



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

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

November 12, 2021

SUNDAY WORSHIP + VETERANS

This Sunday is the 25th (penultimate!) Sunday after Pentecost, and we will be celebrating Veteran's Day, where we recognize our service men and women and veterans, past and current.

- 1 Samuel 1:4-20
- Canticle: The Song of Hannah
- Hebrews: 10:11-25
- Mark 13:1-8

EYF

EYF will meet this Sunday, November 14, 2021 and will attend the Sunday afternoon Oak Ridge Masquers performance of "Clue." The performance starts at 2:00 P.M. so we will walk over to the high school from the church. We should be back at the church by 4:20 P.M. As many of you know, we have attended a lot of Masquers performances and they are always very well done. I hope you can make it!

~ Craig Brent



WEEKLY PRAYERS

We pray for Parish Members

Lou and Peggy Volk
Christine Walberg
Mark and Jenna Watson

Please include these people in your prayers.

STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT: DAN DIGREGORIO & TOM CLARY

We are seeing 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.

We still have a distance to travel, and we are still asking and encouraging everyone who has not already done so to return pledge cards and opportunity sheets. **We especially need folks who are willing to help with the Christian education program.**

We need to give our vestry the best data possible so it can craft the most accurate budget possible. There appears to be a new positive energy and momentum in the parish. Let us continue with that momentum.

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 have we given you."

—1 Chronicles 29:14

~ Dan DiGregorio & Tom Clary

SOMETHING'S MISSING!

Did you miss a few trees near the main entrance to St. Stephen's? Or, did you notice a light in the parking lot that was once hidden? Those trees had almost totally obscured the safety light and had grown up into its power line, a double safety hazard, as Bradford pears have a tendency to split. In fact, we recently had one large limb break off and get hung up, forcing closure of the visitor parking spots for a few weeks. Keeping sight lines open and nighttime lighting functional are not only safety considerations, but are also signs of hospitality as well.



COMPASSION CLOSET: NOVEMBER 2021

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



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CARE LETTERS

By now, you should have received a letter in the mail about the CARE program. For the last year, St. Stephen's has offered a wonderful program called the Connecting And Re-connecting (CARE) Program as an opportunity to help all of our people remain connected to the life of the church during this difficult year. Please let us know by Tuesday, November 23, 2021, if you would like to continue to receive CARE calls. You can contact Bailey by text/phone (865-323-1417) or revnorman1011@gmail.com. If we don't hear from you, we'll assume you no longer wish to receive calls.



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*



ADVENT FAIR

On **Sunday, November 21, 2021**, St. Stephen's will celebrate "Falling into Advent."



Advent Fair activities will include wreath making, Christingles, St. Nicholas bags, Advent paper chains, angel cookies, Chrismon ornaments, and pinecone birdfeeders! A barbecue lunch will be provided. Festivities will begin after the 10 A.M. worship service. No Sunday School for children that day. Please call Sherry Burchfield or Nancy Anderson to volunteer. ~ *Sherry Burchfield*

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!



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!



HOLIDAY CLOSURE

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