

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025 | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday formation resumes today; new series begins in the forum

SUNDAYS AT 10:10 A.M. THROUGH MAY 11

Sunday morning formation for all ages resumes today:

- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (preschool through grade 5); top floor of the parish house
- Youth Bible study (grades 6 through 12); top floor of the parish house (Room 4)
- Many Parents, One Vine (parents of children and youth); top floor of the parish house (Room 14)
- Sunday Forum; fellowship hall

Today in the Sunday Forum we begin a series called “Embracing our mission,” and we’ll hear from parish leaders and reflect together on our mission to live as a community of hospitality, healing, and hope, sharing the love of Christ. This morning, the Rev. John Rohrs will introduce our new director of outreach and engagement, Jennifer Bousquet, through an informal conversation. They will be joined by Jean Hershey, co-chair of the outreach grants committee, and Liz Brown, co-chair of the Women of St. Stephen’s grants committee, who will describe the work they do to support community outreach.

On May 4, John and other church leaders will share an update on our parish ministries, finances, events, and goals for the coming months.

On May 11, clergy will kick off table conversations, inviting parishioners to reflect on our mission and consider how it inspires our lives and ministries – both individually and as a community of faith.

May 11 will be the last day for Sunday morning formation until the fall. The nursery will be open throughout the summer for children age 4 and younger.

This Thursday, a reception for newcomers and visitors

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

St. Stephen’s Church hosts periodic receptions for those who are new to this community of faith. If you’ve recently joined St. Stephen’s, you have been away for a season, or you have not yet decided whether to make this your church home, please come. RSVP: ststephensRVA.org/newcomer.

Spirituality of Aging listening sessions convene

MAY 4, MAY 8, MAY 12, MAY 14

At St. Stephen’s Church we honor the spiritual experiences of people of all ages. To that end, we are preparing to launch new Spirituality of Aging small groups and formation this fall. In preparation, we will convene a series of listening sessions to help facilitators and staff design a program to fit the needs of our community. Details for the listening sessions (times, locations, sign-up) are at ststephensRVA.org/senior-adults.

Questions: Cate Anthony, canthony@ststephensRVA.org.

Bishop Harris will be with us May 18

The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, assistant bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, will be with us next month for our annual episcopal visit (episcopal with a lower case e simply refers to bishops). Bishop Harris will preach and celebrate the Eucharist at both the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services. At the 11:15 service she will confirm, receive, or reaffirm adults and youth who have been preparing for these rites. Festive receptions will follow the services.

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 news-letter home (we hope you will!) you can scan the code and complete the form later.





Events for graduating seniors and families

SACRED PAUSE: APRIL 29 | 6-7:30 P.M.
SENIOR RECOGNITION: MAY 4 | 9 AND 11:15 A.M. SERVICES

We are excited to offer two events to celebrate and honor our graduating high school seniors. **Sacred Pause** provides a unique and intimate way for families to share this sacred moment before the crunch of exams, graduation gatherings, and parties. **High school seniors will be recognized**, presented with gifts, and formally blessed by the congregation at both the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services in the main church next Sunday. Please keep our graduating high school seniors in your prayers.

St. Stephen's youth going to Kings Dominion

SATURDAY, MAY 3 | 10:30 A.M.-6:30 P.M.

We're headed to Kings Dominion for the last youth group gathering of the school year. We will meet at St. Stephen's at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, and will be back at the church at 6:30 p.m. **Registration is open now and closes May 1, or when we reach our capacity of 24**, whichever comes first; scan the QR code to sign up. The cost is \$60 per person and includes admission to the park and a meal. Financial support is available; if needed, please contact Caroline Harris, charris@ststephensRVA.org, to make arrangements for assistance.



Farmers market now opens at 8 a.m.

The Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's is open Saturdays year-round. Beginning this Saturday, it will return to its spring-summer-fall hours, 8 a.m.-noon.



Final gathering for the Women of St. Stephen's for 2024-25

MONDAY, MAY 5 | 10 A.M.

Come to Roslyn, the diocesan retreat center on River Road, to close the program year with the Women of St. Stephen's. We'll begin with Holy Eucharist in the Bishop's Chapel and enjoy a light lunch afterwards. No registration is needed for this free event which is open to all. Please note that this gathering is on a Monday, not the usual day of the week for 'WOSS' events.

Thank you!

Thank you to ALL who made our Holy Week services so moving, and our Easter services such joyful occasions. In addition to our clergy, lay staff, and our amazing buildings and grounds team, we could not have provided such meaningful offerings without the following:

- Readers, acolytes, chalice bearers, subdeacons, vergers, lay eucharistic ministers, healing prayer ministers, ushers and greeters
- Singers and instrumentalists
- Altar guild, flower guild, and Celtic service set-up teams
- Participants in the all-night vigil
- Bulletin collators
- Easter egg hunt helpers and all who donated goodies
- Volunteers for the Agape meal and receptions
- Nursery workers and volunteers
- Donors to the flowers for Maundy Thursday and Easter services
- Everyone who came to worship
- Our photographer, Kim Schmidt



Weekly Bible study continues through mid-May

THROUGH MAY 15 AT 10 A.M.

In our weekly Bible study in Room 14, we are studying the books of Genesis and Exodus. As we marvel at the ancient world, we witness the origins of God's covenant with humanity and learn how to participate in God's covenantal life. No prior knowledge is necessary, nor is attendance at every session required.



Soft space moves Memorial Day weekend

When our summer schedule begins Memorial Day weekend (May 25), the service we hold in Palmer Hall Chapel will be on pause until the fall. Many families with young children appreciate the “soft space” offered in Palmer Hall, with a rug and cushions where children who need room to move can have a bit more freedom. Since children who use the soft space need to be accompanied by a parent, there are also chairs for parents in the soft space. During the summer, the soft space will move to the main church, where several pews in the back of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd will be removed temporarily to make room.

Spring and summer parish suppers

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH MAY 14
SUNDAYS YEAR-ROUND

On Wednesday evenings during the program (academic) year, St. Stephen's Church offers an informal parish supper in the fellowship hall. “Wonderful Wednesdays” are a great way to get to know others in this large parish, and the delicious suppers prepared by staff and volunteers provide time for families, couples and friends to reconnect at the supper table without having to plan, cook, or clean up.

The meal is served buffet style from 5:45 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The suggested donation is \$10 for older children (age 10 and up) and adults, \$5 for children age 9 and younger, and a family maximum of \$30.

The Wednesday suppers will continue through May 14, then take a break for the summer.

Sunday suppers take place year-round at 6:30 p.m. The supper is donation-based; pay what you can. (If you want to cover the cost of your meal and the staff who prepare food and clean up, that's \$10.) Many people like to donate over and above the cost of their meal, since some others are unable to donate. It all works out! Everyone is welcome, not just those who attend the Celtic service or Compline.

Support Dogwood Preschool at the Blossom Bash

MAY 2 | TICKETS ON SALE NOW

On Friday, May 2, Dogwood Preschool will host its annual fundraiser, Blossom Bash, in St. Stephen's courtyard. This adults-only event will feature live music, River City Wood Fire Pizza, Jiji's Frozen Custard, and a fabulous silent auction.

Dogwood raises funds each year to fulfill student financial aid requests, support teacher professional development and fund wishlist items like the playground improvements happening this summer. We are so grateful to have this preschool on our campus. Show your support by participating in this wonderful event. Tickets are on sale now at <https://givebutter.com/c/blossombash2025>.

Music notes

Earth Day, held annually on April 22, demonstrates support for environmental protection. It was first proposed in 1969 by activist John McConnell as a day to honor the earth and the concept of peace, and was first observed on April 22, 1970. It is now observed internationally, and the celebration of its 50th anniversary, Earth Day 2020, was marked by more than 100 million people, the largest online mass mobilization in history.

Several of our musical selections for today's services were chosen in recognition of Earth Day. These include the Hymn Choir's offertory anthem at the 9 a.m. service, “For the fruit of all creation,” and St. Stephen's Choir's offertory anthem at the 11:15 service, a setting of “For the beauty of the earth” by Mervyn Cousins. Several of the piano and instrumental selections for Celtic Evensong have also been chosen for the occasion, as well as the congregational hymn “For the beauty of the earth.”

Day trip features peonies, tea, and more

MONDAY, MAY 12 | 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Join the Women of St. Stephen's for a day trip to Charlottesville and Nelson County with stops at Caspari Design Store, Pharsalia, and afternoon tea at the Clifton Inn. It will be “high season” for peonies at Pharsalia. Flyers with details, cost, and a sign-up form are available at Information Central. Space is limited, so do not delay!

An informal gathering for young adults

MAY 4 | 3:30-5 P.M.

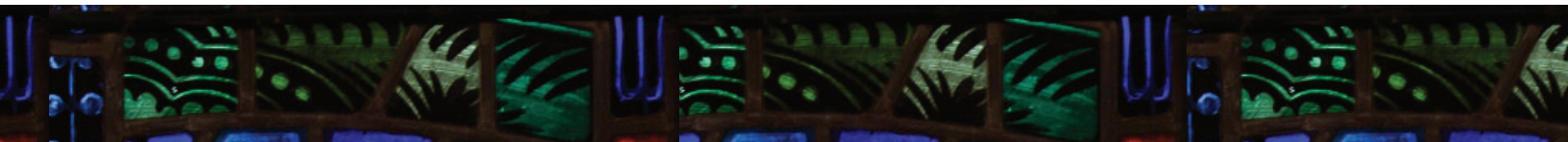
Join other young adults from St. Stephen's at Hardywood West Creek for an informal gathering as we approach the end of this program year. Hardywood West Creek (820 Sanctuary Trail, 23238) offers ample outdoor seating, so children and pets are most welcome! RSVP by this Friday, May 2 at ststephensRVA.org/young-adults.

Summer events for children, youth, parents

As announced earlier this year, St. Stephen's Church will take a new approach to summer activities for children, youth and parents. With so many families engaged in camps, trips, and other activities throughout the summer, we have decided not to hold a week-long Vacation Bible School while providing a variety of offerings throughout the summer.

The first will be “Maymont in May,” on Thursday, May 29, 10:30 a.m.–noon. Preschoolers (with a caregiver also attending) are invited to visit the petting zoo and farm. We will meet there and enjoy seeing the animals. Bring a picnic lunch and a blanket. We'll eat together outdoors and enjoy the time together.

Subsequent events for a variety of ages are listed at ststephensRVA.org/children-youth.





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).

May Fair House: 804.282.3004 | Café: 804.288.3318 | Dogwood Preschool: 804.665.4902

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*

Jennifer Bousquet (jbousquet), *Director of Outreach and Engagement*

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 (ihayes), *Sexton*

Chris Holman (cholman), *Sexton*

Paul Honaker (bell-choir), *Director, St. Stephen's Bell Choir*

Jack Hotchkiss (jhotchkiss), *Sexton*

The Rev. John Jenkins (jjenkins), *Associate Rector*

Anna F. Jones (ajones), *Farmers Market Manager and Food Ministry Coordinator*

Wondell Kareem (wkareem), *Sexton*

The Rev. Abby Kocher (akocher), *Director of Children's Ministry*

Mike Koschak (mkoschak), *Interim Director of Operations*

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*

The Rev. William S. Stanley (wstanley), *Vicar*

Brent te Velde (btevelde), *Director of Music*

Our Missionaries in Argentina

Heidi Schmidt

Monica Vega

Dogwood Preschool

Kate Batten, *Executive Director*

Elizabeth Sykes, *Program Director*

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

