

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025 | SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Parish meeting follows today's 10 a.m. service

The rector and vestry of St. Stephen's Church will hold a special parish meeting following the 10 a.m. service in the fellowship hall. Parish leaders will share important information about church operations and financial safeguards. For those who cannot attend this meeting, we will follow up with more information at a subsequent gathering in the early fall. We are not able to livestream or record this meeting, so we hope you will attend if you are able. Child care will be available.

A way to be involved in pastoral care

Paige Trivett, our summer seminarian, is seeking members of St. Stephen's community who would like to be more deeply involved in the parish's pastoral care network. In particular, she is interested in meeting with folks who have come through a particular challenge or season of life and would be willing to share their wisdom and support with others who are approaching similar situations.

Paige has held open hours for conversation on two occasions and will hold one more session tomorrow from 3 to 5 p.m. in St. Stephen's Library. Please stop by and chat! If you are interested in meeting with Paige at another time, scan the QR code to sign up for a time that works for you.



Juneteenth prayer, music, and poetry

Juneteenth is celebrated annually on June 19 to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States; Gen. Gordon Granger ordered the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas at the end of the Civil War on June 19, 1865. St. Stephen's Church honors this anniversary on a Sunday near June 19; we're doing that today with a collect for Juneteenth, music selected for the occasion, and the opening poem in our Celtic service. A summary, including descriptions of the hymns and other music used in the 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. services, is available at Information Central (outside the parish office) and on our website, ststephen-sRVA.org/music-notes.

An important reminder about our 'soft space'

We're grateful to be able to offer a "soft space" in the church during the summer, where children have more room to spread out during services. This is something we provide in Palmer Hall Chapel during the academic year but when the Palmer Hall service takes a summer break, we move the soft space to the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in the main church. Please note that the soft space is not a "drop off" situation. Children in the soft space must be accompanied by a parent or other adult guardian. Seating is provided for adults in the soft space. Thank you!

May Fair House cooks needed this summer

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

Since the May Fair House is open on Saturdays during the summer, cook teams will continue to prepare casseroles and other May Fair House foods in June, July, and August. This is a great opportunity for someone who can't make a program year commitment to get their hands (pleasantly) dirty. We also welcome older teens and family groups, and guidance is always provided. Cooking happens in the main kitchen Tuesdays and Wednesdays through the summer, 9:30 a.m. until roughly 11:30 a.m. For more information, please send an email to MFHcooks@gmail.com.

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.





Volunteer in the parish office

We often need helping hands in the parish office. Volunteers answer phones, greet visitors at the front desk, and help with large mailings and other administrative tasks. To help or learn more, please contact Kitty Ball at kball@ststephensRVA.org.

Support St. Stephen's Choristers: buy a limeade at the market!

SATURDAYS | 8 A.M.-NOON

The St. Stephen's Choristers limeade stand has opened at the Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's for the summer! Each limeade is made to order with freshly squeezed limes. Specialty flavors are available as well. All proceeds support St. Stephen's Choristers.

Playground reminder

As previously announced—and as you may have noticed—Dogwood Preschool and St. Stephen's Church are updating our shared playground this summer. Work has begun and for your child's safety we ask that they not use any part of the playground until all work is complete, in about four weeks. Updates will include a unity rocker (similar to a seesaw), updated climbing hill with artificial turf and a slide, and new climbing and imaginative play structures. In addition, the mulch and sand will be refreshed for a brand new feel! You can see renderings of the new playground on a table near Palmer Hall Chapel.



St. Stephen's youth leave soon for mission trip

St. Stephen's youth are partnering with Asheville Youth Mission Co for a mission trip this summer. We'll engage in service projects addressing homelessness, poverty, and food insecurity while deepening our faith through worship, evening programs, and community-building activities. **Participants in this trip will be commissioned during the 10 a.m. service on June 29.**

May Fair House open summer Saturdays; stop in to see local art

SATURDAYS | 9 A.M.-NOON

May Fair House is the gift and food shop managed by the Women of St. Stephen's which raises funds for outreach grants; it's located within the parish house. Regular hours for the shop are on pause until September, but the shop IS open throughout the summer from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays during the Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's.



When you come to the shop, be sure to visit the art annex where you can purchase beautiful pieces by local artists. In fact, some of these talented artists are St. Stephen's parishioners, including Susan Dull, Mary Catherine Dunn, Missy Goode and Laura Heyward.

Stop by the café

At the Café @ St. Stephen's, you can enjoy AC indoors, tables under 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. And if you miss the farmers market on a Saturday, remember that you can purchase products from some of your favorite market vendors in the café. The café phone is 804.288.3318. Hours: Mon/Wed 8-11 a.m.; Tues/Thurs/Fri 7-11 a.m.; Sat 7:30 a.m.-noon May-Oct; 8:30 a.m.-noon Nov-April. (When the parish office is closed for a holiday, the café is closed.)



Beware of text and email scams

Please be on your guard against email scams, "phishing," and text messages from bad actors. Church staff and volunteers continue to be targeted by these scams. One recent email sought parishioner information and posed as a current vestry member. You may receive emails or text messages purporting to be from our rector, another staff member, a vestry member or other parish leader asking you to "do me a favor," and instructing you to respond by email or text only and not to call them because they're busy (but really it's because the scam would then become obvious). Someone may impersonate a friend of yours and



ask you to purchase gift cards on their behalf. Another scam: "I want to donate my late husband's baby grand piano," which leads to a request for you to advance the scammer shipping costs (for an instrument which will never arrive). Such activity is the reason we no longer include volunteers' email addresses in the **Spirit**, **eSpirit**, or on our website. Please be vigilant, and if you ever have doubts about the sender of a message, feel free to call the parish office at 804.288.2867.

Explore ways to get involved in outreach

Jennifer Bousquet, our director of outreach and engagement, has been offering times for informal conversation with parishioners in the Café @ St. Stephen's on several dates. Remaining dates and times are listed below. Get to know Jennifer and consider ways you might get involved in the outreach ministries of St. Stephen's Church.

- Sunday, June 22 (TODAY), during the Sunday supper
- Thursday, June 26, 9-10 a.m.

No need to sign up—just show up!

Here are some ways to be involved in this summer:

Over the summer months our crew of faithful fruit ministry volunteers may take some time off and we are short a volunteer or two to help pack bags of fruit and/or deliver the fruit to the people we serve. Every Monday morning throughout the year our team packs 150 bags of fruit and delivers them to two apartment buildings in the East End of the city.

Please contact Anna Jones to let her know of your interest in helping and what Monday dates you are available: ajones@ststephensRVA.org or 804.288.2867. This is a good opportunity for school age children and parents looking for a family service activity this summer, or for anyone who isn't sure they want to join this ministry and would like to try it for a week or two.

Project Homes provides one-time critical home repair assistance to qualifying low-income homeowners in the Richmond metro area at no cost to them. Parishioners John O'Dell, Earl Roney, and Dick Rheutan have experience volunteering with this group and welcome your interest in participating. Potential volunteers of various skill levels should have availability Monday through Friday; men and women ages 12 and up are welcome. Please contact Jennifer Bousquet to be put in touch with these parishioners, jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org.

Family ministry events in July and August

POOL PARTY | SUNDAY, JULY 13, 3:30-5:30 P.M.

Elementary-age children are invited for an afternoon to play and swim at the Weinstein Jewish Community Center's indoor recreational pool. Some parents are needed to chaperone, but not all parents need to stay. If your child is a non-swimmer, however, you must stay. Pre-registration is required for this event, as space will be limited; send an email to Abby Kocher by **July 1** if you plan to attend, akocher@ststephensRVA.org.

VISIT ST. STEPHEN'S PARISHIONERS AT WESTMINSTER-CANTERBURY | AUGUST 10, 2-3:30 P.M.

K-12 children and youth are invited to a Sunday afternoon of playing board games, doing crosswords, or other activities with residents of this retirement community where many St. Stephen's parishioners live. We will need some adult/parent chaperones but not all parents need to stay on site. Scan the QR code to register by **August 4**.



Summer at St. Stephen's Church

SUNDAY SUMMER SCHEDULE

- 8 a.m.**, Holy Eucharist: Rite One
- 10 a.m.**, Holy Eucharist: Rite Two*
- 5:30 p.m.**, Celtic Evensong and Communion*
- 6:30 p.m.**, Sunday Community Supper

All services are livestreamed; childcare is available for babies and toddlers during services with an asterisk.

Additional information about summer at St. Stephen's is below and at ststephensRVA.org/summer.

This is the time of year when many in our community 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** now's a good time to sign up. You'll know what's happening even if you're out of town. Scan the QR code to subscribe.
- Bookmark the livestream page of our website so you can watch a service online when you're away: ststephensRVA.org/this-sunday.
- Set up recurring online payments for your pledge or other gift. The church's expenses do not take a vacation, so when pledge payments slow down during the summer, it can be challenging to stay current with the church's bills. Visit ststephensRVA.org/give.
- Food pantry and fruit ministry donations sometimes dip when folks are away. If you're going on vacation, please consider making a larger donation of food before you go.



The church office is closed:

- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day (September 1)

Note: There is no Morning Prayer when the office is closed.

And remember that the parish office closes at 12:30 p.m. on Fridays through August.

Sunday suppers continue year-round

While Wednesday suppers are on pause until September, our informal, donation-based Sunday Community Suppers follow the Celtic service all year. Can you help our staff prepare and serve meals? Email suppers@ststephensRVA.org.



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*

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 (on sabbatical)*

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

Paige Trivett (ptrivett), *Seminarian Intern*

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

