



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

eNews for September 5, 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™

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

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

(see stories below for more details)

Sep 14 Newcomer's Luncheon
Sep 14 Celtic Service @ Chapel on the Hill
Sep 28 Parish Potluck
Oct 4 Retreat on 2 Feet
Oct 24 Halloween @ Bissell Park
Oct 25 Diocesan Women's Day Conference

Newcomers Luncheon

Since our return to in-person worship after Covid, we have had many new individuals and families attending our services. If you have joined our congregation in the last few years, please come and be a part of the Newcomer's Luncheon at 11:45 on September 14th.

A Word From Your Finance Committee

As we get back into the swing of school and the program year, we are incredibly grateful for the continued generosity of our parishioners in supporting the ministry and operations of St. Stephen's. However, giving during the summer is significantly below what was committed. If you are not up to date with your pledge payments, please make every effort to catch up. Your commitments are necessary to meet our obligations.

Thank you for all you do to enhance and grow the ministry of our Lord through St. Stephen's.

Evangelism Committee Meeting

Join us this Monday, September 15th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall for our Evangelism Committee meeting. Our mission is to partner with the Parish of St. Stephen's to build meaningful connections both within our church family and throughout the Oak Ridge community. We welcome new members —everyone is invited to attend! For more information, please contact Brittany Shassere at 865-789-9460.

Sabbath Brew

Join us in the fellowship hall between the services for a relaxed faith exploration over coffee - Sabbath Brew! We'll watch a very brief film from *The Work of the People* featuring spiritual leaders discussing faith, justice, and community, followed by organic conversation. No formal curriculum—just authentic dialogue and connection. Come as you are, grab a coffee, and see where meaningful conversation takes us.

- When: Sundays at 9:40
 - Where: St. Stephen's Fellowship Hall
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Virtual Morning Prayer Resumes!

We are excited that virtual Morning Prayer will resume this month! Recordings will be posted to our YouTube channel for you to follow along and have as an option for weekday worship. We will record Morning Prayer on major feast days in our church calendar, which began with the Feast of Mary on August 15th. This is a great way not only to worship but to celebrate the major feasts of saints and significant events in the life of Jesus.

Fantasy of Trees

There are only 76 days left until Thanksgiving, which means Fantasy of Trees is right around the corner! The East Tennessee Children's Hospital Fantasy of Trees raised over \$1.9 million for Children's Hospital. This year St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will have a 7-foot tree for purchase at the Fantasy of Trees. However, we need your help! The Evangelism Committee is in need of wired ribbon and Christmas decorations for our Vintage themed Christmas Tree. If you have anything you are willing to donate, please contact Molly Justice or Brittany Shassere.

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>.

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.

Looking to Connect with the Women of St. Stephen's?

Join us for a morning of fellowship and fun! The women of St. Stephen's will be meeting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 20th at the Oak Ridge Farmer's Market, followed by brunch at Dean's around 11:00 AM. We'd love to have you join us! If you plan to attend brunch, please contact Brittany Shassere at (865)789-9460 to RSVP.

Aloha September!

Did you know that Aloha has many meanings? It can be Hello, Good-bye, Welcome, etc. We are saying Aloha to Summer and Aloha to Fall at our Monthly Potluck following the 10:30 service on September 28th. Start thinking about some tropical or Polynesian dishes you might bring to round out our main dish of pineapple ribs for this luau-themed event!

Retreat on 2 Feet - A Contemplative Walking Experience

Join us for Retreat on 2 Feet, a contemplative walking and wellbeing initiative that helps you discover God's presence through walking meditation. Whether walking or sitting (for those with mobility challenges) this gentle spiritual practice nurtures your wellbeing while fostering deeper connection with creation and Creator through life's simple, sacred moments. Come experience this peaceful journey.

- Location: Melton Lake Hill
 - Date: Saturday, October 4th
 - Time: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
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How-To Live A Healthy And Active Life After 50

One of our parishioners, Jake Jacobs, is preparing a seminar for any of our members over 50 on how to build and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. Dr. Jacobs is a retired sport and exercise psychologist. In his most recent 20 years of teaching, his research and instruction focused on senior health and fitness. The purpose of this seminar is to share from research the best practice for healthy and active lives.

The seminar's will be September 18th at 6PM. If you are interested or would like more information, please e-mail Jake at drj8501@gmail.com.



Halloween at Bissell Park! 🧛‍♀️

Every year, the City of Oak Ridge hosts its annual Halloween event at Bissell Park, and it's always a great time for families in our community!

This year's event will take place on Friday, October 24th — and we need your help!

We're asking parishioners to consider donating candy and volunteering to help make this event a success.

If you're able to contribute or would like to volunteer, please contact Brittany Shassere at

brittany.shassere@knoxschools.org at (865)789-9460 Thank you for helping us serve our community this Halloween!

Diocesan Women's Day Conference

On Saturday, October 25th, 9:30-3:00 PM., all women of the diocese are invited to attend the first diocesan women's day conference at the Church of the Ascension, Knoxville, featuring a screening of The Philadelphia Eleven, eucharist celebrated by Bishop Brian Cole with a sermon by Andrea Stewart, lay preacher from St. Andrew's, Maryville, a luncheon, and a short meeting. The cost is \$20. Registration Link: www.dioet.org/womensconference.

Coming in October!

- October 5th - We will celebrate Mass in the Grass and have our annual Blessing of the Animals at the Melton Lake Pavilion at 10:30. Please note that animals should be leashed or in appropriate carriers/cages. Bring a picnic lunch for afterwards and enjoy the beauty of the lake with your St. Stephen's family.
 - October 26th - The Bishop Is Coming!! Bishop Brian will be our celebrant. We will have "Brunch With the Bishop" from 9:00-10:15. After the 10:30 service, there will be coffee and cake with the Bishop and the newly confirmed.
 - Also October 26th - Holy Boocharist! Bishop Brian is looking forward to the young and not-so-young in wearing their costumes to church!
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Loose Plate Offering

Together Podemos (Together We Can) is a nonprofit organization serving Oak Ridge, Anderson County, and surrounding areas. Our mission is to empower and support Hispanic families through education, workshops, and vital resource connections. We strive to create a welcoming and inclusive space where families feel valued, respected, and celebrated while preserving and honoring Hispanic heritage.

Founded in January 2024, Together Podemos remains a 100% volunteer-led organization, sustained entirely by generous donations. Thanks to the ongoing support of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and many other churches, businesses, and individuals, we continue to offer impactful services, including:

- English as a Second Language (ESL): 4 hours per week, with 17 students currently enrolled
- HiSET/GED Preparation: Supporting 12 registered students
- Literacy Initiatives: In partnership with the Consulate of Mexico and Friends of Literacy
- Driving Safety Class
- Personal Finance Workshop
- Service Referrals to local Resources organizations
- School Registration Day Support: Offered in 2023, 2024, and 2025

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In response to growing uncertainty and fear within our community, we've expanded our services to include critical family preparedness programs:

- Emergency Family Plans: Developed with 60 families over the past four months
- Notarized Legal Documents: Including powers of attorney and travel consent letters for 125 children in the last six months

We also believe in celebrating joy and culture. A highlight this year was our Día del Niño (Children's Day) celebration on April 30th, where over 120 attendees—including 72 children—gathered to honor a beloved Latin American tradition. It was a beautiful day filled with laughter, heritage, and community spirit.

Your kindness and support are essential to our mission of improving the lives of hundreds of families. Please continue helping us help others—together, we can make a lasting difference.

Gracias

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 saltines, canned veggies and applesauce cups. 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.