

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2025 | FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Did you miss the June 22 meeting?

If you missed the meeting held Sunday, June 22, when parish leaders discussed church operations and financial safeguards, there will be two more opportunities to meet with a member of the vestry's executive committee and the rector: **Sunday, July 6 (today), at 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 20, at 11:30 a.m. Both gatherings will take place in Palmer Hall Chapel.** No sign-up is needed. In addition to these summer meetings, a follow-up meeting will take place on a Sunday in September.

Young adults to meet at VMFA this week

THURSDAY, JULY 10 | 6:30 P.M.



Young adults of St. Stephen's Church will meet at the Best Café at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts this Thursday. Paid parking is available in the museum's parking garage (free if you have a museum membership), and free parking is available on the streets around the museum. General admission is free; the current Frida Kahlo exhibit requires tickets. Please join us and feel free to bring friends. The museum is located at 200 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard, and more information about the museum is at **VMFA.museum**. Scan the QR code to RSVP.

Food insecurity is a year-round challenge

Many of us think of summer as a time for trips and school vacations, but there is no time off from food insecurity. In fact, for school-age children and youth, the problem can be worse in the summer since the breakfasts and lunches provided by schools may not be available. In addition, federal funds for feeding programs are under threat and in some cases have already been cut. Please remember those in need when you do your grocery shopping and purchase items to help us keep our food pantry well-stocked and ready to respond to the needs in our community. This week we are especially seeking **canned vegetables and tuna**. 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.

What can we do? Christians in a time of conflict

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23 | 6:30 P.M.

In times of conflict, and even war, what can we do? It is tempting to feel overwhelmed. It is difficult to know what is possible. On Wednesday evening, July 23, at St. Stephen's Church, we can join in answering this crucial question.

As Christians we can find common voice and take redemptive steps. During this gathering, associate rector, the Rev. Bill Sachs will welcome his friend and colleague, the Rev. Neal Goldsborough, who will guide us in finding fresh purpose. Neal lives in Charlottesville after serving as rector of Episcopal churches in Virginia, Rhode Island, and Florida. He is also Captain Neal Goldsborough, United States Navy, with more than 20 years of service as a chaplain. Neal went on active duty after 9/11. His service included ministry to those affected here at home, and ministry to wounded personnel at a military hospital in Kuwait. He has seen the effects of conflict. He also sees what we as Christians must do.

Join us in the church for this urgently needed conversation, as well as prayer led by our seminarian intern, Paige Trivett.

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.





Help us find two key staff members

Do you know someone who might be a great candidate to serve in a key position on the parish staff? Read more about two open positions—executive director of finance and administration, and director of facilities and operations—and share the information with potential candidates—by visiting **ststephensRVA.org/employment**.

Congratulations to our farmers market!

The Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's was recently voted one of the top three farmers markets in central Virginia by readers of Virginia Living magazine. Congratulations!

Our year-round market is open 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday. (The hours shift in late fall and winter, but the market is open year-round.) Summer is prime time for the market, with tomatoes, peaches, blueberries, beans, and other summer bounty from local farmers. In addition to a wide variety of fresh produce, the market features an impressive array of prepared foods and beverages, baked goods, meat, poultry, seafood, flowers, and original work by talented artisans. Children are welcome and love our market (but remember that the playground is closed for a few weeks). Well-behaved dogs on leashes are also welcome.

The market accepts SNAP benefits and Virginia Fresh Match.

Visit **ststephensRVA.org/farmers-market** for additional details and a link to sign up for a free weekly email newsletter.



Summer outreach opportunities

A brochure listing summer outreach and engagement opportunities for all ages is available at the outreach table near the elevator and Palmer Hall Chapel. Pick one up to see how you can serve St. Stephen's and the wider community this summer.



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**.

Please bring school supplies for Anna Julia Cooper School

Anna Julia Cooper School is an independent, tuition-free elementary and middle school in the East End founded in part by St. Stephen's Church. Throughout July, the outreach committee is collecting school supplies for Anna Julia Cooper students. Supplies can be dropped off in the baskets at the outreach table near the elevator and Palmer Hall. Here is the list of needed items:

- plastic two-pocket folders
- wide-ruled notebook paper
- pencils
- pens
- index cards
- dry erase markers
- 1-inch binders
- dividers
- colored pencils
- markers
- glue sticks

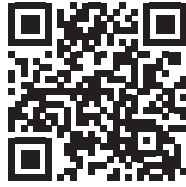
All supplies should be new or like new. Thank you!



Children, youth to visit parishioners at Westminster-Canterbury

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2-3:30 P.M.

Children and youth (K-12) 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. Scan the QR code to register **by August 4.**



Praying for one another

To ask that someone be added to the parish prayer list, send an email to Kitty Ball, kball@ststephensRVA.org, or use the form at ststephensRVA.org/prayer-requests.

Important reminders:

It's very important that you obtain prior permission from the person you wish to be prayed for. Keep in mind that the prayer list is included in Sunday bulletins (except when there is insufficient space), and the bulletins are posted online. If you wish, we can list someone's first name only.

Another option is to request prayer from the Daughters of the King. These requests are kept in strict confidence and are not added to the printed prayer list.

In order to keep our prayer list current and facilitate the intentionality and mindfulness with which we pray, we print names on the list for three months or less. If you would like for someone to remain on the list for more (or less) time, please call the parish office or send an email to Kitty.

Reminders about flower dedications

The beautiful floral arrangements designed by our talented flower guild are possible thanks to donations made by parishioners to remember or honor loved ones. If you have requested a Sunday flower dedication in the past, Laurie Rogers gives you a courtesy call or email to find out if you wish to continue the practice in the current year. Since Laurie is working with bulletin printing deadlines set by the parish staff, it's important that you respond promptly to her messages. We don't want your flower dedication to be left out of the bulletin!

The best way to request a dedication is to use a form available at ststephensrva.org/flower-memorials-and-dedications (or find it under the "Give" tab on the home page. Be sure to use the form for Sunday, not for holiday memorials.

New art exhibit in 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, free wifi and exhibits by local artists make it

even more welcoming.

New for July and August: work by several artists is on display in the café and in the hallway leading to it.

Chris McClaning; Various media

Anne LaMantia; Watercolor, acrylic and mixed media

Todd Dixon; Photography on acrylic

John Hayes-Nikas; various media (fun fact: John is the father of Ian Hayes of our buildings and grounds staff)

The café phone is 804.288.3318. Hours are 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.)

Playground is closed for renovations

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 late July. 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! Renderings of the renovated playground are on a table near Palmer Hall Chapel.

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.

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. 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.

continued





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*

Isaac Dyer, *Barista*

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

Dogwood Preschool

Heidi Schmidt, Monica Vega

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

