

September 20, 2024

Join Our Email List or download this week's bulletins on the website: [StStephensOR.org](http://StStephensOR.org)



### SERVICES

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

### UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday · Parish Potluck after 10:30 AM service on 9/22
- Sunday · Coffee and Conversation after services on 9/29

### ONGOING CHURCH EVENTS

- Sunday · Coffee, Treats, Fellowship  
Parish Hall · Post 8:00 AM Service
- Sunday · Lectionary Study for Adults  
Pollard Room 9:30 AM
- Sunday · Storytelling for Adults in the  
Parish Hall 9:30 AM
- Sunday · Sunday School · 9:30 AM
- Tuesday · Bible Study  
Pollard Room 10:00 AM
- Wednesday · Men's Group  
Pollard Room 8:30 AM
- Thursday · Contemplative Prayer  
Via Zoom 4:00 PM

### MINISTRY OF THE WEEK - Building and Grounds

Two of the many attractive elements of our parish are our beautiful grounds and our gorgeous facilities. Like your own home, they require constant upkeep - and more so due to their size and age. We are blessed to have Larry Hopson as our sexton, but his role is to take care of daily cleaning needs. Beyond that, the maintenance of the building and grounds is done completely by volunteers. We are always looking for people to help mow grass, pick up sticks, change light bulbs, occasionally fix a small leak, and generally keep our building in working order and good appearance. The team does NOT have committee meetings (whew!), but they gather as needed to do projects. Most jobs can be done on your schedule. So if you're interested in helping or becoming part of the team, contact our Building and Grounds chair Cleon Hartman at [facilities@ststephensor.org](mailto:facilities@ststephensor.org).



### This Month's Open Offering recipient is **Together Podemos**

**Together Podemos** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established in April of this year. Our mission is to ensure that the Hispanic community has fair access to the resources available in the area. In addition, we provide workshops and programs that offer knowledge in social, civic, legal, and financial matters, as well as an understanding of the distinctive factors of the community, to encourage adaptability, empowerment, and integration to the community.

St. Stephen's Website: [www.StStephensOR.org](http://www.StStephensOR.org)  
212 North Tulane Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830 · Phone: 865-483-8497  
Office Hours: Mon – Thu 09:00 am – 2:00 pm

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Although we are newly formed, Together Podemos has already made a significant impact. We were able to assist approximately 22 families and 62 individuals, providing them with the necessary resources and knowledge to improve their well-being.

Additionally, we have worked in collaboration with other organizations to aid two families facing homelessness. For the second year in a row, we partnered with the Anderson County School system during registration day to assist Hispanic families with the registration process by bridging the language barrier.

Please consider giving generously to Together Podemos. Your support will enable us to continue our vital work in alleviating the distress faced by the Hispanic community. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact. Together, we can create a brighter future.



### **Light Bulb Challenge!**

Speaking of light bulbs, our Building team is working on repairing or replacing all of the drop ceiling lights in our building. The vast majority of them are not functioning properly and, even when they do, are consuming a lot of electricity. To do all the work that is required, it will cost us around \$4500.

To help offset the cost to the repair and maintenance budget, we are asking individuals and families in St. Stephen's to consider contributing for one light. Each fixture (bulb and ballast) will cost \$60. We have 72 fixtures in the building. These upgraded bulbs and fixtures will both produce brighter light and help reduce electrical output. If you wish to make a donation, make sure to designate your gift as "Light bulbs" to St. Stephen's. Thank you for your consideration to help brighten up our spaces and make us a bit more energy conscious!



### **Blessing of the Pilgrims**

On Sunday, September 22nd during the 10:30 service, the eight members of our congregation who are walking the "final push" of the Camino will be receiving a blessing prior to their departure on the 28th. They will return home on October 7th.



### **It's Fall Y'all!**

Our next Parish Potluck will be following the 10:30 service on September 22<sup>nd</sup> – which is the first day of Fall. We will be having an Italian-themed Potluck, so bring out plenty of your favorite lasagna, pasta dishes, antipasti, salads, breads and desserts to share!

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### **CALLING THOSE WILLING TO HELP SHAPE THE MISSION OF ST. STEPHEN'S!**

Have you ever thought about sharing your gifts as a leader of the church? Do you want to be involved in shaping the future of our parish? Vestry is the "board" of any Episcopal parish that works with the Rector in managing the daily needs of the parish but also in shaping its long-term goals and vision.

At our Annual Parish Meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be electing four new Vestry members. We are looking for people who are interested in not only serving their parish but sharing and helping implement ideas for continued growth in our parish. We have a great group of people serving, and we want to continue to have a vibrant and energetic group. In addition to being willing to act as a servant leader, you must be confirmed with membership at St. Stephen's and be a financial contributor to the church.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact our Vestry representative Beth Reed or Fr. Bailey. Even if you are only thinking about serving, we would love to share more about what the Vestry does.



### **St Stephen's Financial Update**

As you know St Stephen's started the year with a budget that included a \$121,000 "Challenge" but through the efforts of many we are in the process of meeting this 'Challenge". Many Parishioners have responded with increased pledging and dedicated giving for specific projects and ministries. Additionally, we have been able to identify areas to become more efficient and cut our expenses, while at the same time increase our expected income through investments. However, as often happens during the summer months, our income has decreased to the point where year to date expenses are currently above our income. Although this has happened in the past, and is usually temporary, it creates a cash flow challenge which makes it hard for us to meet our day to day operational expenses as well as unexpected expenses such as the recent HVAC system repairs.

We ask that everyone prayerfully consider their financial commitment to help ensure that St Stephen's has the resources we need to continue to support our work for the Lord.



The **Blessing Box Requested Items** this week are: **Cans or pouches of chicken, tuna, beef.**



### ***Do you have news for an upcoming issue of The St. Stephens's Messenger (e-News)?***

Please send fully edited articles with all pertinent information, including dates, times, location(s), and contact information, to [editor@ststephensor.org](mailto:editor@ststephensor.org) by NOON on Wednesday. Content for The Messenger is determined in consultation with clergy and staff