



October 10, 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

Nominations Are Now Open For Vestry and Convention Delegates!

Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, November 16 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.

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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. Our stewardship chair Adam Cavender spoke briefly at each service last Sunday to give an official invitation to the 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!

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 aren't many 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 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>.

Evangelism Committee

On October 19th, the Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a Pumpkin Carving Party after the 10:30 service. Bring your own pumpkin and carving paraphernalia! We would also like to serve some seasonal treats. Please contact Leah Bailey (leah.bailey@ststephensor.org) or Brittany Shassere (brittany.shassere@knoxschools.org) if you are willing to provide some pumpkin/apple/fall treats to share!

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.

THE BISHOP IS COMING - for Holy Boo-charist

On 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!

Coming in November!

- Saturday, November 8th is the date for our first 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 our Outreach ministries. This is a huge endeavor with lots of moving parts, and we need a wide variety of volunteers: publicity, set-up, cooking, serving, clean-up, payment, receipts, traffic control, etc! 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.
 - St. Stephen's will again be having our Thanksgiving Dinner following the 10:00 Thanksgiving Day service (Nov. 27th). 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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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

TORCH (Tennessee Out-Reach Center for the Homeless) is a nonprofit whose mission is to rapidly house the homeless, and help to stabilize the family once placed. Since its opening in 2013, TORCH has continued to grow as it strives to meet the growing homelessness issue in Anderson County. Referrals come from area churches, other nonprofits, Methodist Medical Center, United Way, individuals, and Oak Ridge and Anderson County Schools.

In 2024 TORCH assisted 373 individuals through street outreach, and helped 40 households transition from homelessness into housing. TORCH also assisted 28 individuals in transitioning into recovery housing, sheltered 17 families in hotel rooms, and sheltered 13 families at Bookhart Village, Agape House, and another home available to victims of domestic violence. Six TORCH employees provide a multitude of services, including: advocacy, basic needs, bus tickets, case management, emergency shelter, food, gas cards, housing, hotel/motel stays, material goods, street outreach, referrals, rent deposits, rent assistance, safe housing, utility deposits, and utility assistance.

Oak Ridge Housing Authority manages all three TORCH properties, and provides necessary support as the families work towards self-sufficiency and obtaining permanent housing. Currently TORCH staff state that are approximately 80 people that sleep outside each night in Anderson County. Please give generously so that TORCH can continue to do the vital work of alleviating homelessness in Anderson County.

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 **applesauce 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.

St. Stephen's Online Links

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