



# **The Women of St. Stephen's Programs and More**

2025-26

All women of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church are considered members of the Women of St. Stephen's. It is an honor to be part of this community as we strive to exemplify Christian principles of service, hospitality, and compassion. Together we can experience this kinship to nurture each other and grow in faith.

This brochure provides highlights of our plans for the 2025-26 program year. Our offerings are open to everyone, regardless of gender or parish membership. We encourage you to reach out to our board co-chairs with questions or suggestions about our ministries.

Lynn Burgess & Carol Jamerson, Executive Co-Chairs

**'THE CONNECTIONS WE MAKE IN THE COURSE OF A LIFE, MAYBE THAT'S WHAT HEAVEN IS.' –FRED ROGERS**

## **AN EVENING OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP**

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

### **IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Learn about our ministries and how you can take part as we share an evening of fellowship and fun.

May Fair House will be open for tours and shopping, and the kitchen will be open for tours as well for any who are considering joining a May Fair House cooking team.

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.

## Programs for 2025-26

*Unless noted, there is no charge or registration required. Guests are welcome.*

### **October 7, 2025: Crafting Fall Beauty with Kate Vernon Gather, 9:30 a.m.; program, 10 a.m.; the Fellowship Hall**

Kate Vernon from The Arrangers Market, family-owned and operated in Richmond, will provide a program on container gardening. She will build and demonstrate unique arrangements for fall decorating with easy-to-use containers that are simple, sophisticated, and celebrate nature.

### **November 4, 2025: Financial Expertise for Women with Liz Brown Gather, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m.; the Fellowship Hall**

St. Stephen's parishioner Liz Brown is an Associate Financial Advisor at Davenport. Women tend to invest 40 percent less than men, but typically live longer and have a greater need for post-retirement income. We will learn about the different factors that affect women throughout their investment years, and the implications for how women should structure a financial plan. Liz has a B.S. in commerce from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the University of Chicago. She also serves the Women of St. Stephen's as grants co-chair. This vital program will provide essential information for all ages.


### **December 2, 2025: Advent Music Program**

**11 a.m. in the church; luncheon follows in the Fellowship Hall**

A delightful beginning to Advent, this program will feature seasonal music provided by the talented St. Andrew's School choir and St. Stephen's musicians. Our traditional holiday luncheon will follow. The music program is free and open to all, but there is a fee for luncheon. Watch for registration details in the Spirit, the eSpirit, and the Women of St. Stephen's email newsletter.

### **January 6, 2026: A message of hope with Art for the Journey Gather, 9:30 a.m.; program, 10 a.m.; the Fellowship Hall**

Art for the Journey is dedicated to harnessing the transformative power of art to support those facing challenges, including illness, trauma, and loss. Through innovative programs and workshops, they provide a safe space for self-expression, healing, and connection. Programs are provided to different target audiences including women at The Lighthouse RVA, those who are



incarcerated, veterans, and youth, including students at Anna Julia Cooper School. Art for the Journey has exhibited work by many of these groups in our gallery and cafe, and they are recipients of grant support from the Women of St. Stephen's.

**February 3, 2026: Creative Gatherings Bringing Friends Together  
5:30–8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Our speaker for this annual dinner is Foxie Morgan. She is a noted floral designer and owner of Pharsalia, the historic home and flower farm near the Blue Ridge Mountains which has been the destination for day trips hosted by the Women of St. Stephen's. More details, the fee for dinner, and registration information will be available in early January.

**March 3, 2026: The Travels of Paul with Bishop Gayle Harris  
Gather, 9:30 a.m.; program, 10 a.m.; the Fellowship Hall**

The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris has followed in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and will discuss his profound impact on the spread of the early church. Bishop Harris joined the Diocese of Virginia as Assistant Bishop in 2023. She was previously elected Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts in June 2002 and was ordained and consecrated in January 2003. Bishop Harris has served us in multiple roles and parishes. We are pleased to have Bishop Harris with us to share this dynamic program. Please bring a friend to hear Bishop Harris' message.

**April 7, 2026: Meditations on Eastertide with Angier Brock  
Gather, 9:30 a.m.; program, 10 a.m.; the Fellowship Hall**

We are excited to have Angier Brock return after her visit to St. Stephen's in 2024. Easter Day is only the beginning! A fifty-day feast known as Eastertide (or Easter season, Easter time, the Great Fifty Days, Paschaltide, Paschal season) takes us from Easter Day until the Day of Pentecost. Retired after more than 30 years of teaching, Angier is a communicant of Grace Episcopal Church in Yorktown, where she serves as EFM mentor and entering prayer facilitator. Over two dozen of her hymn and anthem texts, set to music by various British and American composers, have been sung at worship services and concerts in the U.S. and abroad. Angier, who has an M.A. in Christian education and M.F.A. in creative writing is an experienced retreat and workshop leader.

**May 12, 2026: 10 a.m. closing service followed by lunch**  
**Roslyn, the diocesan conference and retreat center**  
Gather in the Bishop's Chapel at Roslyn (8727 River Road) for Holy Eucharist, followed by a light luncheon in a beautiful natural setting. All are welcome at the service in the Bishop's Chapel and luncheon with new and old friends. No fee or registration.

## **Ministries of the Women of St. Stephen's**

You are invited to take part in any of our programs or ministries, including the following. Contact the person listed for each activity, or one of our executive co-chairs to offer your time or to ask for additional details.

### **MAY FAIR HOUSE**

May Fair House has been serving our community since 1978. The shop features merchandise comparable to what is sold in local specialty shops, as well as homemade frozen food selections prepared by volunteers in the church kitchen. Proceeds from the sale of food and merchandise fund grants to non-profit organizations in our community. Over the last 19 years over \$560,000 has been awarded.



The shop provides a warm and welcoming environment where parishioners serve the community while getting to know other members of St. Stephen's Church. Sharing the gifts of hospitality and fellowship is the embodiment of the Women of St. Stephen's mission. Volunteers are the key to the success of the shop and its grants program.

**May Fair House re-opens September 9, 2025, for our regular hours:**

- Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Saturday, 9 a.m.- noon
- Sunday, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
- Closed Mondays

**Summer hours:** Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon.

Watch the **Spirit**, the **eSpirit**, and the Women of St. Stephen's email newsletter for additional information about special events, sales and holiday closings. Follow the shop on Facebook at May Fair House and on Instagram at mayfairhouse6000 or visit the website at [ststephensRVA.org/mayfair](http://ststephensRVA.org/mayfair).

**Cooking for the May Fair House:** serve on a cooking team to prepare items to be sold in the shop; contact Paula Chambers (804.683.8321).

**Shop volunteers:** work a shift on a weekday morning or afternoon, Saturday or Sunday morning, whatever fits into your schedule; contact Betsy Anderson (804.402.3864).

**Art Annex:** May Fair House displays and sells the works of local artists in the Art Annex area of the shop. The works include wall art, stained glass and pottery. If you are interested in displaying or learning more, please contact JoAnne Palmore (804.356.0423). Be sure to stop and admire the work of local talented artists.

**Grants:** Grants are awarded to local organizations each fall using funds raised from the May Fair House and our programs. Grants made in 2024 are listed below. Grants for 2025 will be published on our website in January 2026.

If you know of an organization that would be interested in applying, please inform them that the application is available on our website. If you are interested in learning more about the Women of St. Stephen's Grants Committee or how you can help with the process, please reach out to Lynn Burgess or Carol Jamerson.

## OTHER WAYS TO SERVE

**Altar Guild:** preparing the altar and the church for worship; Fern Newsom, Anne Burnett

**Gracious Gourmets:** Preparing meals for parishioners at times of bereavement or the birth of a child; Dabney McCoy

**Outreach:** We work with community partners to support their work in many ways; Darla Perry, Kerrigan O'Malley



**Email updates:** Sign up to receive reminders about our programs, last-minute schedule changes and weather advisories, and more news from the Women of St. Stephen's. Go to [ststephensRVA.org/email](http://ststephensRVA.org/email).

## **ALL ARE WELCOME**

While our programs and ministries are led by women, all people, regardless of gender or membership status, are invited to take part in our offerings. Your suggestions are welcome and your support makes our work possible.

# **Women of St. Stephen's Board**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Executive Co-Chairs:** Lynn Burgess, 804.338.0723, Carol Jamerson, 434.426.5144

**Recording Secretary:** Elizabeth Hansen

**Corresponding Secretary:** Pat Hartsock

**Treasurer:** Sally Ayers

**Assistant Treasurer:** Laura Wild

**Honorary Treasurer:** Barbara Cone

**Grant Co-Chairs:** Liz Brown, Meredith Hanbury

**Past Executive Co-Chair:** Clarice Dibble

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**Altar Guild Co-Chairs:** Fern Newsom, Anne Burnett

**Book of Remembrance:** Pat Hartsock

**By-Laws:** Gail Waechter

**Christian Social Outreach Co-Chairs:** Darla Perry, Kerrigan O'Malley

**Coffee Hour:** Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Mary Nel, Jane Selden

**Gracious Gourmets:** Dabney McCoy

**May Fair House:** Laura Wilkinson, Mary Sherman Willson

**Program and Events Committee:** Joan Putney, Chair; Mary Holly Bigelow, Gloria Cooper, Liz Dmytri, Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Fern Newsom, and Marti Thomas





**St. Stephen's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

6000 Grove Avenue | Richmond, Virginia 23226 | 804.288.2867 | [ststephensRVA.org](http://ststephensRVA.org)

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