

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 | THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday Forum series, 'Journey inward, journey outward,' features guest speaker today

As we move toward Holy Week and the mystery of Easter, the series which began last Sunday explores the inseparable creative tension between the inward and outward journey of the Spirit. This series is meant to be both practical and inspiring.

The Rev. James Marsh is a leader from the Church of the Saviour in Washington, D.C. In conversation with the Rev. John Jenkins this morning, he will share stories of the generative power of God's grace unleashed through a particular church community's commitment to the journey inward and the journey outward. These stories invite us to reflect on our journey inward and outward as a church in Richmond, Virginia. Jimmy is also the reflector at the Celtic service this evening.

Next Sunday, the last Sunday in Lent, we will conclude the series and the season with a structured time for thoughtful reflection and conversation, gathered around tables. The clergy will provide questions and facilitation as we revisit and reflect on themes and insights gleaned from topics we have explored in the Forum throughout this season.

Children, youth, parents take part in an outreach event this morning

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 30 | 10:10 A.M.

This morning, children, youth and parents are invited to take part in an intergenerational outreach project in Room 14 (top floor of the parish house). We will fill Easter bags with items for an Easter dinner and crafts for young ones, and the bags will be distributed through our food pantry. This event takes the place of our regular Sunday morning formation, so there is no Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, youth Bible study, or Many Parents, One Vine today.

Brent te Velde, Diana Chou to give Bach organ recital this Friday

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 AT 7 P.M.

In celebration of Johann Sebastian Bach's 340th birthday, Brent te Velde and Diana Chou will present selected organ works by Bach. As a complement to the class taught by Dr. Christopher Lindbloom on Lenten hymnody, the program will include chorale preludes by Bach, setting some of the Lutheran chorales discussed in the class. The program will also include a variety of his most remarkable free works for solo organ, showcasing the life and legacy of the greatest composer for the organ.

Easter flower memorials

DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 7

Many people like to remember family or friends at Easter with a flower memorial. When you make a donation to support the beautiful work of our talented flower guild in memory of a loved one, the name of that person is included in our Easter bulletins. To request a flower memorial, please visit ststephensRVA.org/flower-memorials. Be sure to use the *holiday memorial form* (not the regular Sunday memorial form).

St. Stephen's @ Shrine Mont registration is open

REGISTRATION OPEN THROUGH APRIL 14 | WEEKEND DATES: JUNE 27-29

A committee of parishioners and staff is hard at work planning the annual St. Stephen's weekend at Shrine Mont, whose 2025 theme is "Living Hospitality." We are making a special effort to invite and encourage those who are new to St. Stephen's to attend. It's a great way to get to know one another, whether you've never been to Shrine Mont or you have been going for years, if you're brand new to this church or you are a lifelong member. Details and registration: ststephensRVA.org/shrine-mont.

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.





Join us for two clergy weddings!

What joy! Two weddings involving our clergy will take place at St. Stephen's Church soon. The Rev. Will Stanley, our vicar, and Mr. Will Ferguson will marry here on Friday, May 9 at 4 p.m. The Rev. Cate Anthony, associate rector, and Mr. Emery Rivera will marry here on Saturday, June 21, at 2 p.m.



The entire parish is invited to attend the weddings in the church and the receptions that follow. These occasions are family-friendly and children are welcome! It will be helpful to both couples to know how many parishioners to expect. To do that, visit ststephensRVA.org/clergy-weddings, where you will find RSVP links and additional information. (Please note that the parish office is not taking RSVPs. If you have questions, you may contact Will or Cate directly.)

Two ways to help with our Easter egg hunt

GOODIES DUE APRIL 13 | EASTER EGG HUNT APRIL 20

St. Stephen's Church will host an Easter egg hunt on Easter Day at following the 9 a.m. services. We will wait to begin the hunt until both services have concluded.

Will you donate treats? Please bring plastic eggs already stuffed with candy or non-candy treats by Palm Sunday, April 13. Our goal is to collect 1,000 stuffed Easter eggs. Donation receptacles are set up outside Palmer Hall near the parish office. If you are donating specifically allergen-free treats, be sure that the packaging is marked as such so that these can be made available to children with food allergies. Questions: Abby Kocher, akocher@ststephensRVA.org.

Can you help hide eggs on Easter morning between 9 and 10 a.m.? A sign-up link was included in the recent family ministry email newsletter, or you can visit ststephensRVA.org/children-youth. Volunteers will meet in the Palmer Hall annex at 9 a.m.



Program on Lenten hymns resumes this Wednesday

APRIL 2 AND 9 AT 6:30 P.M.

In 2022, Dr. Christopher Lindbloom gave a presentation on Advent hymns that was so well-received, we followed it with a Wednesday evening series on the same topic. This spring, Chris—a St. Stephen's parishioner—is leading a four-week series on hymns we sing in Lent. Last Wednesday the series took a break for the Wednesday evening concert featuring Sanctuary, and this week it resumes.

Chris' class includes discussion of Lutheran chorales we sing during Lent, some of the most beloved repertoire of our hymnody. No registration is needed for this class in Palmer Hall.



Protecting the James River

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 | 9:30 A.M. GATHERING, 10 A.M. PROGRAM

In anticipation of Earth Day, Matt Scott, director of education for the James River Association, will speak at St. Stephen's this Tuesday about the of caring for the James River in our community. The association has been working to protect the James for 50 years. Matt will explain how it is up to each person to participate in preserving this vital resource. No registration is needed for this free event which is sponsored by the Women of St. Stephen's and is open to all, women and men.



Jennifer Bousquet begins her ministry here on Tuesday

As we've previously announced, the Rev. John Rohrs has called Jennifer Bousquet to serve as our director of outreach and engagement, a position made possible by your generous support. We are excited that Jennifer will arrive this Tuesday. Please welcome her!

Farmers market moves back outdoors

SATURDAYS, 9 A.M.-NOON

The Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's is open indoors in the fellowship hall during the winter months (with some vendors remaining outdoors remaining outdoors in the parking lot). Beginning this Saturday, all vendors they move back outside for the spring, summer, and fall.



We're going to have a seminarian intern!

We are delighted that this June and July, Paige Trivett will be at St. Stephen's Church as a seminarian intern. Service as a seminarian intern is a required step for those in the ordination process in our diocese. Paige will function as a staff member during that time, working full-time to gain broad experience in parish life and ministry. The 2015 graduate of the College of William & Mary came to Richmond for an internship with the Episcopal Service Corps program, then spent six years as development & communications coordinator at Anna Julia Cooper School. She has also been on the Shrine Mont camps leadership staff. In 2023, she became a postulant for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Virginia and began her Master of Divinity studies at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas.

Spring Ministry Night

THURSDAY, APRIL 24 | 5:15-7:30 P.M.

A few times during the year, members of various standing committees of the vestry gather for supper, fellowship, and sharing about what is happening at St. Stephen's Church. This gathering time concludes with a simple worship service, after which individual committees may meet to discuss upcoming plans for their area of ministry. **Everyone is welcome at Ministry Night, whether you are on one of the committees or not.** This is a great way to learn about the various ministries happening here, and how and where you might plug in.

The spring ministry night takes place the week after Easter Day. If you plan to attend, please let us know so we'll know how much supper to prepare. The sign-up form is at ststephensRVA.org/ministry-night.

A reception for newcomers and visitors

THURSDAY, MAY 1 | 5:30-7 P.M.

The rector, staff and hospitality committee of St. Stephen's host periodic receptions for those who are new to this community of faith, and the definition of "new" is up to you. If you've recently joined St. Stephen's, or you have been away for a season, or you have visited but have not yet decided whether to make this your church home, please come to the next reception. RSVP at ststephensRVA.org/newcomer.

Do you wish to be confirmed, received, or reaffirmed? Please let us know!

We are delighted that Bishop Gayle Harris will visit St. Stephen's on **Sunday, May 18**. It is during the bishop's visit each year that you are invited to participate in the rites of confirmation for youth and adults, as well as reception of those from another tradition, and reaffirmation of baptismal vows for those who wish it. A more detailed description of these rites is available at ststephensRVA.org/confirmation.

continued

If you are an adult interested in to being confirmed, received, or reaffirmed in the Episcopal Church on May 18, please complete and submit a candidate registration form before **April 18, 2025**. There are two forms: one for adults, one for youth. Both are linked on the confirmation page of our website.

Operations director search: what to know

Fred Staley has left St. Stephen's for his new position in East Tennessee and we are conducting a search for his successor. For now his duties are being shared by current staff and Mike Koschak, who is working 10-15 hours per week on an interim basis. We are also grateful to have assistance from Maritza Hewitt in the front office on a temporary, part-time basis.

We have posted the position in a number of places, and while the search process is underway, you may wonder who can answer questions that Fred used to answer for you. These staff people are ready to help. Email addresses are first initial, last name @ststephensRVA.org.

Bequests: Susan McNamara

Contribution information: Susan McNamara

Dogwood Preschool: Larry Bidwell, John Rohrs

Endowment: Mike Koschak

Building use requests: Larry Bidwell, Kitty Ball

Stock transfers: Susan McNamara

A way to recycle your electronics

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 | 9 A.M.-NOON

Two St. Stephen's groups—young adults and the creation care committee—will host an electronics recycling drive in observance of Earth Day. We will fill a church bus with used electronics and deliver them to Tech 4 Troops, who refurbish electronics for veterans, and safely recycle what they cannot use. The drive will take place during the farmers market.

The following items are accepted:

- Working and non-working laptops with power adaptors
- Desktop computers
- Working flat-panel monitors
- iPads and tablets
- Cell phones
- Keyboards, mice, and other computer parts
- File servers and networking equipment
- Wiring (Cat5 and Cat6)
- Most other electronics, except those listed below

This year, we cannot accept:

- CRT monitors (the bulky old style)
- LCD TVs
- Printers, faxes, copiers, scanners
- Cracked monitors
- Batteries
- Appliances



Young adults: to help with this service project, scan the code.



Holy Week at St. Stephen's Church

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

7:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One (note earlier-than-usual time)+*

9 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two in Palmer Hall and in the main church; all will gather outdoors at the Three Chopt Road entrance to begin the service together+*

No Sunday morning formation on Palm Sunday

11:15 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two; meet outdoors at the Three Chopt Road entrance for the Liturgy of the Palms+*

5:30 p.m., Celtic Evensong and Communion+*

6:30 p.m., Sunday Community Supper in Large Fellowship Hall

8 p.m., Sung Compline+

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17

8:10 a.m., Morning Prayer and Communion+

5:30 p.m., Agape Meal in the fellowship hall

7:30 p.m., Holy Eucharist and Stripping and Washing of the Altar+

9 p.m.-8 a.m., All-Night Vigil in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit+

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

8:10 a.m., Morning Prayer and Communion from the reserved sacrament+

Noon, The Liturgy for Good Friday+

Stations of the Cross following the Good Friday service; 1:30 p.m. guided; time for self-guided tours between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Icons representing 14 places on Jesus' journey to the cross are placed on easels around the church. They are the work of Laura James, a renowned artist whose sacred art draws on the rich tradition of Ethiopian iconography. Booklets will be available with prayers for each station.

5 p.m., Good Friday Musical Offering+

Soprano Lauren Clay and countertenor Quinn Bitsas, with Baroque instrumentalists Janelle Davis, Chris Johnston, and Brady Lanier, will present Giovanni Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, a powerful setting of the 13th-century hymn commemorating Mary's suffering during the crucifixion. Solo organ music will also be offered by Diana Chou and Brent te Velde.

+Livestreamed *Child care available



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

6000 Grove Avenue | Richmond, Virginia 23226 | 804.288.2867
ststephensRVA.org | staff emails are at ststephensRVA.org/staff

OUR MISSION

Defining who we are and what we do

We are a community of hospitality, healing, and hope, sharing the love of Christ.

OUR VISION

Conveying our hopes and imagination

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." We gather at God's table to receive that bread and then we go out in love to share it with others, setting tables of hospitality, healing, and hope. Together, we aspire to a world where everyone has a seat at the banquet and all are fed.

OUR CORE VALUES

Our core values and characteristics are described on our website under the "About" tab.

They're also available in a printed form at Information Central.

—adopted by St. Stephen's Vestry, July 23, 2024

