

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*Directory of parish activities & programs*



**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
66 St. Stephen's Drive  
Orinda, California 94563  
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(925) 254-3770**

## **Welcome to St. Stephen's**

The people of St. Stephen's are dedicated to building a warm and caring Christian Community in which you will find a welcoming home.

The activities and programs you find listed in this brochure are designed to help people gain a better and more personal knowledge of God in their lives, and to discover ways by which we can share our love of God with others.

We invite you to consider how you can participate in any of the activities and programs of the parish, and we hope you will become an active part of our community. It is often surprising to those that volunteer how rewarding and enjoyable it can be to establish a connection with other members of your community. The newcomer, the old hand, people simply looking for community; getting involved is a choice that can be as limited or involved as you like. Take a look at this list of the things that we have going on and think about showing up to something to see if it is a fit. We are all busy, but a connection with our community can add a dimension to your daily life that you hardly thought existed.

**Welcome!**

### **Worship Services**

#### **Sunday**

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II with music  
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II with music and Choir  
10:00 am – Church School, Grades K-8

#### **Monday through Friday**

7:00 am – Morning Prayer (Chapel)

#### **Wednesday**

10 am – Holy Eucharist with Service of Healing (Chapel)

### **St. Stephen's Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence S. Hunter, Rector  
The Rev. Mary L. Hudak, Associate  
The Rev. Thomas K. Trutner, Associate  
The Rev. Janet M. Holland, Associate  
Robert Train Adams, Minister of Music  
Brenda Free, Parish Administrator  
Roxanne Rhoades, Children's Minister  
Shannon Eng, Youth Minister  
Karen Patera, Preschool Director  
Raj Velu, Sexton

**Abundance** - The Abundance Committee is responsible for ensuring that the institution of St. Stephen's has the financial and time and talent resources it needs to perform its mission.

**Acolytes** - The acolytes at St. Stephen's are an important part of the liturgy, assisting the clergy in conducting the service and acting in a leadership role among the congregation. Anyone 11 years or older is welcome to participate in this ministry where friendships are easily formed.

**Adult Formation** - Various adult education programs are offered during the course of the year. You will find these announced in our weekly electronic newsletter – The Happenings and in the weekly Sunday Paper.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - A.A. groups meet at the Church during the week. Additional information is available through the Church Office.

**Altar Guild** - The Altar Guild is dedicated group, preparing the sanctuary for all services held in the Church. Altar Guild teams serves every six weeks. Membership in the Altar Guild is by invitation from the Rector.

**Flower Guild** - Part of the beauty of the church at our Sunday services is the floral arrangements behind the altar and frequently elsewhere in the church. The flowers are purchased and arranged by the very talented women of the St. Stephen's Flower Guild. Parishioners who dedicate flowers to commemorate a special occasion pay for the flowers. These are printed in the Sunday Bulletin.

**Angel Project** - The Angel Project was founded in 1998 to aid families in our area with both food and gifts during the holiday season. This is a parish wide outreach project where we provide numerous families with Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas presents, Easter Baskets and School supplies.

**Bible Study** - This group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 12:15 to Noon with brown bag lunches. We look at what contemporary commentaries have to say about scripture and compare it to what our experience has to say about it. We are studying the Gospels.

**Book Club** - The Book Club meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month and a book of interest is reviewed by one of the members. The program begins at 10 am and concludes by noon. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the discussion.

**Bridge Club** - The Bridge Club has four sections; two for women that meet during the day, and two for couples (twosomes) that meet in the evening. New members are always welcome.

**Caring is Sharing** - A special offering is received on the third Sunday of each month. All contributions go to outreach through Episcopal Relief and Development and the Pittsburg Food Pantry.

**Church School** - The St. Stephen's Church School program is provided for our younger parishioners. The Church School uses art, music, drama, and study to teach the children at St. Stephen's the elements of our faith and encourages them to live their Christianity on a day to day basis. During the school year, the Sunday morning schedule begins at 10 am with Church School classes for students from nursery through high school. At 10:45 am, the children join their families in the church for Holy Communion. During the summer months, special programs are offered. Throughout the year, nursery care is provided for children 3 years and younger from 9:45 am until the worship service is over.

**Church School Milestones-** In addition to our regular curriculum for our children we will be having each age level participate in a “milestone” and which will be celebrated in church. The program will celebrate and highlight the children’s faith journey as they grow in age and knowledge.

**Confirmation Classes** - Confirmation classes are offered for adult and youth. There are a series of Classes that teach about the church they have been baptized into and more specifics regarding The Episcopal Church. The class explores spirituality, church history, Scripture and The Book of Common Prayer. The Class is offered to anyone in the eighth grade, plus adults who have not been confirmed or who would like a refresher course. At the end of the class, all who wish will be confirmed.

**Deanery & Diocesan Representatives** - St. Stephen's has seven parishioners who are elected to represent us at meetings of the Contra Costa Deanery (the Episcopal Churches in the area) and the Diocese of California Annual Convention.

**E-Script** - Please join the people of St. Stephen's supporting this powerful fundraising program. It is a no hassle, no cost way for us to support our programs. Safeway and over 150 merchants have created a system that rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to St. Stephen's.

**Finance Committee** - The dedicated members of this committee keep St. Stephen's running efficiently from a financial perspective. They prepare and implement the annual budget and report on activity to the Vestry and the parish.

**Garden Club** - The gardens and grounds of St. Stephen's are lovingly maintained by the faithful contributions of the Garden Club members. The Club's meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month to work in the gardens.

**Greeters** - Each Sunday our greeters position themselves by the front door before and after the service to offer a warm welcome and any help that a newcomer or visitor may seek.

**The Happenings** - The St. Stephen's weekly newsletter is emailed to everyone in the parish who has provided the office with their email address. It contains notices of upcoming parish events, announcements, and a monthly article by the Rector. It also has relevant links to important information.

**Hospitality Team** - We are a team of people that work together to provide refreshments for the coffee hour after Sunday morning church. In addition, a subset of this group oversees the big, all parish dinners.

**Intercessory Prayer** - The Intercessory Prayer Group was formed more than 30 years ago to pray daily for the needs of all who ask for prayers. Names stay on the list for one month. If more prayers are needed, please request they be added again. The group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday following Holy Communion. All are welcome to join this group.

**Lay Ministers** - The presence of lay people at the altar on Sunday mornings affirms the ministry of all the baptized. Lay readers and Chalice bearers assist the clergy at our worship services. Volunteers for these ministries receive training by the clergy of the parish.

**Library** - St. Stephen's library, located behind the stage adjacent to the youth room, contains books, articles, papers, DVDs, and CDs on theology, the Bible, church history, counseling, religious reference and other pertinent subjects.

**Memorial Garden Chapel** - The Memorial Garden Chapel, located between the church and the rectory, is the garden setting for weddings, baptisms, blessings of the animals, and other celebrations.

**Memorial Garden Columbarium** - The columbarium provides a final resting place for remains of parish members and family.

**Music Program** - We have a very active Music program at St. Stephen's. The Chancel Choir concentrates on the more challenging repertoire in church music – and there is great variety. The choir leads the 10 am service and provides music for Evensongs and special programs at Christmas and Easter. The Westminster Chimes is our hand bell choir. They meet at 10 am on Friday mornings. The bell choir performs generally every six weeks.

**Member Development Committee** - The Committee assures that new members to the Parish are made to feel welcomed at St. Stephen's, providing new members with information and activities designed to integrate them into the Parish.

**Preschool** - St. Stephen's sponsors a very highly regarded preschool on the church campus five days a week, September through June, for children ages 24 months through kindergarten. The preschool is open to parish members and non-parish families. Preschool hours are 9:00a.m. until 12 noon.

**Operations and Maintenance** - The Junior Warden (a Vestry member), and the Building and Grounds Committee (a Vestry Committee) oversee the physical plant and grounds of the Church.

**Outreach Committee** - The Outreach Committee serves as the fundraising and outreach arm of the Parish, donating money, time and talent to various causes in our community and around the world. New members are always welcome. We strive to offer a variety of outreach opportunities for the whole parish.

**Parish Weekend** - Each May, the parish gathers at the Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg for a weekend of spiritual renewal and community fellowship in the magnificent surroundings of the Ranch. Activities are planned to allow for education, reflection, exercise, wining and dining and fun with one another. Families, couples, and singles of all ages consider this weekend a vital part of their spiritual development.

**Prime Timers** - This is a parish organization for active retired people and seniors that get together through out the year. The desire of the committee is that the group sponsor activities that have both a spiritual and a community building aspect.

**Sharing Wisdom** - All woman of the Parish are invited to join this informal group to share their wisdom and experience in a relaxed and confidential setting. Sunday mornings at 9 A.M. (between Sunday services).

**Shelter, Inc.** - is an independent charitable, nonprofit corporation originally created by the Contra Costa County Board of supervisors in 1986 to alleviate Contra Costa's homeless crisis. Once a year, St. Stephen's adopts the Shelter for a week, providing three meals a day, activities, and time with the residents.

**Society of the Cross/Planned Giving** - This parish program is designed to provide members with an opportunity to make long range plans for giving financial support to the parish through their estates.

**Sonshine Camp** - For one week, St. Stephen's conducts a Bible camp for parish and community children, ages 4 years to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. There are many opportunities to volunteer during this very special week at St. Stephens. Junior Counselors are welcome to help starting in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Stephen Ministries** - Stephen Ministers are a group of parish volunteers who have undergone at least fifty hours of training in order to provide a loving and Christian presence to parish members who are experiencing loss, a crisis, or are traveling through a difficult time in their lives.

**Ushers** - Ushers are members of the parish who volunteer at several Sunday services per year, helping to seat members and guests, collecting money, and providing assistance to the priests during the service.

**Vestry** - The Vestry of St. Stephen's consists of fifteen persons, nominated by the Vestry and elected by the members, to serve as leaders of the parish.

**Widowed Persons Support Group** - The Widowed Persons Support Group, Inc. is a volunteer organization, serving Contra Costa County and surrounding areas and providing grief support services to widowed persons. Meeting in groups on Saturday morning, on an individual basis when needed, and at a monthly lunch, the support group is lead by a trained facilitator. There is no charge.

**Youth Programs** - St. Stephen's offers a variety of youth programs and activities for those in the sixth through twelve grade. [For example: Sunday Morning Faith Formation during the 10am service, Milestones (Rite-13 & Confirmation), The Acolyte Team and Youth Outreach]. Each program is a part of our Christian Formation program for youth and young adults and provides our youth a wide variety of opportunities for involvement in the church and the community.