



212 North Tulane Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
865-483-8497 [www.StStephensOR.org](http://www.StStephensOR.org)

## eNews for July 25, 2025

### SERVICES

Sun 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I  
Sun 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II \*  
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)

Jul 26 PJs and Pancakes  
Aug 10 Backpack Blessing  
Aug 24 Parish Potluck

### ONGOING CHURCH EVENTS

Sun 9:30 AM  
Lectionary Study for Adults · Pollard Room  
Tue 10:00 AM · Bible Study · Pollard Room  
Wed 8:30 AM · Men's Group · Pollard Room  
Thu 4:00 PM · Contemplative Prayer · Via Zoom

## Women's Bible Study Summer

### REST: From Eden to Eternity- A Women's Bible Study

Are you feeling weary and overwhelmed? You're not alone. In our fast-paced lives filled with work, stress, and endless to-do lists, we all long for true rest. The good news? God offers us a rest that goes far deeper than a good night's sleep — a rest that satisfies our souls.

Join us for a 6-week women's Bible study (through August 5<sup>th</sup>) as we explore REST: From Eden to Eternity. Together, we'll:

- Trace the beautiful theme of rest from Genesis to Revelation
- Learn what it means to truly rest in Jesus Christ
- Discover the everlasting rest God promises His people

Classes are Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM, starting June 10 on Zoom (last session will be in person- more info to come!)

To sign up and receive Zoom login info, email Sherry at: [mommaburch@gmail.com](mailto:mommaburch@gmail.com)

To order your study book (not needed for the first session), visit: <https://thedailygraceco.com/products/rest-eden-to-eternity>

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## Welcome Gary Dreier to the Vestry!

At its most recent meeting this month, the Vestry appointed Gary Dreier to fill a vacancy that had been created when Cleon Hartman resigned from the Vestry at the end of May. We are very appreciative to Cleon for his ministry and service on the Vestry, and we are delighted that Gary has accepted the invitation to serve. The term Gary is filling expires at the end of the year, so he will be eligible to serve a new term if he chooses to stand for election at our Parish Meeting in November.

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## Christian Education Updates

This upcoming program year, our Christian Education team will be trying a different model for Sunday School teachers. We are looking for adults who love kids to help lead blocks of Sunday Formation for kids and youth for 4-to-6-week blocks.

For information on how you could help teach our youth, please check the website at <https://www.ststephensor.org/sundayschool25-6>.

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## Lectionary Study

Lectionary Study meets each Sunday at 9:30AM in the Pollard Room to discuss the gospel from the days insert. Discussion is light but informative. Each class is led by a class member who volunteers. Volunteer leaders have included Jim Rousey, Emily Doane, Brittany Shassere, Roger Johnson, Pastor Steve Damos, Lola Estes and Fr. Bailey. Come experience how enriching this Lectionary class can be to your Bible study and understanding.

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## A Special Request from Ecumenical Storehouse

Following our recent Ecumenical Storehouse board meeting, we are reaching out to fulfill a request made by the board. Many of the donated items we receive require minor repairs to ensure they are safe and functional for our clients, and we are looking for volunteers. The Ecumenical Storehouse is also running low on bath towels. Please bring any gently used towels or new towels to the Reception/Office area. They will be greatly appreciated by the many families who utilize Ecumenical Storehouse every month.

Our Ecumenical Storehouse is more than just a place where items are exchanged—it's a lifeline for families in need. Many of the donations we receive require repairs, and without help, those items may never reach the people who need them most. That's where you come in.

We are in desperate need of volunteers who can offer their time and skills to:

- Repair furniture that could provide comfort to a family
- Clean and restore upholstery, ensuring dignity and usability
- Rewire lamps so a child has light to study
- Sew cushions back together so a single parent has a place to rest after a long day.
- Fix electronics that could help someone stay connected.

This is about more than just fixing things—it's about restoring dignity, hope, and opportunity. This would be a donation of time and expertise, with no charge for repairs. Many of these items could be picked up and repaired/cleaned at home and then returned to the Storehouse. Your help would make a meaningful difference in ensuring that these items can be properly used by those in need.

We also urgently need help on Saturdays to pick up donated items and assist clients in loading their much-needed goods.

If you've ever wondered how to make a direct, meaningful difference in someone's life, this is your chance. A few hours of your time can change someone's world. Please consider stepping up and being part of something bigger than yourself. Our community depends on it.

Thank you for caring and for making a difference.

Please contact Kathie Shearer (865-660-0681) if you can volunteer to help in any way.

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## PJs and Pancakes

Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM, that's Tomorrow at 5:30, Parish Life will be hosting "PJ's and Pancakes" prior to the first full week of school! Come in your favorite pajamas and enjoy a pancake bar, and other breakfast-for-dinner dishes. S'Mores will follow in the Grove! This event will take the place of the July Monthly Potluck and is open to all.

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## Blossom Center is the Loose Offering Recipient for July

The Blossom Center is a nonprofit organization that provides working families childcare that is affordable, safe, and academically oriented. They are the only center whose hours are from 5:30 am to 6 pm, enabling many low-income parents to work. They are located at the previous site of Royce Baptist Church on Robertsville Road across from Willowbrook School.

The Blossom Center currently is at full capacity with 88 children enrolled. They have a staff of 6 full-time and 7 part-time employees who provide Before and After School Care, Full-Day, Pre-School and Summertime, and holiday childcare and programs. Children are fed breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. Beginning Labor Day, they will begin to take children as young as 4 months old. Currently, they accept children one-year-old to 11-years -old.

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Future goals are to expand their hours to include both evening and weekend childcare. This would take additional staff and a substantial increase in their income. About 70% of students' fees are paid by childcare certificates through the Department of Human Services. The Blossom Center's funding also comes from tuition, donations from individuals and churches, and grants through the State. They do offer scholarships, and tuition is sliding-scale based on income. Please give to this worthwhile organization that enables low-income parents to work and know that their children are in a caring, safe, fun, and learning environment. If writing a check or donating online, please designate that it is for the Blossom Center.

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## **Acolyte Training**

Would you like to be an important part of the service at St. Stephen's? Help lead the processional? Would you like to serve at the altar? St. Stephen's needs youth and adults to serve as Acolytes in our worship service. Currently serving and perspective new acolyte: torchbearers, crucifers andthurifers will be trained and retained on August 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 10:30 service. Please RSVP to the church office or to Acolyte Master Sandi Robertson at robertsonsandi@gmail.com. Lunch will be provided, so let us know if you will be there!

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## **COMING IN AUGUST**

- August 10<sup>th</sup> we will have our Annual Blessing of the Backpacks for ALL students and teachers! Instead of Lemonade in the Grove, Parish Life will be offering kid-friendly treats in the Parish Hall.
  - August 24<sup>th</sup> will be our Parish Potluck Breakfast from 9:00-10:15 in the Parish Hall. Please start thinking about what you can bring to round out the Parish Life menu of scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon and biscuits!
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## **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 Chicken, Chef Boyardee and Applesauce Cups. They can be placed in the little red wagon in the narthex.

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## **Do you have news for an upcoming issue of the St. Stephen's eNews?**

Please send fully edited articles with all pertinent information, including dates, times, location(s), and contact information, to editor@ststephensor.org by NOON on Wednesday. Content for the eNews is determined in consultation with clergy and staff.