



212 North Tulane Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-483-8497 www.StStephensOR.org

eNews for April 11, 2025

SERVICES

Sun 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
Sun 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I *
Tue 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I and Healing
Service in St. Alban's Chapel

* Live streamed on YouTube™

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

(see stories below for more details)

Apr. 14 PFLAG Meetings
Apr. 18 Seven Last Words Service
May 11 Youth Sunday
May 17 Smokies Game
May 25 Lemonade in the Grove Returns
May 31 Invite - Welcome - Connect Workshop

ONGOING CHURCH EVENTS

Sun *After Both Services* · Coffee and Conversation
Parish Hall
Sun 9:30 AM
Lectionary Study for Adults · Pollard Room
Sunday School · Aged Rooms
Art as Prayer Class · Parish Hall
Tue 10:00 AM · Bible Study · Pollard Room
Wed 8:30 AM · Men's Group · Pollard Room
Wed 6:45 PM · Choir Practice · Nave
Thu 4:00 PM · Contemplative Prayer · Via Zoom

The Living Compass 2025 - A Lenten Devotional

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church invites you to embark on a transformative spiritual journey with our new Lenten Class, rooted in The Living Compass 2025 Lenten Devotional, this Lenten season. This class will allow you to reflect on and cultivate the Fruits of the Spirit while exploring how every dimension of your life—heart, soul, strength, and mind—interconnects in the pursuit of balance and well-being. Children will have their own group to explore these same themes while, of course, having lots of fun!

For more information, visit the Living Compass page on our website: www.ststephensor.org/livingcompass2025

Announcements Announcement

Due to the printing of bulletins for Holy Week and Easter, the office has amended submission deadlines for eNews and Bulletins.

eNews announcements for Easter Sunday must be submitted by Wednesday, April 16th.

Printed bulletin announcements and eNews announcements for April 27th (The Second Sunday of Easter) must be submitted by Wednesday, April 23rd.

Full edited pertinent information, including dates, times, and location(s) should be sent to editor@ststephensor.org. This email goes to Rob Steele III, our eNews editor. Final content is at the discretion of the clergy and staff.

Mite Boxes for Lent

This Lenten season, we invite all the people of St. Stephen's, young and young at heart, to collect coins in a mite box. The Outreach Committee and the Christian Education Committee voted that the proceeds go to Gift of Life, a subsidiary of the The Episcopal Relief Fund. Mite boxes will be available for pick up at any of the in-person worship services and during communion delivery during Lent. Mite boxes will also be available in the hospitality area during the week. Children and adults are asked to collect coins throughout the season of Lent and return the boxes as an offering on Easter Sunday or during the week following Easter.

Art As Prayer

Jamey Kennedy is hosting sessions on art as prayer. Come write, sing, dance, etc., your way closer to God. Each session will begin with a brief meditation to which you will be invited to respond as your artistic self-desires... or to simply sit in quiet reflection. If desired, you may share what you created with the group. Art supplies and paper/pens will be

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provided. Bring your own instruments and dance attire. We will meet in the parish hall between Sunday services. Look forward to seeing you there.

Faure Requiem Palm Sunday @ 4pm

The Parish Choir will present Gabriel Faure's Requiem on Palm Sunday (April 13th) at 4 PM. Faure was born in 1845, at a time when the Classical period had just ended. His life was rooted in the Romantic Period, but by the time of his death in 1924, Jazz and Modernism was in full swing. Faure's Requiem is one of his best-known large works, based on the Requiem Mass. It is composed in seven movements, for choir, organ, orchestra, with baritone and soprano solos. Additionally, the string ensemble will offer a presentation of Lyric for Strings by American composer George Walker, the first African American graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music. Walker went on to become the first Black recipient of a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, New York in 1955 and a Pulitzer Prize winner. He died in 2018 at the age of 96. This six minute composition, originally titled Lament, is inspired by the famous Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber, a classmate of Walker and is dedicated to Walker's grandmother, Melvina King. This offering by the Parish Choir is presented in memory of Judy DiGregorio through Music Memorial Fund donations.

Interested in Helping Read for the Passion on Palm Sunday

One of our traditions for Palm Sunday (April 13th) is reading the Passion Gospel with different readers assigned to each part. We are looking for volunteers to read at either 8:00 or 10:30. We need at least 5 readers for each service. If you are interested, please contact the office by phone 865-483-8497 or e-mail secretary@ststephensor.org.

Easter Flowers Deadline April 13th

If you would like to give Easter flowers as a memorial or thanksgiving, please complete the form found in your bulletin or contact the parish office. The names will be printed in the Easter bulletins. The deadline is April 13th.

Maundy Thursday Vigil Sign-Ups

One of our most popular Holy Week traditions is the "sitting of hours", or the vigil we keep in front of the stripped and barren altar overnight following our Maundy Thursday service. Beginning at 9 PM on April 17th, St. Stephen's parishioners are invited to sit for blocks of one (1) hour in the nave in silence, prayer, reading, and/or contemplation. To know we have shifts covered, we ask that you sign up on the physical forms which will be available each of the next two Sundays (or in the office during the week).

Please know that we will have someone in the building during this whole time for security reasons as this is always a common question. For those who sign up, you will get further instructions about which door to come in.

PFLAG Meeting at St. Stephen's

The Oak Ridge Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will be meeting at St. Stephen's on Monday, April 14th at 7 PM. Fr. Bailey will be the speaker and presenter.

PFLAG is an organization that provides support and a loving community for LGBT people and their families. One of the strengths of our local chapter is that PFLAG seeks to meet in churches as a way to show their participants that many Christians do love and support them despite their frequent experiences to the contrary. St. Stephen's, in its mission to be a house open to all seeking to know God and God's love for them, has happily accepted the invitation to host this month.

Wednesday Lenten Simple Soup Suppers and Lenten Study Program:

This Wednesday, from 5:30-6:30, we are having our last FREE simple soup suppers which, due to the number of people attending, will consist of three soup choices--one of which will be vegetarian, bread and/or crackers, fruit, and a beverage. This week, we will be offering Chicken and Rice Soup, Chili with all the fixings, and Vegetable Soup.

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Adult and children/youth programs will begin at 6 PM. The study for both is titled Living Well Through Lent, a way to renew and deepen our spiritual practices. Emily Doane will lead the adult study, and Pastor Laura will be leading the children and youth. The studies will end promptly at 7 PM. Nursery care will be provided for both the supper and the study.

Please note that, if you can't arrive in time for the program, dinner will be available until 6:30. Please feel free to eat and join your study group any time after you arrive - we know quite a few people may not be able to arrive until after 6.

Celtic Service

We will host another Celtic Service on Sunday, April 27th at 5 PM

Diocesan Carbon Net Neutral Initiative

Did you know that our Diocese of East Tennessee has adopted the goal of being carbon net neutral by 2030? Per Google AI, carbon net neutral means: "balancing the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere with actions that remove or offset an equivalent amount, essentially achieving a net zero carbon footprint." Carbon neutrality can be achieved through reducing emissions and/or investing in projects that remove or reduce carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The Diocese has established a Carbon Net Neutral Task Force to help focus efforts to accomplish this goal. The great news is that these efforts can also reduce utility bills and help us address our larger needs including replacement of HVAC systems. Please contact Cleon Hartman or Courtney Manrod if you'd like to learn more or join this initiative!

Seven Last Words - Request for Meditations

The '*Seven Last Words*' service is one of our Holy Week traditions. We gather on Good Friday (April 18th from noon to 3 PM) to meditate on the seven last words of Christ. We are looking for parishioners to offer short meditations on each of these words. If you are interested, please contact the Fr. Bailey, or the parish office for more info.

Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt

We will again have our annual Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt between the 8:30 and 11:00 services. The Brunch will run from 9:30 - 10:45 and the Egg Hunt will begin at 10:00. Please plan to bring a favorite brunch dish to share with your church family. Parish Life will provide the Easter Ham and beverages.

Smokies Tickets

April 27th, tickets will go on sale in the Parish Hall for the Smokies Game at the new stadium. Tickets are \$30 each and include a \$10 voucher for concessions at the stadium. The new stadium is cash free, including parking, so be prepared. Parking details will be announced as they become available

Invite - Welcome - Connect Workshop - May 31st

As St. Stephen's takes the next step forward in its evangelism ministry of reaching out and helping new people to become involved in our life and ministry at St. Stephen's, we invite (no pun intended!) anyone interested in this work to consider attending the Invite-Welcome-Connect workshop to be held Saturday, May 31st at Church of the Ascension in Knoxville.

This workshop is an all-day retreat (9 AM - 4 PM) that will train and equip St. Stephen's parishioners as evangelism leaders - how to be bold in speaking to people about our church, how to truly welcome people, and how we can help them find a place to belong and offer their God-given gifts within and out of our community.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Fr. Bailey at rector@ststephensorg.org. The deadline to let him know you are interested in Wednesday, April 16st.

Loose Plate Offering

For the remainder of the month, **the Loose Plate Offering** will go to **Haiti**.

Blessing Box Requested Items

Thank you to everyone who is supporting the Blessing Box! Please remember the Blessing Box when you shop. This week, we are requesting donations of Canned Fruit, Applesauce and Crackers. They can be placed in the little red wagon in the narthex.