



212 North Tulane Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-483-8497 www.StStephensOR.org

eNews for January 10, 2025

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

ONGOING CHURCH EVENTS

Sunday · *After Both Services* · Coffee and Conversation
Parish Hall
Sunday · 9:30 AM
Lectionary Study for Adults · Pollard Room
Advent Study · Room 209
Sunday School · Aged Rooms
Tuesday · 10:00 AM · Bible Study · Pollard Room
Wednesday · 8:30 AM · Men's Group · Pollard Room
Thursday · 4:00 PM · Contemplative Prayer · Via Zoom

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 12 – Celtic Service **AT ST. STEPHENS**
Jan 12 – Feast of the Three Kings (*see below*)
Jan 19&20 - Persisting in Unity and Respect - The Legacy of
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
4:00 pm
Oak Valley Baptist Church
194 Hampton Rd., Oak Ridge
Jan 20 - MLK celebration and awards, 9:45 AM
Historic Grove Theater, 123 Randolph Rd.
Jan 21 – Evangelism Committee Meeting 5PM Parish Hall
Jan 26 – First Monthly Parish Potluck of 2025
Feb 11 – Evangelism Committee Meeting 6PM Parish Hall
Feb 16 – Sweetheart Dance 5:30 – 7:30 Parish Hall

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY - From Fr. Bailey

As you all are aware, there is a forecast for snow accumulation beginning Friday afternoon this week. Due to the cold temperatures forecast throughout the weekend, snow and ice are likely to remain on the roads by the time we have church on Sunday.

My policy for hosting church in inclement weather is that, if it is safe for me to come in, I will be here to have church. However, whether or not we cancel services on Sunday morning, please use YOUR best judgment as to whether or not it is safe for you to come to church. Some of you live on less hilly areas in town; some of you have very treacherous roads you have to navigate. If in doubt at all, please remain at home. Your safety is the utmost concern.

If conditions are such that we need to cancel services, both an e-mail and a Facebook post will go out Sunday morning no later than 7 AM. If you do not see an e-mail, that means I will be here and, as such, we will have services for anyone who feels it is safe to come. Be prepared that we may not have a livestream since all of our AV ministers live on very hilly streets! The same applies to anyone who is scheduled to serve - do not try to come in if you feel it is too dangerous.

If you need - or you know of a parishioner who may need - any special assistance in preparation for the weather event, please call the church office and let us know.

In weather related news, Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church (ORUUC) is opening its warming shelter through the weekend for those without any warm shelter during these bitterly cold nights that are forecast. St. Stephen's parishioners have assisted in past years providing meals and taking shifts as chaperones. Anyone who is interested in volunteering, please contact them at ORUUCwarmingshelter@gmail.com

Celtic Service This Sunday

This Sunday January 12th is our Sunday to host the Celtic Contemplative service at St. Stephen's. It begins at 5 PM. This service, done in partnership with First United Methodist, is a service that emphasizes silent, meditative music, and an abounding emphasis upon the goodness of God's creation to help us worship in a way that is less formal than our "traditional" Sunday morning liturgy but equally as powerful. Please come and invite those who may be looking for a quiet space to reflect before God to come as well.

New Adult Ed - Instructed Eucharist Class To Begin THIS SUNDAY!

We will continue our wonderful Lectionary Study each Sunday! As an alternative, Fr. Bailey will be offering an extended Instructed Eucharist class beginning this Sunday at 9:30 in the chapel. What is an Instructed Eucharist? In years past, St. Stephen's has offered an "extended" Eucharist during regular service in which the priest pauses to teach and explain certain parts of the service and why we do things the way we do. In this class, we will take a piece of the Eucharist service each week, carry it out together, and then talk about the origins and meaning behind each part. Toward the end of the class (closer to Lent), we will host a Eucharist one evening with a dinner following that will emphasize what we have learned.

This class is open to everyone, especially to those newer to the Episcopal tradition. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Fr. Bailey at rector@ststephensor.org.

Feast of the Three Kings!

January 12th we will celebrate the Feast of the Three Kings in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service. We will be serving the traditional New Orleans' style Kings Cake, a French Galette des Rois and a Mexican Rosca de Reyes. There will be crowns to decorate as well. Come and join us as we begin the season of Epiphany!

Our first Monthly Parish Potluck of the year will be January 26th after the 10:30 service. Please bring one or two of your favorite potluck dishes to share with the parish family.

Daughters of the King Meeting

The Daughters of the King (DOK) will be meeting Sunday, Jan 12, from 12-1 pm in the Pollard Library. We will be focusing on the Spiritual Gifts we will strengthen for 2025 and celebrating the Feast of St. Agnes. All Daughters are encouraged wear blue and sit in one of the reserved pews in the front of the nave.

All women are invited to be involved with the Daughters and meetings are open to all. 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).

Loose Plate Offering

For January, the Open Offering goes to Brysonn's Closet Food Pantry.

Some of you may be unfamiliar with Brysonn's Closet, located in the old Anderson's Hilltop Market at the corner of West Outer Drive and Illinois Avenue. In the back of the Brysonn's Closet Thrift Store is a small food bank that serves over 100 individuals a month from Anderson, Roane and Morgan Counties.

The folks who come to Brysonn's are some of the poorest of the poor. After meeting with a caring worker, essential food items as well as pet food (if needed) and hygiene/cleaning items are given to the family. Brysonn's Closet is a non-profit totally supported by donations. All donations will be used by several Outreach members to purchase food, hygiene items, pet food, and cleaning supplies. These will then be taken to the Brysonn's Closet Food Pantry for distribution.

We hope you will support this wonderful ministry. If donating by check, please designate in the left-hand corner: Brysonn's Food Pantry.

Flower and Ambry Candle Charts

The 2025 flower and ambry candle charts are now posted on the bulletin board outside of the parish office. You may now sign up for the new year. Flower costs for two arrangements is \$85.00. The cost for ambry candle is \$5.00. This is a lovely way to contribute to our worship services.

Ecumenical Storehouse In January

It is St. Stephen's time again to volunteer at the Ecumenical Storehouse. The Storehouse volunteers will be needed again after the reopening on January 14, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 25. We have most shifts covered but always need reserve volunteers for service when someone is ill or otherwise unable to make their sign-up date. If you would like to volunteer on any of these dates, please contact Kathie Shearer at 865-660-0861.

Parish Pool Party

Please join us for a Free Parish Pool Party on Saturday, February 8th at the Civic Center Pool. We will gather in the Parish Hall at 5:00 for pizza and then head over to the pool to swim from 6:00-8:00. While only 50 can be in the water at a time, all are welcome! Lifeguards will be provided.

Blessing Box Requested Items

This week's requested items are: Instant Oatmeal, Canned Soup and Ramen Noodles.

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 Messenger is determined in consultation with clergy and staff.

STAY SAFE

AND WARM!