be hosting a Safe Church training at St. Stephen's on Sunday, June 12 from 1-4 PM. This is required training for all parishioners who work with children or youth. The requirement also extends to Vestry, staff, and anyone who has regular access to the building (i.e., those who have keys). It is also highly encouraged as a good practice for all parishioners. For those who have had the training, the diocese requires it to be updated every 3 years. If you would like to attend, please register at the following link: [Safe Church Training, Episcopal Diocese Of East Tennessee](https://www.episcopal-diocese-of-tennessee.org/safe-church-training).





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ECUMENICAL STOREHOUSE

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the month of **June, from 9 A.M. to noon.**

The Storehouse is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings for clients to pick up furniture and household goods. Volunteers schedule client visits and select goods for the clients. No heavy lifting is required on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

St. Stephen's is on a rotation of responsibility for assistance at the Storehouse. The rotation is on an eight-month cycle. June is our month.

We also are committed to volunteering on the **2nd Saturday of each month**, all year long. Pick up of furniture is the responsibility on Saturdays.

For questions or to sign up for a day or have a question answered, please phone or text Barbara Hudak-Scheirer at 731-780-5689.

Thank you for consideration of this important local ministry.

CALAMITY AND THANKS

So...in the last three weeks, we've had an avalanche of misfortune! First, the Bishop contracted COVID, which postponed Ashton's Ordination. Then, productive behind-the-scenes plans were delayed, then cancelled, and I had a high-speed trip to the UT Emergency Room, and a lovely stay in the hospital... which also the changed plans for my foot surgery!

I blame the total lunar eclipse. *



Thank you to everyone who sent cards or stopped by to offer their "get well" wishes! I feel so loved and appreciated by this community, and I am so thankful to be walking this journey with you!

*Note to self: the next total lunar eclipse will take place on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Prepare to batten down the hatches!

~Elizabeth Pack

FOOD BASKET MINISTRY

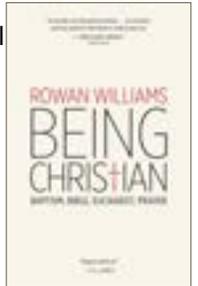
St. Stephen's has had a Food Basket Ministry for many years. Recently, we have served 31 families, individuals, and groups with Food baskets (or gift cards) four times per year. Liz Herbes and Mary Anne Morse recently visited Food Pantries and Food Services in Oak Ridge to understand how Outreach could best serve the needs of the community. The committee thought that this would adjust the contents of the Food Baskets. Instead, it showed that because there are multiple food banks and free meals in the area, Food Baskets are no longer needed but that nonfood items which cannot be bought with SNAP and emergency food supplies should be our mission. So, the Food Basket Ministry is going to morph into the Food Ministry and, for now, have two main focuses: nonfood collection and emergency food bags. Nonfood items being collected are: toothpaste, bath soap, laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, and trash bags. Emergency food items include: peanut butter, Saltines, soup, stew, spaghettiO's, canned fruit, canned chicken, canned tuna, granola bars, and cheese crackers. Please continue supporting this ministry at St. Stephen's by buying items on the list when you shop, making monetary donations, and supporting us in prayer

FRIDAY CLOSURES - UPDATE

Beginning on **May 27, 2022**, the Parish Office will be closed on Fridays through the summer. Fr. Bailey Norman and Fr. Ashton Sims take Fridays as their day off (they alternate remaining on-call). Thank you for your patience and understanding as we adjust the office hours.

BOOK STUDY

Fr. Ashton continues the Being Christian book study this Sunday, May 29, 2022 at 11:30 in the Pollard Room, when we will discuss Chapter 3. In this book, readers will be invited to engage Williams' insights and more deeply engage with realities of faith that are sometimes taken for granted. We still have copies of the book available for \$10.



CLEARFORK LEARNING CAMP

ARE YOU AN AVID HOME GARDENER?

If so, the Clearfork Learning Camp needs you now! Here is your chance to volunteer for



this Ministry and help with a camp experience without leaving your own home. This year, for the first time, we have included a cooking program for the youngsters that provides simple recipes, food preparation, and basic skills. One segment of the program will give the youngsters a chance to become familiar with common herbs and the growing cycle.

We need volunteers to nurture herb seeds in small growing trays as part of this new activity. Each volunteer will receive one starter tray and a packet of seeds of one herb to begin the growing process. We'll collect the trays and seedlings from you in early July for use in their craft activities later in the month at the learning camp.

Don't hesitate to contact Carol Gardner by email at gardnerwc73@gmail.com or phone (865) 483-4674 to sign up now.

If you are interested, please contact Carol Gardner at 865-482-4674 or gardnerwc73@gmail.com.