

October 4, 2024

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SERVICES

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

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- October 6th · Blessing of The Animals
10:30 AM Service in the Grove
- October 13th · Celtic Service
5 PM @ FUMCOR

ONGOING CHURCH EVENTS

- Sunday · Coffee and Conversation
Parish Hall · *After Both Services*
- 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:

ADULT FORMATION

The St. Stephen's Adult Formation is a rich ministry of our parish. We are excited to be able to offer several different courses this year. Our Lectionary Class meets each week to take a deep dive into the day's Gospel reading. During this class, participants are able to experience the Gospel in a very personal way. Together, we explore the week's Gospel reading together as we ask the what, where, so what, and now what questions of each biblical passage from day's reading. This course meets each Sunday throughout the year starting at 9:30 in the Pollard Room.

Additionally, we are happy to be able to offer an additional course, Growing in Storytelling: How to Deepen One's Faith and Community Through the Art of Storytelling. This six-week mini-course focuses on understanding how our own story can help bring other's to Christ.. Through journaling and sharing about our experiences and personal stories, we learn about how the gift of storytelling can bring the knowledge of Christ's love into the world. This course meets at 9:30 in the Parish Hall.

Each Tuesday, Jim Rousey leads Bible study in the Pollard room. They are currently reading and discussing the Letters of St. Paul. This class meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 in the Pollard Room.

We are also planning on offering some online courses during the year- please stay tuned for more information!

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We would like to invite you to become part of an Adult Formation group here at St. Stephen's. There is a place for everyone to learn, grow, and connect. This ministry is vital in both building community within our parish, as well as building a deeper understanding of our faith. If you would like to know more, please email Emily Doane at fernwoodonthehill@gmail.com.



ANNUAL REPORTS AND VESTRY BIOS

Committee reports are now due for the annual report. They should be submitted electronically to the office (secretary@ststephensor.org) no later than Monday, October 7th. Additionally, those seeking Vestry nomination should submit their bios to the office by this date! Parish bylaws require that we publish Vestry bios two weeks before the annual meeting.

EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED as this will allow time for editing, proofreading and publishing.



PET CHURCH - BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS OCTOBER 6

As we did last year, the 10:30 service on October 6th will be transformed into Pet Church that day! Bring your dogs, cats, and pets of whatever ilk (as long as they are leashed or crated) to church that day in the Grove! If it rains, we will be inside the Nave!

For those who wish to avoid the animal menagerie, our 8:00 o'clock will be humans-only that day. And for those who'd really love to get their animals blessed but have rather skittish or anti-social pets (the Normans' dog Hank qualifies under the latter!), you have two options. Bring them at 9 that morning in the grove and Fr. Bailey will bless them. You may also contact Fr. Bailey to arrange a time for him to come out and bless your animals at your home sometime afterwards!

Everyone is invited to consider donating a bag of dog or cat food that will be donated to a local animal shelter.

We look forward to a fun morning of barks and meows adding to our joyful voices at church!



ADULT LECTIONARY STUDY CONTINUES!!!

While Fr. Bailey's Storytelling class will take a hiatus during fall break with youth and children's education, the adult lectionary class will continue to meet at 9:30 on Sundays in the Pollard Room. These are great conversations that go a little deeper into the gospel passage for that day. For these next two weeks, we welcome any kids or youth who would like to join us as well!



The first Sunday of the month means the **Open Offering** goes to the **Discretionary Fund**.

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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 Oct. 27th, 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.



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 CAMINO PILGRIMS

Please keep our pilgrims in your prayers as they wrap up their Camino Pilgrimage. They will attend the Pilgrim's Mass today (Oct. 6th) and return to the US on the 7th. We pray for safe travels home, and look forward to hearing about the experience!



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

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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.



HALLWAY MURAL

As you have likely noticed, an exciting transformation is underway in the downstairs hallway at St. Stephen's! Local artist Gale Hinton, who has painted in most of the elementary schools in Oak Ridge and the surrounding area (and in our own nursery and children's bathroom), was engaged on the recommendation of the Envisioning Committee to "warm up" the freshly painted hallway with a mural of select stories from the Bible. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the mural, please donate online, via the Connect app, or give a check or cash with a note designating the funds for the hallway mural. And stop by to say hello to Gale. She's a delight!



SUPPORT HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF

While there are numerous ways to help those devastated by Helene's winds and rain, Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) is an organization that is trustworthy and effective in assisting communities in need. If you would like your dollars to go directly to the work on the ground, please go to www.episcopalrelief.org and click on DONATE!



The **Blessing Box Requested Items** this week are: **oatmeal, cereal, cereal bars, juice boxes/packs.**



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 by **NOON** on **WEDNESDAY**. Content for The Messenger is determined in consultation with clergy and staff.