

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024 | THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Music at St. Stephen's today and next Sunday

We are delighted that after two years of planning, rehearsing, and fundraising, St. Stephen's Choir and the St. Stephen's Choristers are in southwest England on a choral pilgrimage with singers from River Road Church, Baptist. We are grateful for their hard work, for the support of so many in the parish and the larger community, and for this wonderful opportunity for them. While they are in England, we'll provide some online updates on Facebook and Instagram and in the **eSpirit**.

During their absence, we are grateful to have **Ingrid Keller**, well-known to those who attend the Celtic service and the Palmer Hall service, providing piano accompaniment and coordinating our other musicians during the Sunday evening service; and renowned organist **Ray Chenault** playing the organ for the 10 a.m. service. Thank you, Ray and Ingrid!

You have a role, as well: without our choir here to lead us during the 10 a.m. service, be sure to sing the hymns with gusto!

Our new website has launched

At last, St. Stephen's new website has launched! As with the previous site, you will find it at **ststephensRVA.org**. If you do not see the new pages, please know that even after a new site is activated, it can take some time for it to propagate on everyone's DNS (domain name system). It's a good idea to clear your cache, which prompts your browser to pull up the latest version of the site.

The new website includes an introductory page with FAQs and a video to help you find your way around, though the navigation is designed to be simpler and more intuitive than the previous site. We are also offering some sessions where you can ask questions about how the site works and where to find things; the sign-ups are linked from this same page (look in the color bar at the top left of the home page).

Of course, no website is ever "finished." We will continue to edit and update the new pages and your questions and comments will help this process. Enjoy exploring the site!

Seasons of the Spirit is available!

Seasons of the Spirit is St. Stephen's printed magazine. We have not been on a regular publication schedule during the past year as we reallocated funding and staff resources to the creation of a new website. This summer, however, we have published a "Ministry Update" edition as we did last summer. **Please note that the distribution of this periodical changes with this issue.** We have placed copies of the printed magazine on tables throughout the parish house and at Westminster Canterbury and Cedarfield for you to pick up, but we will not mail it to everyone in our parish database, saving the church a significant amount of money at a time when postal mail delivery is inconsistent at best. A PDF version of the magazine is also available online. We've sent an email to those in our ACS database and on the **eSpirit** list with a link to the digital edition. **And please note that those who are not able to come to church in person will still receive mailed copies.** If you wish to receive a mailed copy, please call the parish office at 804.288.2867.

Being good neighbors

When you come to St. Stephen's Church for the farmers market, worship services, or other events where you elect to park on one of the streets around the church, please do not park in such a way that a resident's access to their driveway is impeded, even slightly. We want to be good neighbors to those who share these city blocks with us. Thank you!

Are you new to St. Stephen's? Visiting?

We'd love to welcome you personally. It helps us get to know you better if you fill out a visitor card. If you prefer to do this digitally (or there's no visitor card near your seat), just scan the code and take it from there. If you take this newsletter home (we hope you will!) you can scan the code and complete the form later.





Support your church all year (including this summer)

We hope you're having a wonderful summer. If your plans include being away, please remember that your church's expenses do not take a vacation, so when pledge payments slow down during the summer, it can be difficult to stay current with the church's bills. Setting up online bill payments on our website (ststephensRVA.org/give) or through your bank's online bill payment system will keep you current, and will help you avoid post office delivery delays. Need help setting up online payments? Contact Susan McNamara (smcnamara@ststephensRVA.org) or Fred Staley (fstaley@ststephensRVA.org) for assistance, or call 804.288.2867.

Giving statements are on their way to you

Statements for gifts made to St. Stephen's from January 1 through June 30, 2024 are on their way to you in the U.S. Mail. (If you've asked that your statements be sent to you electronically, please be aware that we have paused that option until we implement our new church management system, so all statements at this time are hard copies sent via U.S. Mail.) Statements were mailed on Thursday. If you have questions after you receive yours, please contact Susan McNamara in the parish office, 804.288.2867 or smcnamara@ststephensRVA.org.

Welcome, icon writers and VBS participants

Two annual events take place at St. Stephen's Church this week and next.

This week we welcome iconographer Suzanne Schleck and 25 registrants for our **annual icon workshop**. Students include parishioners, people from the wider community, and even folks from out of town; some are returning participants, while others are new to this ancient spiritual practice and our workshop. Suzanne guides students through a step-by-step process over the course of the week that allows them to create an icon regardless of whether they have artistic skills or experience. Each day begins with Morning Prayer and the anointing of hands. The week is such a moving and satisfying journey that the workshop fills quickly every year when registration opens, and there is always a waiting list. We are grateful to be able to offer this opportunity.

Next week, **Vacation Bible School** will take place at St. Stephen's. More than 40 children are registered for this event, along with nearly 60 youth and adults who will work with our staff—sextons, family ministry and other staff, and clergy—to make it happen. What an incredible intergenerational community! This year's theme is *Seekers in Sneakers*: we'll be on a hunt to discover the treasures of the Bible while walking with Jesus in faith and hope. This journey of discovery has many twists and turns, and children will learn to ask questions, work with others, and shine their light in the world. We'll talk about serving others and trusting Jesus when things don't go as hoped. Thank you to all who are making this joy-filled week possible.

For your fall calendar

It's the height of summer, but we want to be sure St. Stephen's golfers and golfing buddies have us on their dance card for the fall. The annual St. Stephen's golf tournament benefiting outreach ministries is on the calendar for **Wednesday, October 2**. Once again it will be held at Belmont Golf Course and we're delighted that fees for the tournament will not increase over those for 2023. Registration and other details are on our new website.

Please help keep our pantry stocked

CANNED SOUP, CEREAL

Did you know that even with your generous donations of food, as well as donations from farmers market vendors, we must purchase food from FeedMore (the central Virginia food bank) to meet the demand for food assistance? If you'll be away this summer, please consider bringing extra canned and boxed food before you leave town. Right now we especially need **canned soup and cereal**, and we always welcome fresh apples, oranges, and bananas for the fruit ministry, and plastic and paper bags with handles.



Stay in touch all summer

For many people, summer is a time to travel or spend weekends at the river, the beach, or in the mountains; don't lose touch with your church! If you are not subscribed to the **eSpirit** or the family ministry newsletter, sign up so you'll know what's happening even if you're out of town. Scan the QR code to subscribe.



School supplies for Anna Julia Cooper School

We are collecting school supplies for the students of Anna Julia Cooper School, a tuition-free East End school which serves elementary and middle school students. You can drop off supplies at the outreach table throughout the summer. The school asks us to focus on collecting the following items. Thank you for your support of our valued partner!

- 1" binders
- Pencils (Ticonderoga brand preferred)
- Dry erase markers (Expo brand preferred)
- Cardstock
- Markers
- Tissues

Serving at Fairfield Court Elementary School

Would you like to make a difference in a young child's life? Consider serving at Fairfield Court Elementary School beginning in late August.

St. Stephen's Church has a long history of sending parishioners to serve as lunch buddies or tutors/mentors to students in this East End school. No background in teaching is necessary, just the desire and ability to connect to a young child who would benefit from additional support and attention.

Those who are new to this role at Fairfield must complete a one-hour orientation class (by Zoom or in person) and undergo a background check by Communities in Schools (CIS). After that, you will meet with the on-site CIS coordinator to discuss the activities and grade levels that would be most suitable for you, as well as what days of the week or times of day work with your schedule. A weekly commitment of 1-2 hours is suggested. If you are interested, send an email to Linda Carpenter at outreach@ststephensRVA.org.

This pastoral care ministry has expanded

St. Stephen's prayer shawl ministry began many years ago with a group of knitters gathering in the lounge each week after the Wonderful Wednesday supper. The group would open with prayer, then set about knitting or crocheting colorful shawls to be shared with those who were ill, recovering from surgery, homebound, or who for whatever reason would benefit from a tangible expression of the parish's care for them. Over the years the group has adapted to changing circumstances—most notably the pandemic—and knitters have created shawls at home and

brought them to church to be blessed and distributed. Now this ministry has expanded to include quilters who make lap quilts that serve the same function as the prayer shawls. Whether you knit, crochet, or sew, you are welcome to join this ministry. You may work on your pieces at home or in a group at church. To learn more, please contact Mary Feldman in the parish office, mfeldman@ststephensRVA.org, to be put in touch with Anne Townsend (knitters) or Brooke Davila and Bonnie Wilson (quilters).

It's the most wonderful time of the year...

SATURDAYS, 8 A.M.-NOON

The Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's is operating on its summer schedule, with an 8 a.m. opening time. The market continues to be open until noon. Remember that **our market is open Saturdays year-round**; the hours adjust to the season.

It's "high season" at the market, with tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, berries, melons, beans, and much more, all locally grown. There are also bakers, prepared food vendors, flower farms, and artists and artisans. When you shop at the market, you reduce your carbon footprint by buying local, while supporting small businesses based in our community and our region. While you're here, you can also visit the May Fair House and the Café @ St. Stephen's, both of which are open during market hours.

Men's prayer groups

Small groups of men gather at St. Stephen's weekly for prayer and fellowship. No registration is required for these groups, which meet Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the lounge, and Fridays at 8:15 a.m. in the library.

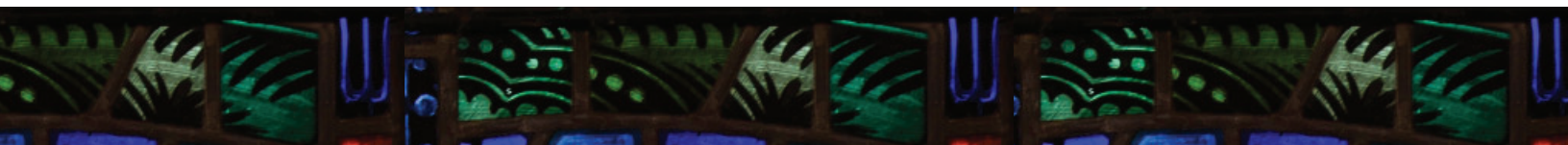
Looking for a sermon or reflection?

Did you know that videos of sermons and reflections given during our morning and evening services are available online? The easiest way to find them is to scroll to the bottom of each edition of the **eSpirit**, where you'll find links to videos from the previous Sunday.

You can also visit our Vimeo page at <https://vimeo.com/ststephensRVA> and type the name of the preacher or reflector into the search bar. Or go to our website and find the sermons/reflections archive in the Worship and Music tab.

Coffee, tea, art, wifi: stop by our café

Remember to visit the Café @ St. Stephen's, where you can enjoy the AC indoors, umbrellas and shade trees outdoors, freshly brewed Rostov's coffee or tea, hot or iced, and the full range of espresso drinks, made to order. Snacks, exhibits by local artists, and free wifi make it even more welcoming. Follow us on Instagram: [@thecafeRVA](https://www.instagram.com/thecafeRVA). Hours: Monday/Wednesday, 8-11 a.m.; Tuesday/Thursday/Friday, 7-11 a.m.; Saturday: 7:30 a.m.-noon (May-October), 8:30 a.m.-noon (November-April); café phone: 804.288.3318





Parish Staff

To reach a staff member, call 804.288.2867 or send an email using the initial and name provided in parentheses, with [@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:ststephensRVA.org). The number for May Fair House is 804.282.3004; the Café can be reached at 804.288.3318.

- Betsy Anderson, *May Fair House Manager*
- The Rev. Cate Anthony (canthony), *Associate Rector*
- Kitty Ball (kball), *Office Coordinator*
- Sarah R. Bartenstein (sbartenstein), *Director of Communication*
- Larry Bidwell (lbidwell), *Facilities Manager*
- Omar Catedral (ocatedral), *Sexton*
- Diana Chou (dchou), *Associate Director of Music*
- Matt Depaolis (mdepaolis), *May Fair House Cooking Coordinator*
- Chris Edwards (cedwards), *Director, St. Stephen's Choir*
- Mary Feldman (mfeldman), *Executive Assistant to the Rector and Vicar*
- Dillon Gwaltney (dgwaltney), *Communications Associate/Video Producer*
- Claire Hackley (chackley), *Parish Suppers Coordinator*
- Caroline Harris (charris), *Youth Ministry Coordinator*
- Ian Hayes, *Barista*
- Chris Holman (cholman), *Sexton*
- Jack Hotchkiss (jhotchkiss), *Sexton*
- The Rev. John Jenkins (jjenkins), *Associate Rector*
- Anna F. Jones (ajones), *Farmers Market Manager and Outreach Ministry*
- Wondell Kareem (wkareem), *Sexton*
- The Rev. Abby Kocher (akocher), *Director of Children's Ministry*
- Susan McNamara (smcnamara), *Finance and Administrative Assistant*
- Robin Raver (rraver), *Café Manager*
- The Rev. John D. Rohrs (jrohrs), *Rector*
- Thatch Rudolph, *Barista*
- The Rev. William L. Sachs (bsachs), *Associate Rector*
- Fred Staley (fstaley), *Executive Director of Church Operations*
- The Rev. William S. Stanley (wstanley), *Vicar*
- Brent te Velde (btevelde), *Director of Music*



Our Missionaries in Argentina

- Heidi Schmidt
- Monica Vega

Dogwood Preschool

804.665.4902

Kate Batten, *Executive Director*

Elizabeth Sykes, *Program Director*



Vestry

Serving until 2/2025

- Jeff Johnson, *Junior Warden*
- Andy Luke
- Brenda McDowell
- Anne Pinion, *Senior Warden*
- Whitney Van Der Hyde,
Register

Serving until 2/2026

- Robert Birdsey
- Kathy Brock
- John Crowder
- May Fox
- Mary Ashburn Pearson
- Christopher Smith, *Treasurer*

Serving until 2/2027

- Bill Davis
- Katherine Farley
- Greta Kidd
- Nan O'Connell
- Gayle Royals
- Randy Seibert

