



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

eNews for May 23, 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
Spiritual Life · Chappel
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 25 Mass In The Grass
May 25 Lemonade in the Grove Returns
May 31 Invite - Welcome - Connect Workshop
Jun 1 First Financial Workshop Class
Jun 8 Holy Ghost Weenie Roast - after 10:30
Jun 22 Safe Church Training
Jun 29 Parish Potluck
Jun 29 Second Financial Workshop Class

Day of Pentecost – Readers

... and Wearing Red!

It's hard to believe that we are a little over two weeks away from Pentecost on June 8! As Episcopalians, a couple of our favorite traditions are to wear red (as that is the color of the Holy Spirit!) and to read part of the lesson from Acts in many languages (to emulate the speaking of tongues that took place that day.) We are looking for readers. You do not have to be fluent, as you will be reading simultaneously with others, so you can be a little rusty! If you would like to read, please e-mail Fr. Bailey at rector@ststephensor.org, or call the church office and let us know your chosen language, and whether you will be attending the 8a.m. or 10:30a.m. service.

An Aerial View and a Weenie Roast

On Pentecost, June 8th, we are going to take an aerial photo of the congregation at 10:15 on the front steps of the church. Please come early, (of if you're attending the 8:00, please stay a little bit later) dressed in your red and be prepared to look up and smile for the camera! The Holy Ghost Weenie Roast in the parish hall following the 10:30 a.m. Pentecost service. Parish Life will furnish the hot dogs, burgers, buns and the fixings. There will also be a birthday cake to celebrate the birth of the Church! Bring your favorite cook-out sides to round out the meal! Don't forget to wear RED!

Women's Bible Study Summer

REST: From Eden to Eternity- A Women's Bible Study

This summer, St. Stephen's women will be gathering online via Zoom for a weekly bible study and fellowship. We would love to know which day works best for you to join us! We are currently planning for Tuesday or Thursday each week, at 7 p.m. from June 9 to July 14. Please complete the following survey and indicate your preference. You can find the survey on our website homepage.

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

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Underhill, one of the great Christian writers and mystics of the 20th century. 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.

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.

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

As we all struggle through the questions of financial management (How can I make ends meet? What's my plan financially? How do I set up my estate to take care of my family and my charitable wishes when I die?), we hope you will join us for one (or both) of our finance workshops hosted by Joe Ottaviano on June 1 and 29 following the 10:30 service.

The June 1 session will focus on end-of-life estate and planned giving; the session on June 29 will focus on managing and planning our resources to take care of our immediate needs and set up reasonable financial goals.

These financial questions can also deeply affect our spiritual life. Mr. Ottaviano hopes to provide strategies, resources, and tools that will help us not only improve our financial health but also help us in our relationship with God as we grow in gratitude for the gifts we have and develop a plan to help us wisely manage these gifts.

Lunch will be served at both sessions. Your sign-up is to ensure that we have enough food. Please use the sign-up link here or call or e-mail the church office. Make sure you indicate which session you wish to sign up for.

To sign up, go to www.ststephensor.org/fpw

Interior Work Day - Thank You!

Please check the donation table before June 1

The Evangelism Committee would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed their time and effort this week. Over the weekend, a dedicated group of parishioners came together to organize, label, and clean various areas of St. Stephen's. Your hard work and teamwork are truly appreciated!

During the cleanup, we came across several items whose owners or proper storage locations are unknown. These items have been placed on the stage in the parish hall. Please take a moment to look through them if you think something may belong to you. Items remaining after June 1st will be donated, so be sure to check before then. Thank you again for your support!

Exterior Work Day Planned June 21

An exterior work day is planned for June 21, between 8 a.m. and noon. Items on the agenda include (but not limited to):

- Cleaning up brush on the Southeast corner of the Memorial Garden.
- Looking at and possibly trimming back dead branches on a tree near the front entrance.
- Cleaning up the perimeter of the playground; leaves and grass.
- Cleaning the steps between the playground and the parking lot.
- Clearing parking lot debris, trimming sidewalks, etc.
- Gutter cleaning.
- Address any open items inside the church left over from the May work day.

For further information or to volunteer your time, please contact our current Building's and Grounds chair, Roger Johnson. (roger.johnson@ststephensor.org) or the parish office.

Loose Plate Offering

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

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, Tuna, Canned Fruit or Fruit Cups**. They can be placed in the little red wagon in the narthex.
