



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

eNews for August 22, 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)

Aug 23 Grace Point Day
Aug 24 Parish Potluck
Aug 25 Downsizing Group
Sep 7 Ice Cream Truck
Sep 14 Newcomer's Luncheon
Sep 14 Celtic Service @ St. Stephen's
Sep 28 Parish Potluck
Oct 25 Diocesan Women's Day Conference

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.

Grace Point Day

On Saturday, August 23rd, from 10 AM to 3 PM, join Episcopalians from across the diocese as we celebrate the close of summer with one last day of fun at Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center. Activities include splashing in the pool, hiking the trails, kayaking and trips on the boat. There's no cost and lunch is provided. No registration required.

Downsizing Group

Come join us in the Pollard Room on August 25th at 2 PM to talk about what we've accomplished, to show before & after photos and encourage each other with good ideas.

Virtual Morning Prayer Resumes!

We are excited that virtual Morning Prayer will resume this month! For those of you wondering what this is, our own Bonnie Bautz will lead recordings of Morning Prayer that will be posted to our YouTube channel for you to follow along and have as an option for weekday worship.

For the next few months, she will record Morning Prayer on major feast days in our church calendar, beginning with the Feast of Mary on August 15. We will post a calendar next week of other upcoming Morning Prayer videos. 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 97 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.

Inquirers Classes Beginning in September

Anyone interested in being confirmed, received, or simply learning more about the church is invited to participate in Inquirers classes which will begin on September 3rd. More information to come. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Fr. Bailey.

How-To Live A Health 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 time and date will be determined based on the availability of those interested. If you are interested or would like more information, please e-mail Jake at drj8501@gmail.com.

August Potluck

August 24th will be our Parish Potluck Breakfast from 9:00-10:15 in the Parish Hall. Please start thinking about what you can bring to round out the Parish Life menu of scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon and biscuits!

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 September!

- September 7th- the Ice Cream Truck is coming in honor of Grandparents' Day! Join us in the Grove at 11:45 for ice cream from Lolli and Bobo's. The first scoop is on Parish Life!
- September 14th - 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.
- September 14th- Chapel on the Hill will be hosting the Celtic Service at 5:00.
- September 28th - We are saying Aloha to Summer and Aloha to Fall at our Monthly Potluck following the 10:30 service. Parish Life will provide pineapple ribs for this luau-themed event.

Loose Plate Offering

The recipient of the loose offering in August is the Ecumenical Storehouse, a non-profit organization that helps the underprivileged by providing items needed for a home, except food and clothes. The Storehouse accepts, stores, and distributes almost every type of household good -- essentially everything a person would need to set up a small living quarter. Most of the clients served by the Ecumenical Storehouse live in Anderson County, but clients also come from Roane, Campbell, Morgan, Scott, and other area counties.

Many of the clients are from among the vast number of Appalachian poor in the area; others have lost everything in a fire or storm; still others find themselves in abusive situations and need emergency assistance to establish a new home. All are in need, and they have nowhere else to turn for the service the Storehouse provides.

Clients must be referred by a church, a government or social services agency with knowledge of their situation. In 2024 the Storehouse served 300 clients and has already served over 150 this year. While helping those in need, this ministry has also kept thousands of pounds of re-useable household goods out of dumps, making it a very 'green' operation. The Storehouse was established in 1984, and is operated entirely by volunteers from 11 congregations on a rotating basis. The Storehouse is a member of the United Way of Anderson County and receives funds from that organization, grants from other agencies, and donations of household goods and funds from local churches and individuals.

St. Stephen's parishioners can help this wonderful organization to continue its meaningful ministry in several ways:

- Donate funds to help with ongoing expenses such as rent, utilities, insurance, and maintenance of the truck used to pick up furniture;
- Volunteer in the month of August (St. Stephen's month) to help with the loading and unloading of donated items, or work with the clients to pick out the items they need. If interested in helping, please contact Kathie Shearer at 865-660-0681

NOTE: *There has been a request for NEW BED PILLOWS. They are desperately needed!*

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 **Oatmeal Packs**, **Canned Fruit** and **Toothpaste**. 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.