

September 27, 2024

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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

· October 6th · Blessing of The Animals
10:30 AM Service in the Grove

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 - CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

One of our fastest growing areas at St. Stephen's is our Children and Youth ministries! You may have noticed an increasing number of kids in our services, more babies and infants, and Sunday school classes which regularly have a strong number of kids. Our brilliant Christian Education director, Sherry Burchfield, retired from the position after last school year. But our volunteer co-chairs, Ashley Hillis and Linda Twohig, haven't missed a beat in making sure we have healthy and vibrant programs for our kids.

The greatest strength and necessity of our Christian Ed program is having widespread support from all the adults of the congregation. It starts with encouraging and lifting up our kids in their life in the church. But we are ALWAYS looking for more adults who can help with Sunday school, nursery, and Children's Chapel. If you are a parent looking to learn more about our program or an adult who is interested in helping, please contact Ashley at ashleyjones51319@gmail.com or Linda at twohiglinda@gmail.com.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ON HIATUS FOR FALL BREAK

As Oak Ridge schools enter fall break this weekend, our Christian education programs for youth and children will be off the next two Sundays 9/29 and 10/6. We will return on 10/13!

St. Stephen's Website: 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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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!



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.

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

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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

Please keep our pilgrims in your prayers this week as they walk the "Final Push" of the Camino. They will complete their pilgrimage (117K) on Saturday, October 5th and will attend the Pilgrim's Mass on October 6th. They return to Oak Ridge on October 7th.



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.

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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!



The **Blessing Box Requested Items** this week are: **Laundry Detergent, Bar soap and Canned/Pouched meat.**



Do you have news for an upcoming issue of The St. Stephen'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.



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