



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

eNews for March 21, 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

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

BIG MEETING

As part of our continued commitment to building a strong, unified church community, the Wardens are inviting all committee heads and members to a full church committee meeting on Sunday, March 23rd following the 10:30 AM service in the Parish Hall. The meeting will be an important opportunity for us to gather as one church body, share updates from each committee, and discuss ongoing and upcoming initiatives that support our mission. Your participation and input will be invaluable as we plan and coordinate for the future of our church. If you have any specific agenda items you would like to include, feel free to email them with Ben Shassere at Ben.Shassere@ststephensor.org.

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

VOUDOU practices will not be a focus topic at the Caribbean Dinner on Sunday, March 30th following the 10:30 service. The focus will be the clinic at Petit Harpon, Haiti that St. Stephen's has supported from its inception. We will be joined by guests from Haiti who have been very involved in our ministries to the community of Petit Harpon. They, along with Dr. Clary and Cameron Ellis of St. Stephen's, will share our calling to this beautiful part of God's kingdom on earth. For more information, please see this month's Evangel.

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.

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 this week (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 Sweet Potato Soup, Vegetable Soup, and Chicken Noodle Soup. If you would like to contribute soup for any of the remaining dinners, please contact Leah Bailey (leah.bailey@ststephensor.org).

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.

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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 Oak Ridge Civic Music Association (ORCMA) is hosting their Fun Run on March 29th at 8:00 AM, and St. Stephen's is proud to support this exciting event! We are sponsoring the bibs for the runners, donating supplies for coffee, and helping to bring the community together. The Evangelism Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with passing out coffee, water, and offering support throughout the event. If you're interested in lending a hand and helping the Oak Ridge community, please reach out to Brittany Shassere at Brittany.Shassere@knoxschools.org. Your support will make a difference, and we look forward to seeing you there!

THIS JUST IN! Use this link (<https://runsignup.com/Race/TN/OakRidge/ORCMA5K>) and the code "OUTREACH" (without the quotes) for a \$5 discount!

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! Bunco is a fast-moving dice game that requires no skill, and promotes conversation and fun!

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.

Clearfork's Summer Program Is Ramping Up! and this Month's Loose Plate Offering!

One of St. Stephen's core outreach programs, the annual *Clearfork Learning Camp* is located in Clairfield, Tennessee. This year's outreach program, from July 7 to 11, is designed to enrich local youth through exciting S.T.E.M. activities, including crafts, cooking, and outdoor adventures.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon. In the meantime, please save the dates on your calendar and consider joining our St. Stephen's volunteer team. Everyone has a role to play, and together, we can create lasting memories and inspire the next generation!

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 Peanut Butter, Canned Beans, Crackers, Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup. Many of those in need do not have access to a can opener. If you are purchasing canned items, please check to see if your item can be bought with a pop-off lid. 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.