

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025 | THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Sacred Conversations: Our national life

TODAY AT 7 P.M. IN PALMER HALL



We have been offering Sacred Conversations focusing on our current national life, building on previous Sacred Conversations as well as last year's Sacramental Citizenship class. The third and final session takes place this evening. We are living through a tumultuous time as a nation, marked by suspicion and polarization, and wondering about the future of our communities. Though it may not always feel like it, this tumult houses untold stories of grace and solidarity. In these Sacred Conversations, we give voice to that which has been unspoken and unprocessed and discover ways to engage with current events and one another. Each session is facilitated by two members of St. Stephen's clergy. In these conversations, we will share our feelings and personal narratives; we will not debate. All are welcome, regardless of prior experience with the Sacred Conversations format. Scan the QR code to let us know you're coming. Questions: the Rev. Cate Anthony, canthony@ststephensRVA.org.

Episcopal churches offer Juneteenth celebration

THURSDAY, JUNE 19 | 8:30 A.M.- 2:15 P.M.



Juneteenth is celebrated annually on June 19 to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States and commemorates the day in 1865 when Gen. Gordon Granger ordered the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas at the end of the Civil War—June 19, 1865. St. Stephen's Church honors this anniversary on a Sunday near June 19. St. Peter's, St. John's, and St. Philip's Episcopal churches hold an annual celebration in Church Hill to which you are invited. The day includes a festive worship service, a guest speaker, a community lunch, and more. For details, scan the QR code.

Cate Anthony and Emery Rivera's wedding: coming soon!

SATURDAY, JUNE 21 | 2 P.M.

In less than two weeks, the Rev. Cate Anthony, our associate rector, will marry Emery Rivera here at St. Stephen's Church, and the parish is invited! If you plan to attend but have not submitted an RSVP, please do, using the link at ststephensRVA.org/clergy-weddings. If you are not able to attend but would like to see the service, you may watch a livestream on the same page of our website.

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.

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.





Chat with Jennifer Bousquet about outreach opportunities

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.

- Wednesday, June 11, 9-10 a.m.
- Sunday, June 22, during the Sunday supper
- Thursday, June 26, 9-10 a.m.

No need to sign up—just show up!

Here are two ways to be involved in outreach partnerships this summer:

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.

The LightHouseRVA provides gatherings, resources, and relationships to support long-term recovery for women in our community and has opportunities for volunteers to help with hospitality, community outreach, and their emergency boutique. On **Monday, July 21**, there will be an orientation for new volunteers. Find out more at thelighthouseva.org or ask Joan Putney, Barbara Massey, or Darla Perry, a few of the many St. Stephen's parishioners who work with this organization. Scan the QR code to sign up.



Summer office hours are in effect

MONDAY-THURSDAY, 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M. | FRIDAY, 8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

After surveying many of the other Episcopal parishes throughout the Richmond area, we learned that St. Stephen's Church is the only one that has not traditionally modified our office hours during the summer. Since Friday tends to be less busy in our office than other weekdays, and in coordination with our continued focus on staff health and wellness, the executive committee of the vestry has endorsed closing the office at 12:30 p.m. on summer Fridays through August 29. As always, a member of the clergy will be on call for pastoral emergencies outside our office hours and can be reached by calling the parish office at 804.288.2867 and following the recorded prompts.

Current pantry needs

SOUP, CEREAL

This week as you do your grocery shopping, please consider a donation of **soup and/or cereal** to stock our pantry serving those in need. In addition, we always need fresh apples, oranges, and bananas for the fruit ministry, and plastic or paper bags with handles. You may drop off these items at the Somerset entrance to the parish house, or in baskets inside the entrances to the church.

Playground news

As previously announced, Dogwood Preschool and St. Stephen's Church are updating the playground this summer. This project has been over a year in the making. Many thanks to the members of the Dogwood Board, teachers, and the church for making this happen. Beginning in late June, the playground will be closed for 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.

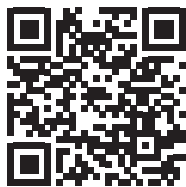


Family ministry summer events

Several events for children, youth, and parents are scheduled this summer, including the following.

PARK 365 PICNIC SUNDAY JUNE 22, 11:30 A.M.–2 P.M.

Join other families to enjoy Sunday lunch and a time to play at the beautiful and accessible Park 365 playground (3600 Saunders Ave., Richmond, Virginia 23227). Bring a side dish to share. The church will provide a main course. We have reserved the central covered shelter with picnic tables. All families with children ages newborn through rising 6th graders are welcome—this is a whole family event. Scan the QR code to register (**registration deadline: June 16**).



YOUTH MISSION TRIP: JUNE 29-JULY 4 IN ASHEVILLE

St. Stephen's youth are partnering with Asheville Youth Mission Co for our youth mission trip. 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 will be commissioned during the 10 a.m. service on June 29.**

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.

Elementary age 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**.



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.

Farmers market summer hours

SATURDAYS, 8 A.M.-NOON

The Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's is on its summer schedule, with an 8 a.m. opening time. Remember: our market is open Saturdays year-round.

Facilities staff communications

The rector is seeking an interim facilities manager until the director of church operations position is filled and that person can hire a permanent facilities manager. In the meantime, if you wish to reserve space or make other facilities use requests, please continue to use the form linked at the bottom of the home page of our website. If you have other communication, please send an email to facilities@ststephensRVA.org.

Stop by the café

Remember 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. 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. We're open Monday through Saturday mornings. Follow us on Instagram: @thecafeRVA.

Where to find videos of services and sermons

Worship videos, sermons, and reflections are all catalogued on the same page of our website, with filters to help you find what you're looking for. From the main menu, select the Worship and Music tab. Under that tab select "Worship Video Archive." Also: we provide links in the **eSpirit** each week to the past Sunday's sermon and reflection videos.

Pastoral announcements

St. Stephen's is a large church and it can be easy to miss important information about fellow parishioners. If you would like to receive an email notice when a parishioner dies, as well as periodic summaries of births and marriages, please scan the QR code to sign up.



Please don't be fooled!

Please don't be taken in by email scams and "phishing." Church staff and volunteers continue to be targeted by these scams. You may receive emails purporting to be from our rector or some other member of our clergy or lay staff asking you to "do me a favor," and instructing you to respond by email only and not to call them because they're busy (but really it's because the scam would then become obvious). Or someone may impersonate a friend of yours and ask you to purchase gift cards on their behalf. A recent example: "I hope you are well, do you shop on Amazon?" The scammer is trying to purchase a gift card but, they claim, there's an issue with their credit card. Such activity is the reason we no longer include volunteers' email addresses in the **Spirit**, **eSpirit**, or on our website.



Summer at St. Stephen's Church

SUNDAY SUMMER SCHEDULE

8 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One

10 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two* (no Palmer Hall service or Sunday morning formation)

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.
- Similarly, donations to our food pantry and fruit ministry sometimes take a 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:

- Juneteenth (June 19)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day (September 1)

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

May Fair House open summer Saturdays

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.

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

