



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

eNews for March 28, 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)

Mar 30 – Caribbean Dinner
Apr 5 – Bunco
Apr 18 – Seven Last Words Service

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

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

Haiti Update and Caribbean Dinner

This Sunday, following the 10:30 service, we will have our Monthly Parish Potluck which is co-sponsored by Parish Life and Outreach. We are providing Haitian chicken and red beans and rice. Please bring a side dish to round out the meal (fruit platters, salads, rice, bread, dessert etc.). Following lunch, we will have a "Conversation with Dr. Wilkine Syllin", former director of our medical clinic at Petit Harpon regarding the conditions that exist in Haiti, and the continuing importance of our clinic to the people of the region. Even if you are unable to bring a dish, come and join us!

Choral Evensong - UT Chamber Singers

Please join us on April 6th at 4 PM, for a service of Choral Evensong sung by the University of Tennessee Chamber Singers, as they present music they are preparing for their Summer Cathedral Residency in the U.K this July.

DOK Meeting

Daughters of the King will meet April 6th from 12:00 to 1:00 in the Pollard Room. We look forward to fellowship and making fascinators with guidance from Sarah Norman. Any woman in the Parish is welcome to attend. We'd love to sit with you. Significant others and children are welcome to sit with us.

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.

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.

Roger Johnson Appointed to Vestry

Last month, a vacancy opened on the Vestry when Ray Evans submitted his resignation. At our meeting (March 18), the Vestry elected Roger Johnson to serve in that spot for the remainder of this calendar year. Roger will have the option to run for the remainder of the unexpired term at this November's Annual Meeting. Thank you, Roger, for your willingness to serve!

Interested in Helping Read for the Passion on Palm Sunday

One of our traditions for Palm Sunday (April 13) 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.

Wednesday Lenten Simple Soup Suppers and Lenten Study Program:

From 5:30-6:30, we are again having our 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 Split Pea Soup, Minestrone Soup and Italian Sausage with Kale Soup.

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 anytime after you arrive - we know quite a few people may not be able to arrive until after 6.

Join Us for the Oak Ridge Civic Music Association Fun Run!

The ORCMA Fun Run has finally arrived! St. Stephen's parishioners are invited to join in the excitement at Bissell Park near the Senior Center at 8:00 AM on Saturday, March 29th. The Fun Run will take place from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM, followed by the 5K race starting at 9:00 AM. Awards will be given out around 10:15 AM. Volunteers are encouraged to

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come cheer on the runners and walkers. Volunteers are needed from 8:00 AM-11:30 AM. For more details before or on the day of the race, contact Brittany Shassere at 865-789-9460. Don't miss out on this fun and exciting community event!

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!

Bunco

Attention all ladies--Mark your calendars! Parish Life and Daughters of the King are teaming up to sponsor Bunco on April 5th from 3:00-5:00! Bunco is a fast-moving dice game that requires no skill, can be learned in 5 minutes or less, and promotes conversation and fun! Please sign up online, or contact the office, so that we will know how many tables to set up!

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.

Loose Plate Offering!

This is a last Sunday of the month, so the **Loose Plate Offering** goes to the **Clergy Discretionary Fund**.

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 Beans (Northern, Pinto and Black) and Canned Fruit. They can be placed in the little red wagon in the narthex.

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.