



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

eNews for May 16, 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
Sunday School · Aged Rooms
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

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

(see stories below for more details)

May 17 St. Stephen's Spring Clean
May 17 Smokies Game
May 25 Mass In The Grass
May 25 Lemonade in the Grove Returns
May 31 Invite - Welcome - Connect Workshop
Jun 8 Holy Ghost Weenie Roast - after 10:30
Jun 22 Safe Church Training
Jun 29 Parish Potluck

New Easter Adult Formation

"The Spiritual Life" by Evelyn Underhill

"The average Christian has no notion at all of the mighty symphony which fills the universe, to which our lives are destined to make their tiny contribution, and which is the self-expression of the Eternal God." So writes Evelyn Underhill, one of the great Christian writers and mystics of the 20th century. Beginning May 4 and running for the four Sundays in May, we will be exploring one of her great works quoted above titled simply "The Spiritual Life." It is a book written both for those who are new on the Christian journey and those who are more experienced. We are entering a season at St. Stephen's where we will be learning more about our call to contemplate God's presence in our lives (the contemplative life) and learning how to better faithfully listen to that call (spiritual direction). While there are many works which can help introduce this, I can think of no better than this short but powerful work of Evelyn Underhill. You may order copies of the book online or, if you prefer, please let the office know and we can order a copy for you.

Daughters of the King Meeting

The Daughters of the King (DOK) will be meeting Sunday, May 18th, from 12-1 pm in the Pollard Library. Daughters are encouraged wear blue. All women are invited to be involved with the Daughters and meetings are open to all. If you would like to learn more about the ministry of DOK or consider becoming a part of the order, please contact either of their co-chairs: Rebecca Cavender (rebecca.m.cavender@gmail.com) or Beth Reed (rbrussellreed@yahoo.com).

St. Stephen's Key Policy and Safe Church Training

We make the joke around St. Stephen's that half of Oak Ridge has a key to our building. This joke, however, has become more serious over the last couple of years as we continue to have issues with items disappearing, lights being left on all over the building, and outside doors being left unlocked on a regular basis.

It is also part of our policy that anyone who is not current with their Safe Church Training from the diocese should not have a key to the building. This policy, which is also a diocesan policy, is a protective measure to make sure that anyone who has access to the building has the information and knowledge to be aware of appropriate boundaries and interactions within the building and their responsibility to report anything that is suspicious. While not at St. Stephen's, there have been recent incidents at other churches in our area where inappropriate activity has taken place due to people having unlimited access to spaces who were not authorized to have it.

In discussion with the Wardens (Leah Bailey and Ben Shassere) and the Safe Church Coordinator (Judith Delaney), we have made the decision to begin enforcing this rule. In other words, if you are not current on your Safe Church training, please know that we will contact you to ask for your key until you have successfully completed or updated your training. Please understand that this is not a punitive measure. Rather, our commitment to being a safe space has to align with the policies that we have which allow us to make sure everyone with a key has an understanding of the responsibility that comes with that privilege.

We will have an in-person Safe Church training here again at St. Stephen's on June 22nd following the 10:30 service. In addition, you are welcome at any time of year to sign up to take the training online. Either will get you covered. The training must be updated every 3 years according to diocesan policies. The training does take 3-4 hours, but it is a crucial piece of the responsibility we ALL have to make sure appropriate boundaries and behavior are always the norm here at St. Stephen's. If you would like to sign up for either the in-person or online training, please call the church office at 865-483-8497 or e-mail us at secretary@ststephensor.org.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Bailey, either of your Wardens, Leah or Ben, or Judith Delaney.

Lectionary Study

The Lectionary class at St. Stephen's is unique in that it is a discussion each Sunday about the Gospel that is in that Sunday's bulletin insert. It is also unique in that the class is led each Sunday by a member of the class. Recent leaders have been Roger Johnson, Steve Damos, Emily Doane, Gary Dreier, Mary Ellen Klots, Joseph Womble and Father Bailey. If you'd like a better understanding of the Bible (who doesn't), come to a Lectionary class on Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Pollard library.

Financial Status with Courtney Manrod

Make up sessions to discuss church finances will be held in the Parish Hall between the 8:00 and 10:30 services this Sunday and next Sunday.

Look for Finance Committee reps in the Parish Hall ready to share information, answer your questions and receive your input.

Please drop by!

Mass In The Grass - Bring a Lawn Chair

Mass in the Grass returns at 10:30 in the Grove - weather permitting. Lemonade and light refreshments will follow. Please bring lawn chairs as there will be a limited number of chairs.

Financial Planning Workshops

Interested in gaining more tools to help with your finances? Please sign up for one, or both (June 1st and June 29th), of the upcoming financial planning workshops. Check out the website for more information. www.ststephensor.org/fpw

Loose Plate Offering

For the remainder of the month, the Loose Plate Offering will go to the Blessing Box.

Gearing Up for Annual Spring-Cleaning Extravaganza!

Let's come together to clean our beloved parish home. All parishioners are invited to help clean and organize St. Stephen's on Saturday, May 17, 2025, starting at 10:00 AM. We'll gather in the Parish Hall to go over the day's tasks and divide up responsibilities. To sign up for specific tasks, please use the online sign-up link provided or sign-up sheets are located in the hospitality area, bulletin board outside the Nave and in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, feel free to ask. We hope to see you there—many hands make light work!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NQK6WVT>

Coming in June:

June 8th: Holy Ghost Weenie Roast following the 10:30 Pentecost service. Come and enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings with your St. Stephen's family. Don't forget to wear RED!

June 29th: Parish Potluck at 11:45 prior to the Planned Giving Presentation.

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 **Ramen Noodles, Cereal and Chef Boy-r-dee**. 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.