Saint Stephen's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

September 25, 2026



Greetings!

This Sunday's Gospel reading from Matthew features the Parable of the Two Sons. In the story, the father asks his sons to work in the vineyard. The first son says he will not, but later goes. The second son says he will go, but does not.

Andreĭ Mironov's painting *Parable of the Two Sons* (2013) depicts the two brothers and the different paths they chose. Jesus says that prostitutes and tax collectors -the "outcasts" of society- followed the path of righteousness because they listened to John, while the "respectable" members of society did not. Jesus therefore tells the religious leaders that the tax collectors and prostitutes are "going into the kingdom of God ahead of [them]." **The parable challenges us not to judge faith by appearances or social standing, but by our willingness to listen, learn, and change.**

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#435 At the name of Jesus

#460 Alleluia, sing to Jesus

#467 Sing my soul His wondrous love



Blessing of Animals on the Feast of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi

October 4, 11:00 am on the Front Lawn

After the service on October 4, we will **gather outside on the front lawn** on the feast of St. Francis and St. Clare to give thanks for creation and our animal companions. We will **welcome our neighbors and bless all animals** who attend. Invite your friends and bring your beloved pet to this joyful event! If your pet is too shy, feel free to bring a photograph and we will bless them in absentia.

Also, take a peek at our new Blessing of the Animals banner. You may recognize a familiar face!

Final Call: Register Now for the Women's Retreat!

Encountering the Divine Feminine

October 9-11, 2026 at Sacred Waters Center for Restoration and Retreat

Learn about the Women's Retreat on our webpage and register here. Rev. Jennifer and Victoria Scarlett, a scholar and teacher about sacred art, will **explore the divine feminine through image and story**. The retreat begins Friday at 5 pm and concludes Sunday at noon. The cost is $300 per person, with scholarships available. Learn more about Victoria Scarlett and her talks **here**. Contact **Kathy Graunke** for more information.

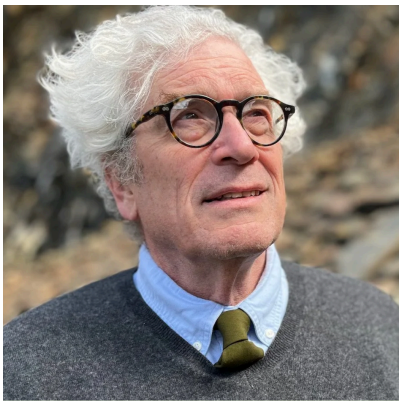


New Date! Sunday Forum: Mutual Ministry Goals

October 18, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

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





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. After the screening, there will be an opportunity to ask questions about the film and learn more about supporting peace in the Land of the Holy One. Learn more about David **here.**

All Saints Day with a 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!** After church, we'll commemorate the occasion with cake, so mark your calendars!





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.



New Date! 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.**

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!

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 (Duchess Tavern)
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (Vestry Room)
Thursdays 6:30 pm Choir Practice (Nave)

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