



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!

St. Stephen's is celebrating this year with a lot of events - There are several ways that you can participate. Here's the story: 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! Mark your calendars for Friday, October 24th, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. 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 on Oct. 24th, 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!

BUT EVEN BEFORE THAT, if you'd like to **DONATE CANDY** – From now until October 22nd, we will be collecting treats. Look for the collection wagons in the Nave and in the Parish Hall. Please note – all candy/food ideas must be prepackaged and not homemade (the city's rules!) The City is expecting 1200-2000 kids, so generosity is appreciated.

If you can help out, please contact Brittany Shassere at (865)789-9460 or at brittany.shassere@knoxschools.org. We appreciate any time you can give, even an hour helps!

Pumpkin Carving - THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, the Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a Pumpkin Carving Party after the 10:30 service. We will have some carving sets and pumpkins, but feel free to 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!

DOK Meeting - THIS SUNDAY

The Daughters of the King (DOK) will host their September meeting this Sunday, October 19th, from 12-1 pm in the Pollard Library. All Daughters are encouraged wear blue.

All women are invited to be involved with the Daughters of the King and meetings are open to all for those considering joining this Religious Order. 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 (brussellreed@yahoo.com).

Parish Breakfast - THIS SUNDAY

St. Stephen's Evangelism Hosts Parish Breakfast on Sunday, October 19th, from 8:30 to 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall. Parish members are invited to come enjoy a light breakfast, coffee, good conversation, and the opportunity to strengthen relationships within the church family. If you are interested in hosting a breakfast, please contact Brittany Shassere at brittany.shassere@knoxschools.org!

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.

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!

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

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.

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.

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!

- On November 8th, from 4:30-6:30 we are having Claws for a Cause - St. Stephen's first Lobster Fest. Our goal is to raise \$10,000, which we will donate to Grace Point and two local children's charities. Please support this inaugural effort by ordering lobsters. The menu includes steamed, fresh Maine lobster (1.25lb), drawn butter, hushpuppies, potato salad and coleslaw. The cost is \$35 if you are taking your meals away, and \$40 if you are dining under the tent in the Grove (will include beverage and dessert). For more information, please go to www.ststephensor.org/claws
 - 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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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 paraders 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!

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

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 Chef Boyardee, oatmeal packs and saltines. 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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