



October 17, 2025

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StStephensOR.org

REGULAR SERVICES (Times only change if noted in a story below - **Sunday School** is between services unless otherwise noted.)

Sunday		Tuesday
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I	10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II Live streamed on YouTube™	11:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I and Healing Service St. Alban's Chapel

ONGOING CHURCH EVENTS (Pending Weather Related Cancellations)

Tue	Bible Study	Pollard Room 10:00 AM
Wed	Men's Group	Pollard Room 8:30 AM
Wed	Choir Practice	Choir Room 6:45 PM
Thu	Contemplative Prayer	Via Zoom 4:00 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE NEED YOUR HELP TODAY!

Every year, the Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Department hosts its annual Children's Halloween Party at A.K. Bissell Park, and this year promises to be one of the best yet! TODAY, this beloved community event draws thousands of children and their families for an evening full of festive fun. Activities will include a costume contest, trick-or-treating, a pumpkin patch, and—weather permitting—a hayride. Food trucks will also be on-site to keep everyone fueled for the fun!

Here's the part where we need volunteers. We're thrilled to announce that St. Stephen's will be hosting a table at this year's celebration! This is a wonderful opportunity for our parish to share smiles, connect with families, and spread a little Halloween cheer throughout the Oak Ridge community. To make our participation a success, the Evangelism Committee is seeking two things:

- **SETUP/ TAKE DOWN THE BOOTH** – We will be setting up our booth from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and then taking it down from 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM
- **GIVE OUT CANDY** – We need volunteers to help give out candy and other treats from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. We'd love to have you come in costume and have fun with us!

THE BISHOP IS COMING - for Holy Boo-charist

Sunday, Bishop Cole is with us as our Presider with Confirmation taking place at both services as well as a baptism at 10:30. We will have "Brunch with the Bishop" and celebrate our new confirmands from 9:00 - 10:15. Please join us. After the 10:30 service, there will be coffee and cake with the Bishop in honor of the newly baptized and confirmed. Coincidentally, it is also *Holy Boocharist!* Bishop Brian is looking forward to seeing the young and not-so-young in their costumes at church!

Nominations are now open for the Vestry and for Convention delegates!!

Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, November 16th immediately following the 10:30 service. During the meeting, we will elect the next cohort of Vestry members. St. Stephen's Vestry is composed of 12 members who serve a 3-year term. Rotating off of the Vestry will be Leah Bailey, Ashley Hillis, Courtney Manrod, and Gary Dreier, who completed the term of Cleon Hartman. Roger Johnson is eligible to be elected to a two-year term after having served this year for Ray Evans. Vestry members must be adult, confirmed members of the church. The Vestry meets monthly, and is the Board of Directors of our Parish. They administer the temporal affairs of the Parish, and assist the Rector in developing the spiritual life of the Parish.

Nominations are now open for the Vestry. You may nominate—with their permission—a fellow parishioner. You may also self-nominate. Submit your nominations to Leah Bailey, Chairman of the Nominations Committee (leah.bailey@ststephensor.org). In order to publish candidate biographies two-weeks prior to the election, nominations will close on October 29th.

Additionally, we will be selecting 3 delegates to the Diocesan Convention and alternates. The Convention will be February 20-21 in Knoxville. Please contact Father Bailey or the church office if you are willing to serve as a delegate or alternate.

Please consider serving on the Vestry and/or representing St. Stephen's at the Diocesan Convention.

Stewardship Campaign Is In Full Swing

We have launched our 2026 Stewardship campaign. As we enter this season, please pray and discern how you might continue (or, if you are new, to begin) supporting the ministry and operations of St Stephen's. As the Spirit guides us in our work, we are deeply grateful for the contributions all of you make to our common life.

Virtual Morning Prayer Resumes!

Have you checked out the recent uploads of Morning Prayer on our YouTube Channel? Each is an invitation into a contemplative experience with the words of the Morning Prayer liturgy supplemented by music and ethereal images. Recent offerings recognize The Feasts of St. Luke the Evangelist (October 18) and St. James of Jerusalem (October 23). The Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude will follow shortly on October 28.

All Saints' Day Observed November 2nd

All Saints' Sunday will be on November 2nd, when the church will recognize our loved ones and friends who have departed into eternal glory. We will read aloud in the Prayers of the People the names of those who have died since last All Saints' Day (November 1). In addition, in the bulletin, we will include the names of others you wish to remember. Please submit by Tuesday, October 28 any names you would like to be included in these prayers, making sure to note especially if they have died in the last year. You may call the parish office (Monday-Thursday from 9 AM to 2 PM) at 865-483-8497 or email the parish administrator in the church office at secretary@ststephensor.org.

Fantasy of Trees

Molly Justice and Julie Webber will host a brief meeting on November 2nd in the Parish Hall following the 10:30 AM service to discuss the donation decorations, supplies and the vision for our 7-foot tree that St. Stephen's will be sponsoring at Fantasy of Trees. If you are unable to attend or would like to more information, please contact Molly Justice at Molly.webber16@gmail.com.

Ecumenical Centering Prayer group

All are invited to an ecumenical Centering Prayer group that will meet in the chapel at 2:00 on the first Tuesday of each month, starting November 4th. We will begin with a brief time of introduction and checking in followed by a period of sitting in silence for 20 minutes.

For more information, contact Carol Gardner 865-304-2093 or gardnerwc73@gmail.com.

Christian Education Updates

This 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>.

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 November!

- Saturday, November 8th is the date for our first community-wide Lobster Fest entitled "Claws for a Cause", co-sponsored by Evangelism, Outreach and Parish Life! All funds will be split and used to support the ministries of Grace Point and local children's ministries. This is a huge endeavor with lots of moving parts, and we need a wide variety of volunteers of all ages: publicity, set-up, cooking, serving, clean-up, payment, receipts, traffic control, etc! Additionally, our volunteers will need snacks and drinks! Please contact Leah Bailey (leah.bailey@ststephensor.org) to volunteer.
 - Our Annual Parish Meeting will be November 16th immediately following the 10:30 service. After the Annual Meeting, we will have our Monthly Parish Potluck.
 - The Norman family will again be hosting our Thanksgiving Dinner (Nov. 27th) following the 10:00 Thanksgiving Day service. Be thinking about what side dishes you would like to bring--Parish Life will provide the Turkeys and the Hams. More information will be forthcoming.
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Coming in December!

St. Stephen's to Join Oak Ridge Christmas Parade with "A Country Christmas" Float

Get ready for some holiday cheer — St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is joining this year's Oak Ridge Christmas Parade with a festive float that promises to turn heads and warm hearts! The parade will take place on Saturday, December 13th at 6:00 PM, celebrating the theme "A Country Christmas." And what's more "Country Christmas" than Father Bailey riding in a Bass Boat? That's right — this year's St. Stephen's float will feature a Bass Boat, decked out in lights and decorations, spreading joy to paradegoers along the route.

The Evangelism Committee is inviting parish members to be part of the fun by walking in the parade and helping pass out children's books and candy. Instead of the traditional handful of sweets, St. Stephen's is adding a special touch — sharing the gift of reading with local children.

To make this possible, we will be collecting books, new or gently used books, on November 1st.

Parishioners are also invited to help decorate the float on Friday, December 12th at 5:00 PM at Ben and Brittany Shassere's home. It's a great opportunity for fellowship, creativity, and a little Christmas spirit!

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If you'd like to volunteer to walk in the parade or help decorate the float, please contact Brittany Shassere at brittany.shassere@knoxschools.org. Let's make this Christmas parade one to remember — with community, kindness, and a boatload of Christmas joy!

ON-GOING CLASSES

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

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.

NOTES

Loose Plate Offering

The loose plate offering this week will go to the Bishop's 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 chicken, canned soups, 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.

St. Stephen's Online Links

Website • Facebook • Instagram • YouTube

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Office Hours: Mon – Thu 09:00 am – 2:00 pm