Saint Stephen's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

October 16, 2026

Greetings Friends!



Yesterday, October 15, was **the Feast Day of Teresa of Ávila**, a Spanish nun, mystic, and author who founded a reformed Carmelite community in 1562. She was also one of the first women to be named a Doctor of the Church.

Teresa lived in a time of religious and political conflict, where a woman's mystical experiences and spiritual authority were often viewed with suspicion. Yet she persevered, writing four major works that helped shift the emphasis **from intellectual arguments about God to an intimate, lived friendship with the divine**.

One of the best-loved prayers attributed to Teresa speaks to the enduring wisdom of her spiritual life:

> ***"Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things are passing, God is unchanging. Patience gains all; nothing is lacking to those who have God: God alone is sufficient."***

May we return to these words often, remembering that the circumstances of our lives are always changing, but the love of God is not.

For those of you who missed last Sunday's sermon by Rev. William Seth Adams, you can **read it here** or pick up a physical copy in the Narthex.

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#489 The great creator of the worlds
#573 Father eternal
#478 Jesus our mighty Lord

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Forum: Mutual Ministry Goals

October 18, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

This Sunday, October 18, we'll gather after church for **a conversation led by Senior Warden Chris Dorling, Junior Warden Anne Adams, and Vestry member Monty McGovern** on the mutual ministry goals of the parish and where the spirit is leading St. Stephen's.

2026 Women's Retreat: A Weekend of Friendship

The women's retreat was a lovely weekend of friendship, gratitude, and spiritual growth. Thank you to all who joined and helped make this gathering so meaningful!

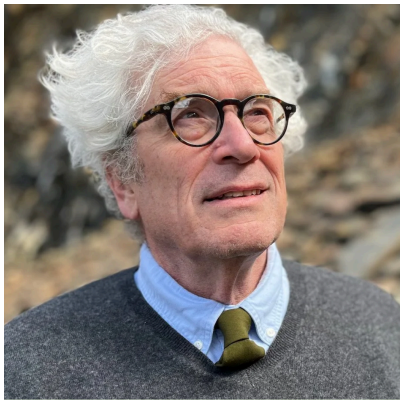




Stewardship 2027 Begins Next Week

Stewardship begins next week, and pledge packets will be on their way in the next couple of days. Our theme is **"Rooted in love, bearing fruit"** a reflection of our parish's mission to be a place of love, support, and community for our neighbors, ourselves, and our children. We look forward to another year of growing together, strengthening our community, and continuing the work of love and service that makes St. Stephen's such a special place.

Letter from the Palestinian Prison
David Wild, Executive Producer
October 25, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall



After church on October 25, we'll welcome Producer David Wild, where **he'll share his 12 minute film *Letter from the Palestinian Prison***, shot in the West Bank in 2025.

David says this about his film: "After years of watching films and reading books about the situation in Palestine, last September I decided to visit. I travelled there alone and my goal was to meet Palestinian Christians and bring a message back to my friends in Western Washington. I was pretty much alone -- the only visitor at the Jordan River Baptismal Site and by myself in the Tomb at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. I interviewed four amazing people who changed my life. Their grace under this apartheid is incredible. The message I brought back surprised me.

After screening the film, we will have a discussion. Some friends of mine who are much more familiar with the current situation can help answer questions about education, the legal system, land use and housing and pilgrimage. This is meant to bring awareness to the plight of our Palestinian brothers and sisters. It's not political — it is based on our common baptismal covenant 'to respect the dignity of every human being.'"

David Wild is a filmmaker based in Seattle. Learn more about David **here.**

Inurnment and Celebration of Life of Inez Swanson
October 27, 2:00 pm in the Chapel & 4:00 pm at the Broadmoor Golf Club



Inez Swanson's inurnment and celebration of life will be on **Tuesday, October 27**. The inurnment will take place in the St. Stephen's Chapel at 2:00 pm and the celebration of life will take place from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Broadmoor Golf Club (2340 Broadmoor Dr E, Seattle, WA 98112). All are invited to both events.

All Saints Day with Baptism

November 1, 10:00 am in the Nave



On Sunday, November 1, **we'll celebrate all Saints Day with the baptism of Maddie Rivera.** Come share this joyous occasion!



Sunday Forum: Finances and Budget

November 8, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

Join the community on Sunday, **November 8 for a conversation about the church budget** and how the church can invest in its ministries and service to the community in the coming year.

When Chess Pieces Come Alive by Elizabeth Clark-Stern

November 14, 2:00 pm in the Parish Hall



Our comedy, Elizabeth Clark-Stern's, **WHEN CHESS PIECES COME ALIVE** features a Black Pawn whose mispronunciations are corrected by a superior White Pawn, a Black Knight who quotes Shakespeare to his beloved White Castle, and a King who thinks he is the most powerful monarch in the world, even though he can only move one square at a time! When George the Mastiff exercises his appetite for small wooden things, the Chess Pieces are thrown into chaos. **Must they continue to die in every game? Can the rules be changed? Can they embrace love instead of war?**

What: When the Chess Pieces Come Alive by Elizabeth Clark-Stern
When: Saturday, November 14th @ 2pm. Doors open at 1:30.
Where: St. Stephen's, Parish Hall.
Cost: Free! Suggested donation to St. Stephen's: $25.

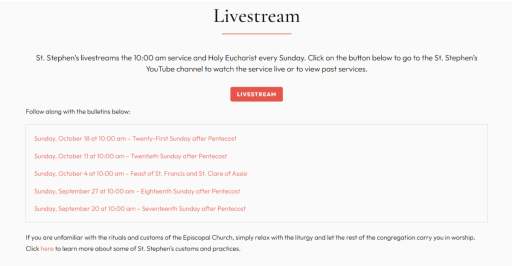


Liturgical Minister Training

November 22, 11:30 am in the Nave

This training prepares volunteers to assist with worship services through theological reflection, role instructions, and practical practice. **Liturgical ministers include anyone who serves on the altar guild, acolytes, eucharistic ministers, lectors, and intercessors.**

New Webpage: Livestream



The St. Stephen's website now features **a webpage with a bulletin archive, a link to the YouTube livestream, and a guide to Episcopal liturgical customs customs.** You can navigate to the page "Livesteam" under the Spiritual Growth menu if you'd like to view past bulletins or services. The upcoming Sunday's bulletin will be uploaded ahead of time so you can follow along with the livestream if you know you won't be attending in person.

Community Bulletin Board

Laurelhurst Early Learning is always looking for new toys, activities and supplies. If you would like to purchase items that the school needs, please check out their **Amazon Wishlist**. Used items are also welcome. Thank you for your continued support!

There are now 5x7 inch flyers for Laurelhurst Early Learning located on the Narthex table. It would be a great help if everybody grabbed a few to **distribute to local businesses and families.** The staff of LEL thanks you!

Laurelhurst Elementary has three school tours coming up in the next few months! These are a great way for incoming kindergarten families to get to know the school. If you know any families with elementary-age students, tell them to mark their calendars for:

Monday November 7, 6-7pm
Monday January 11, 6-7pm
Thursday January 14, 3-4pm

Coming Up at St. Stephen's

Sundays 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Coffee Hour (Nave and Parish Hall)
Sundays 3:00 pm Youth Group Food Program (Narthex)
Tuesdays 11:00 am Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action (Parish Hall)
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall)
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (Vestry Room)
Thursdays 6:30 pm Choir Practice (Nave)

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The Rev. Jennifer King Daugherty, Rector
(206) 331-2364
RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org

Claudia Basile, Parish Administrator
(206) 522-7144
cbasile@ststephens-seattle.org

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church | 4805 NE 45th Street | Seattle, WA 98105 US

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