



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

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

March 4, 2022

SUNDAY WORSHIP

On the First Sunday in Lent, and our readings will be:

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
- Romans 10:8b-13
- Luke 4:1-13

EYF

EYF will meet this **Sunday, March 6th** following church and Sunday School. We will be attending the Oak Ridge High School Masquers performance of "Into the Woods."



The performance begins at 2:00 P.M. and we should be back at the church by 4:30 P.M. We will walk over to the high school from the church around 1:30 P.M. I hope you can attend. It's supposed to be a great performance.

~ Craig Brent

THE LIFEGIVING HOME

The Lifegiving Home book study will be led by Emily Doane on Sunday at 11:45 A.M. in the Pollard Room.



WEEKLY PRAYERS

WE PRAY FOR PARISH MEMBERS

John and Olivia Cox
Steve and Mary Ann Damos
Teddy Dantzler
Tony Dao

Please include these people in your prayers.

ABSALOM JONES SERVICE

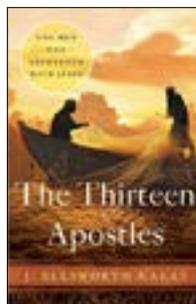
This year's Absalom Jones service will be at Good Samaritan on Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Learn a little more about the [first African American Episcopal Priest!](#)



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Beginning on Sunday, March 6th at 9 A.M., the Rev. Dr. Paul Scheirer will lead a Bible study from the book The Thirteen Apostles written by J. Ellsworth Kalas, a knowledgeable and inspiring instructor, who writes, "I pray that something about the lives of these storied figures will help you move a step closer to the Lord who called them and who has called you and me."



CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Lent is a perfect time to try a practice of **Contemplative Prayer**. We invite you to join us via Zoom on Thursdays at 4 P.M. At heart,

we simply sit silently for 20 minutes in the presence of the Divine. We include some verbal prayers and some "catching up" time with each other, and we're usually done by 4:45. If you would like to learn more, or request a Zoom email invitation, please contact the co-convenors, Liz (865.228.2537) or Steve Herbes (865.250.9123; liznsteveherbes@yahoo.com). We'd love to welcome you on our practice!!



INQUIRER'S CLASS

We will offer an Inquirer's Class on Wednesday evenings, from March 9, 2022 through April 6, 2022. A light dinner will be served from 6 to 6:30 P.M., with the class going from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.



[Inquirer's Class Sign-Up](#)

GROUNDS WORKDAY

There will be a Grounds Workday on Saturday, March 12, 2022, from 9 A.M. to 12 noon. We'll have a spring cleanup and spread some mulch! Please park in the parking lots along Tulane Avenue, towards the front of the church.



WEED CONTROL SERVICES

Last year we used a contractor to help keep our garden beds weeded—with moderate success. But that contractor



is not providing such services this year. If you know of anyone who could provide such a service,

on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, please contact Brent Sigmon (865-607-7015 or brentsigmon@mac.com). This is mostly a hand weeding need, with minimal chemical control. We have tried to reduce the size of our garden beds, but the task is still beyond the capabilities of our volunteer gardeners.



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OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. STEPHEN'S

BLANKETS+ CAMPAIGN

To alleviate the growing need of displaced persons in the U.S. and abroad, St. Stephen's is collecting contributions through May for the **Blankets+ campaign** run by Church Women United. Our Outreach Committee will match up to \$300 in donations. You may mail a check written to St. Stephen's with "Blankets+" on the memo line.



HOW WE CAN HELP: KNOXVILLE AREA RESCUE MINISTRIES

Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries (KARM) provides a bed in a warm caring environment for about 200 men and 100 women every night. Volunteer groups pray and place a note of encouragement on every bed every day for the person sleeping there that evening. KARM relies on churches and organizations to provide these inspirational notes (about 108,600 a year!) The Outreach Committee is hoping that St. Stephen's can be a part of this ministry by writing these short **Notes of Encouragement** during selected months throughout the year. We are introducing this ministry for the month of March. This is a wonderful opportunity for all aspects of church life to help KARM in an easy and meaningful way. St. Stephen's will be putting together a small group to go to KARM in early April to pray and place our cards on the beds at the shelter.

OUTREACH FOOD BASKETS

For many years, our St. Stephen's family has had a wonderful Food Basket Ministry that distributes a Food Basket to about 30 needy families in our area four times each year. During COVID, gift cards for groceries have been given in lieu of food. Now, as we emerge from Omicron, we are gearing up to distribute a gift card and a limited number of **nonfood items** to our families, beginning at our May distribution. Please help us by purchasing specific items for us to distribute. Each week, we will be putting a list of items in the E-news and Bulletin. We ask you to purchase one or more items for the families as you shop for your own groceries. We will need both large and medium sizes for our various families. Grocery carts will be available for you to drop off your items, located near the downstairs office area and in the Narthex. This is also a wonderful opportunity to help your children and grandchildren become aware of the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves. Monetary donations are also always welcome.

~ Mary Jeanne French



Each parish family will receive a letter and packet explaining this ministry in more detail in the coming week. Children's Christian education, EYF, and other small groups will participate. We will place KARM stations, with blank cards along with baskets for completed cards, in the Narthex, the side exit of the church, the Pollard room and the Parish Hall. These cards will be where you will be - simply write a short note and drop it in the basket! If you can't be here in person, we will gladly go to your house to drop off and pick up cards. Please contact the church office if you need a visit from an Outreach Committee member. We thank you for your help!

OUTREACH SHOPPING LIST

This week, please help us with the following items:

- laundry detergent
- shampoo
- toilet paper
- toothpaste
- trash bags



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GIFTS & MEMORIALS

The Gifts & Memorials Committee wants to be sure that any **material donations and/or gifts** are appropriate and support the operations and missions of St. Stephen's.

Therefore, a Gifts & Memorials sub-committee has been established to preview and screen all potential material donations given to the church.

If you have an item you think is needed or would be useful to the church please contact one of the Gifts & Memorials committee members listed below who can answer any questions you may have regarding your donation.

The existing [relevant policy is C-10, Section II F.](#)

"Refers to the Material Gifts Sub-Committee for determination (of) all material gifts intended for use in the church such as furnishings, equipment, art, etc. provided:

1. That the gift is an item consistent with the décor and use of such items within Episcopal Churches,
2. That the acceptance does not increase the operating expenses of the Parish (for instance a vehicle). If that is the case, Vestry approval is required.

Note: Material gifts in some cases may be offered to heads of Parish committees and programs such as gifts of books to the Library, donations to the Archives, to the Kitchen, to Christian Education, etc. They may be accepted by them provided they meet these criteria and will not increase the operating cost of the church. If an acknowledgment or registry in the Gifts and Memorials registers is desired, Gifts and Memorials should be notified."

~ Dan DiGregorio, Chairman, Gifts & Memorials