

# the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025 | TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## St. Stephen's Choristers information session takes place this week

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27 | 5 P.M.

Do you know a young person who loves to sing? The St. Stephen's Choristers sing in church and on other occasions; the choir welcomes young people of all genders in grades 1–7 (no previous experience necessary). The program uses the Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life curriculum, which teaches and trains not only singing skills, but also music theory, leadership, and citizenship.

All prospective and returning choristers and their parents are invited to join an information session this Wednesday, August 27 at 5 p.m. in the choir room (on the top floor of the parish house). Young singers can register for the chorister program through the children and youth registration form at [ststephensRVA.org/children-youth](http://ststephensRVA.org/children-youth). If you have questions about the group, please contact Diana Chou for more information, [dchou@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:dchou@ststephensRVA.org).

## Rally Day, receptions and more

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 | FOLLOWING 9 AND 11:15 A.M. SERVICES

At Rally Day receptions following the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services, Jennifer Bousquet, director of outreach, and the Rev. John Jenkins, associate rector, invite you to enjoy fellowship and hear their presentation about the new ways our church is connecting people and the gospel, within and beyond St. Stephen's. The reception at 10:10 includes opportunities to connect with ministry leaders representing outreach, worship, family ministries, and parish life! Contact John ([jjenkins@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:jjenkins@ststephensRVA.org)) or Jennifer ([jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org)) for more information.

## Opportunities to serve at Fairfield Court Elementary School

Are you interested in becoming engaged with Richmond's East End community and making a difference in a young student's life? Following any of today's services, stop by the outreach table to speak with parishioners who are currently involved at Fairfield Court Elementary School to ask questions. (The outreach table is located in the hall near the elevator and Palmer Hall.)

We partner with Fairfield School in two ways:

- Parishioners serve as tutors or mentors, working with small groups of students or one-on-one with the same student each week, for a total of one to two hours per week. Training and orientation are provided.
- Parishioners may register for Fairfield's special events roster. Throughout the year there are opportunities to engage with students and teachers for one-off activities requiring a few hours on a particular day, such as a teacher appreciation breakfast, a Halloween trunk or treat, etc.

If you are not able to stop by the outreach table today but you are interested in serving or learning more, please contact Jennifer Bousquet at [jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org).

## Young adults to gather at Conejo

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 | 6:30 P.M.



Soon young adults at St. Stephen's will resume their monthly gatherings at various local restaurants on the second Thursday of each month. The September dinner will take place at Conejo, 5820 Patterson Avenue. Street parking is available as is a parking deck behind the restaurant. Scan the QR code to let us know if you plan to attend and if

you'll bring friend(s) so we'll be sure to reserve enough tables. Get to know others from this community!

## Visiting? Newer to St. Stephen's?

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.





## Family ministry registration is open; calendars available

The family ministry team has been making plans for the coming program year and a registration form and calendars are available at [ststephensRVA.org/children-youth](http://ststephensRVA.org/children-youth).

## Come to this 'welcome back' event in family ministry



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 | 5-7 P.M.

Families with children and youth of all ages are invited to reconnect after the summer and have some fun together. We'll have pizza from Fireside Pizza, treats from Jiji's Frozen Custard, and lawn games outside the Three Chopt Road entrance to the church. The cost is \$15 per person with a maximum of \$50 for a family. There's no charge for those age 3 and under. Scan the QR code on the left for tickets.



## A way to support Fairfield Elementary School students

St. Stephen's outreach ministry collaborates with Communities in Schools to support students at Fairfield Court Elementary School, our longtime partner, in a variety of ways. Between now and September 7, we are collecting items for "oops" kits. Sometimes children have toilet accidents at school, or arrive at school wearing dirty clothes, both of which can make learning more challenging. "Oops" kits are for students who need to change clothes during the school day so that they can return to class and focus on learning. Students who need the items will receive them from a trusted adult at the school. We are collecting various sizes of new socks, underwear, and sweatpants. Sign-up is not required, but you can find details about what's needed by scanning the QR code. Please place your donations in the baskets near the outreach table by September 7. The outreach table is located near Palmer Hall, the elevator, and stairs.



## St. Paul's Church invites you to a prayer vigil

MONDAY, AUGUST 25 | 6 P.M.

Please join those praying for our city, commonwealth, and country tomorrow evening on the front steps at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 815 E. Grace Street. In this service of prayer and praise, we witness to the suffering of the most vulnerable and powerless among us and lift up our lament, fear, and hope to God's redemptive and healing power. United as one body, we make known the love and justice of Jesus of Nazareth for the poor, the oppressed, the sick, and the stranger. Contact Jennifer Bousquet, director of outreach and engagement, if you are interested in carpooling from St. Stephen's at 5:20 p.m. Jennifer's email address is [jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org).



## Welcome, David and Kathleen

As announced previously, we are excited to have David Ellis and Kathleen Wilson-Kennedy on the church staff. David began as director of facilities and operations last Monday, and Kathleen officially begins as executive director of finance and administration tomorrow (though she has been working with interim finance director Mike Koschak to get acquainted with the work here). Please welcome David and Kathleen.

## Thank you, Mike

Many thanks to parishioner Mike Koschak as he wraps up his time as interim director of finance and administration at St. Stephen's Church. For the second time, Mike stepped in to keep things moving efficiently as we conducted a search for an executive director, and he's been showing Kathleen Wilson-Kennedy the ropes. We are deeply grateful to Mike for using his skills in service to our parish.

## Sexton news

Chris Holman, a sexton at St. Stephen's Church since 2007, has taken a position with St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Goochland. Chris was a calm and cheerful presence on our facilities team and took particular care in working with our Celtic set-up team, as well as preparing the church for the Compline service. Fun facts: Chris was baptized here, and he recently earned his pilot's license!

*continued*





We are happy to welcome Randy Ransone as a sexton. Randy comes highly recommended by Claire Hackley, our parish supervisors coordinator, who has worked with him at WPA Bakery. We are also seeking an additional sexton to fill the spot left by Wondell Kareem earlier this summer; visit [ststephensRVA.org/employment](http://ststephensRVA.org/employment) for details, and help spread the word about this opportunity.

## We have openings for nursery assistants

The young children of St. Stephen's Church are vital members of our parish family. We celebrate their joy and energy, we recognize their gifts, and we strive to nourish their spiritual development in an environment of safety, comfort, and loving care. Nursery assistants work as a team to create this environment, which is their most important role. St. Stephen's nursery is a trusted space for parents to take their children age 4 and under while they attend worship or other church events.

We are seeking two new nursery assistants. Experience with children in educational, childcare, or church settings is preferred. After reading the responsibilities and guidelines found at [ststephensRVA.org/employment](http://ststephensRVA.org/employment), applicants should email a letter of interest and resume to the Rev. Abby Kocher, director of children's ministry, [akocher@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:akocher@ststephensRVA.org).

## Women of St. Stephen's host opening event

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | 5-7 P.M.

The Women of St. Stephen's provide programs from September through May for all members of the parish (and beyond) featuring fellowship, learning, formation, and service to one another and the community. The group will have its first gathering for 2025-26 even before our regular Sunday schedule kicks in. While the organization is led by women of this parish, their offerings are for everyone, regardless of gender or membership. At this event in the fellowship hall you can visit tables to learn about ways to be involved in ministries of the Women of St. Stephen's. You will also be able to visit the May Fair House, the shop run by the Women of St. Stephen's, and if you are considering joining a cook team for the shop, you can tour the kitchen.

Also, Mahjong instructor Mitty Songer will be on hand to introduce this game which originated in Asia and has become popular in Western countries. You may have seen it in popular films like "The Joy Luck Club" and "Crazy Rich Asians," and wondered how it was played. Come for laughter, learning and a touch of friendly competition! No registration is needed for this informal, free event, which will also offer refreshments.

## Compline resumes September 7 at 8 p.m.

St. Stephen's Church provides a sung Compline service on Sundays at 8 p.m., resuming in two weeks. The mixed *a cappella* ensemble known as Sanctuary offers this exquisite half-hour service in our candlelit church as light incense wafts through the nave. Visit [ststephensRVA.org/compline](http://ststephensRVA.org/compline) for a repertoire and order of service.

## Here comes fall!

We are excited about a new program year; here are dates to note:

**AUGUST 31:** Last Sunday for summer worship schedule

**SEPTEMBER 1:** Labor Day, office and buildings closed

**SEPTEMBER 2:** Office re-opens

**SEPTEMBER 2:** Café @ St. Stephen's goes "cards only" (no cash)

**SEPTEMBER 4:** Opening event hosted by the Women of St. Stephen's, 5-7 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 7:** Regular worship schedule resumes; "soft space" moves back to Palmer Hall

- 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One
- 9 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two in main church\*
- 9 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two in Palmer Hall\*
- 10:10-11 a.m., Rally Day gathering in Fellowship Hall with refreshments and information about "Connect and Serve" opportunities; open house in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atria
- 11:15 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two\* followed by Rally Day reception
- 5:30 p.m., Celtic Evensong and Communion\*
- 6:30 p.m., Sunday Community Supper
- 8 p.m., Compline

\*Child care available during services with asterisk

**SEPTEMBER 9:** May Fair House resumes regular hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon; Sunday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 10:** Wonderful Wednesdays suppers resume, 5:45-6:30 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 14:** Sunday Forum and youth Bible study resume; gathering/orientation for all who plan to serve in Palmer Hall (children and adults)

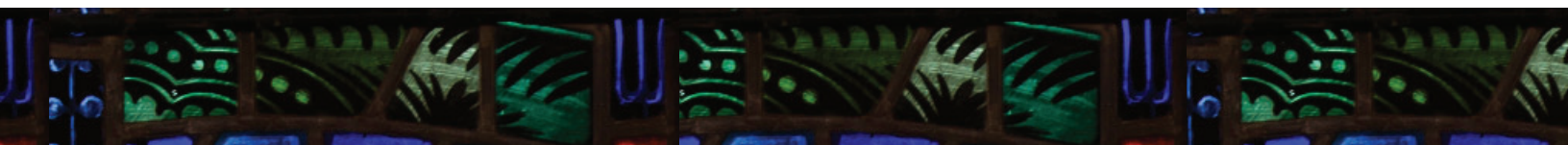
**SEPTEMBER 21:** Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Many Parents One Vine resume

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## Participate in PRIDE events next month

PRIDE Fest 2025 takes place **Saturday, September 27, noon to 6 p.m.** at Midtown Green, 2401 West Leigh Street. Episcopal churches—including St. Stephen's—will have a presence. Jennifer Bousquet, our director of outreach and engagement, will be at the Episcopal Church tent and welcomes your participation. Contact her at [jbousquet@stephensRVA.org](mailto:jbousquet@stephensRVA.org).

St. Stephen's parishioners are also invited to attend the annual Pride Eucharist, which will take place this year at Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church near the Altria Theater and Monroe Park. The service, hosted by Grace & Holy Trinity and the Pace Center, takes place **Friday, September 26 at 6 p.m.** St. Stephen's clergy will be present.





## 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*

David Ellis (dellis), *Director of Facilities and Operations*

Mary Feldman (mfeldman), *Executive Assistant to the Rector and Vicar*

Dillon Gwaltney (dkgwaltney), *Communications Associate/Video Producer*

Claire Hackley (chackley), *Parish Suppers Coordinator*

Caroline Harris (charris), *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Ian Hayes (ihayes), *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*

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

Susan McNamara (smcnamara), *Finance and Administrative Assistant*

Randy Ransone (rransone), *Sexton*

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 until September)*

Kathleen Wilson-Kennedy (kwilson), *Executive Director of Finance and Administration*

*Our Missionaries in Argentina*

Heidi Schmidt

Monica Vega

*Dogwood Preschool*

Kate Batten, *Executive Director*

Elizabeth Sykes, *Program Director*

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## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

6000 Grove Avenue | Richmond, Virginia 23226 | 804.288.2867

[ststephensRVA.org](http://ststephensRVA.org) | staff emails are at [ststephensRVA.org/staff](mailto: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.

