

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 | FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Coming up in Sunday formation for all ages

The Sunday Forum returns today with an update by parish leaders on a wide range of topics: staffing, finances, new signage, and more. We will gather in the fellowship hall at 10:10 a.m. No registration is needed.

Youth Bible study also resumes today at 10:10 a.m. in Room 4 upstairs in the parish house. All middle and high school youth are welcome.

Children and parents who are planning to serve in Palmer Hall worship this program year should come to Palmer Hall during the formation time at 10:10 a.m. today for information and practice.

Next Sunday, September 21, we will begin a **three-part series in the Forum**, "Foundations of Faith in Troubled Times." Descriptions are available at ststephensRVA.org/sunday-forum.

September 21 will also be the first day for **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** and **Many Parents, One Vine**. Both take place on the top floor of the parish house.

Registration for small groups is open

REGISTRATION OPEN THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21

St. Stephen's Church is excited to unveil our lineup of fall 2025 small groups! In addition to Emmaus groups we have a number of special groups including "Revelations in Literature and Liturgy"; a group focused on the experience and spirituality of aging; a group learning about labyrinths as a spiritual tool; and a racial healing circle for those seeking to practice the work of racial justice in conversation with others. Registration is open through September 21. Groups will run between the week of October 5 and the week of December 7, inclusive. No prior experience is necessary. Visit ststephensRVA.org/small-groups for additional details.

For families with high school youth: information about Confirmation and acolyte service

STSTEPHENS RVA.ORG/YOUTH

Do you have a young person in your family who would like to be confirmed when the bishop visits? One who wishes to serve on an acolyte team? To learn more and register for either or both, visit ststephensRVA.org/youth. Registration for all youth activities is through one form. The second of two information sessions about youth Confirmation for parents and young people takes place **this Wednesday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.** in the small fellowship hall, and one week later.

Responding to God's love at Connect and Serve

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*

Connect and Serve is this church's year-round ministry fair. When you seek to learn about or get connected with small groups or communities within the church or explore ways to live your faith in ministries of service, either within or beyond the church, start by visiting the Connect and Serve webpage at ststephensRVA.org/connect-serve.

The Compline service is back

Our sung Compline service is back after a summer hiatus. 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 for repertoire and an order of service.

TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME TODAY!

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.





Wednesday evenings at St. Stephen's

Wednesday suppers have resumed in the fellowship hall, 5:45-6:30 p.m. (menus are at ststephensRVA.org/parish-suppers), and beginning this Wednesday we'll offer a three-week series titled "**Practices of Faith in a Turbulent World**" at 6:30 p.m. in Palmer Hall. In a time of division and political strife, remaining in touch in our faith can seem like an impossible task. Join St. Stephen's clergy as they reflect on practices which ground us in faith even and especially as we navigate socio-political turbulence. Together we will consider how to have an enemy, what prayer looks like in the midst of times such as these, and how to protect and cultivate joy as a means of resistance to that which would divide us. No prior experience necessary; all are welcome.

- September 17: How to have an enemy (led by the Rev. Cate Anthony)
- September 24: How to shield our joy (Cate Anthony)
- October 1: How to pray in turbulent times (led by the Rev. Will Stanley)

Bible study group to read the Revelation to John

THURSDAYS, SEPTEMBER 25-NOVEMBER 20 | 10 A.M.

Join St. Stephens' clergy and other intrepid parishioners for our Thursday Bible Study beginning September 25 at 10 a.m. and continuing through November 20. This fall we will study the Revelation to John, the very last book of the Bible. Mysterious and intimidating, Revelation overflows with images and ideas that confound our modern sensibilities, including dragons, angels, and Armageddon! Together we will dive into John's Revelation, discovering what messages this story has for us today. No prior experience is required to participate. Questions? Contact the Rev. Cate Anthony, canthony@ststephensRVA.org.

You're invited to PRIDE events

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

PRIDE Fest 2025 takes place the next day, **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. Be sure to stop by the Episcopal Church table!

Come to a newcomer reception

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2 | 5:30-7 P.M.

A few times during the year, the rector, parish staff, and members of the hospitality committee host a reception especially for those who are new (or new-ish) to this community of faith.

If you've recently joined St. Stephen's Church, or you have visited but have not yet decided whether this will become your church home, please come to the next reception. These gatherings are very informal. We serve appetizers, wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages. We hope to see you there! RSVP at ststephensRVA.org/getting-started.

Fall Ministry Night is open to all

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | 5:15 P.M.

About once per season in fall, winter, and spring, standing committees of the vestry gather for supper, fellowship, and sharing about what is happening at St. Stephen's Church. This gathering time concludes with a simple worship service, after which individual committees may meet to discuss upcoming plans for their area of ministry. Everyone is welcome at Ministry Night, whether you are on one of the committees or not. This is a great way to learn about the various ministries happening here, and how and where you might plug in. Your RSVP helps us plan for enough tables and food. To sign up, visit ststephensRVA.org/ministry-nights.

Database login is live

The portal allowing parishioners to log into their database profile is now available! An email with instructions went to those in our database on Thursday, September 4, from Mary Feldman. The message provides guidance on how to log in and update your information. Instruction sheets are available at Information Central (just outside the parish office). If you have questions, please call the parish office at 804.288.2867.

What's up with the floor in the fellowship hall?

During the summer, one of the fan units with its 60-year-old pipes in the large fellowship hall leaked and caused serious damage to a section of flooring. After obtaining extensive assessments of the damage and its cause, we have gotten proposals from several companies for repairs which will not only involve replacing flooring, but replacing leaking pipes. We'll share more details at the parish update today at 10:10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We regret the inconvenience but are confident that the result will be worth the wait!

Snack donations for the Palmer Hall service

The Palmer Hall service, our 9 a.m. liturgy designed with families with young children in mind, has returned. Following this service, we like to provide snacks for the group in the Palmer Hall Annex as they wait for the formation hour or other activity to begin. We are collecting snacks to share and request donations of pre-packaged, single-serving snacks in the church office. We welcome gluten-free and allergy-free items in addition to some of the more commonly enjoyed snacks. If you have questions, please speak to Abby Kocher, director of children's ministry, or send her an email, akocher@ststephensRVA.org.

Soft space is back in Palmer Hall

Now that the 9 a.m. service in Palmer Hall Chapel has resumed, the "soft space" has returned to that location from its summer home in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. The space has a rug, pillows, chairs, and books. It's designed for families whose children may need more room for moving about than traditional seating provides. Please note that the soft space is not a place to "drop off" your child. A parent or other adult should accompany their child(ren). For those who prefer to leave their baby or toddler in the nursery, please know that it is staffed by loving caregivers with training in First Aid, CPR, and SafeChurch practices. It's located in the lower level of the parish house inside the preschool and is for children from birth to age 4.

Help us find a new facilities team member

We recently said goodbye to Chris Holman, a long-time member of our buildings and grounds staff. Chris took a similar position with St. Mary's Episcopal Church on River Road. We are seeking a new sexton to join our wonderful facilities team, and you may know just the person! Details are on our website; visit ststephensRVA.org/employment. Spread the word!

May Fair House has resumed regular hours

May Fair House, a food and gift shop run by the Women of St. Stephen's on our campus, provides fellowship for volunteers, pleasant shopping for customers, delicious food prepared by May Fair House cooks, and funds for local organizations addressing human need.

The shop's regular hours have resumed after an abbreviated summer schedule:

- Tuesday through Friday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m.-noon
- Sunday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Closed Mondays and when the parish office is closed (holiday, weather, etc.)

Stop by for gifts, seasonal items, picture frames, apparel, and delicious casseroles, sides and other goodies prepared by our cook teams.

Shop our award-winning farmers market

SATURDAYS, 8 A.M.-NOON (9-NOON BEGINNING IN OCTOBER)

As summer transitions to fall, our farmers market still features an abundance of fresh produce from local farmers, as well as prepared foods and beverages, baked goods, meat, poultry, seafood, flowers, and original work by talented artisans. Children are welcome; so are well-behaved dogs on leashes. The market accepts SNAP benefits and Virginia Fresh Match. Visit ststephensRVA.org/farmers-market for details.

Serving 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? 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.

To indicate interest or ask questions, please contact Jennifer Bousquet, jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org.

Backpacks, suitcases needed

Do you have used, sturdy backpacks or wheeled suitcases in good condition? Please consider donating them to the Downtown Community Ministry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. You may bring them to St. Stephen's Church or take them directly to St. Paul's, 815 E. Grace Street near Capitol Square. Each Thursday, this ministry provides lunch and distributes clothing and toiletries to 150 people. Contact Jennifer Bousquet, jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org, with any questions.



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*

Rashawn Dover (rdover), *Sexton*

Isaac Dyer, *Barista*

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

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*

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*

Madison Prather (nursery), *Nursery Coordinator*

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*

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*

**TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME TODAY AND REFER TO IT
THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.**



St. Stephen's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

A community of hospitality, healing, and hope, sharing the love of Christ.

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