

the SPIRIT

Sunday, November 2, 2025 | All Saints' Sunday

Abound in Hope: the annual giving campaign

In the fifteenth chapter of his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul writes, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." St. Stephen's mission is to live as a community of hospitality, healing, and hope, sharing the love of Christ. We are drawn in each week for worship and fellowship; then the Holy Spirit sends us out in love and compassion. Through it all, in Paul's words, we abound in hope.

We are deeply grateful to the 152 households who, as of Wednesday, had made pledges totaling \$827,743. If you have not yet made a pledge, please prayerfully consider the ways that St. Stephen's Church helps you abound in hope, and what you can do to make it possible for this church to bring hope to others. Our goal: 850 pledges totaling \$3 million. Visit our website to watch the campaign video, ststephensRVA.org/annual-giving-campaign as well as individual testimonials. You can pledge online or use the pledge card from your packet. Extra cards are available on tables throughout the parish house. Thank you!

In the Forum, 'Hope through the ages: stories from the Old Testament'

TODAY | 10:10 A.M.

What stories of hope do we find in the Bible? Join us for this presentation by Jacqueline Lapsley, President and Professor of Old Testament in the Walter W. Moore and Charles E. S. Kraemer Presidential Chairs at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond. Through a study of the prophets of the Hebrew Bible, we will learn how the faithful who came before us thought about and found hope. During table conversation, participants will have the opportunity to share their own stories as well. Next Sunday the forum will feature a panel focused on St. Stephen's outreach and service partners.

Our missionaries are here!

Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, St. Stephen's missionaries in Argentina, are in Richmond for their annual visit with us. They are with us today, and next Sunday they will be among our forum speakers as we begin the Week of Compassion. In addition, Monica will preach at the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services, and Heidi will lead the "wondering" in the Palmer Hall service at 9 a.m. Welcome, Heidi and Monica!

Week of Compassion begins next Sunday; brochures available

For the second year, St. Stephen's Church will have a "Week of Compassion," beginning Sunday, November 9, when we will observe the feast day for our patron saint, Stephen (transferred from December 26). The week will emphasize our connection to one another as we follow the example of St. Stephen, the Christian church's first deacon, through acts of service. We will have several guest speakers, including our missionaries in Argentina, **Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega**, and the Rev. **Dr. Sam Wells**, the vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

The following announcements pertain to the Week of Compassion, and additional details about all service projects and other special offerings is available in a brochure at Information Central, and on our website, ststephensRVA.org/week-of-compassion.

Sign up to help make home repairs

Among the service opportunities during our "Week of Compassion" is a day of making home repairs to a house in Petersburg on November 15. While several of the Week of Compassion activities have very limited space, we need 10 people to help with this project. This team will have a mix of folks with related skills and those who simply have willing hearts. Read more and sign up at ststephensRVA.org/week-of-compassion. If you have questions about any of the service opportunities, please contact Jennifer Bousquet, jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org.

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.





Cate Anthony begins three-part series Wednesday evening

NOVEMBER 5, 12, AND 19 | 6:30 P.M.

This week the Rev. Cate Anthony will begin a Wednesday evening class following the mid-week parish supper. On November 5 and 12, she will focus on *Incarnational Mission: Being With the World* by the Rev. Sam Wells, examining the foundations of the “Being With” ethos. On November 19, the class will reflect on Dr. Wells’ visit and lecture and imagine together how to live the theology of “Being With” in our lives today. No sign up is required for this class.

Ways to help those experiencing food insecurity

Many of you have asked how St. Stephen’s food pantry is doing in the midst of SNAP cuts, the government shutdown, etc. The number of weekly visits to the pantry is increasing, and we see new faces each Monday. Recently the offerings from FeedMore have been limited (though they always have frozen meat and fresh bread, two great staples). St. Stephen’s is unique in the large number of weekly donations the congregation makes (along with our farmers market vendors). You truly make a difference. Thank you.

The best way to help is to continue to donate food. What if everyone who came to church on Sunday brought just two cans? There is always a list of needed items in the weekly **eSpirit**, but if you forget the list, just remember that we always need hearty soups, canned beans, and cans or pouches of tuna. If you wish to do more, shop in bulk at a store like Aldi, BJ’s, or Costco. You can also order food online and have shelf-stable groceries shipped to church.

If you would like to give your time, on Wednesdays and Thursdays we always need drivers mid-morning to deliver to those who cannot come to the pantry in person because they lack transportation, have a disability, or face other hurdles. Contact Anna Jones (ajones@ststephensrva.org).

At the farmers market, our partners at Virginia Fresh Match are offering \$20 for fruits and vegetables to SNAP participants each week of November, regardless of what a participant currently has in their SNAP account. In the absence of emergency federal funding, the Commonwealth of Virginia is taking the unprecedented step of providing food assistance to SNAP recipients through November with funds from the state budget surplus. Since this is a new practice, there may be administrative hurdles to distributing funds; we are learning as we go.

Financial expertise for women is focus of Tuesday program

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | GATHER, 6:30 P.M.; PROGRAM, 7 P.M.

Did you know that women tend to invest 40 percent less than men, but typically live longer and have a greater need for post-retirement income? The Women of St. Stephen’s November program will be led by parishioner Liz Brown, a financial advisor at Davenport, in the fellowship hall. Liz will explain 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.

Come to the May Fair House holiday bazaar this Tuesday

After you vote this Tuesday, come to the annual May Fair House Holiday Bazaar in the parish house at St. Stephen’s Church. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the shop will be decked with stocking stuffers, gifts for everyone on your list, items for your holiday table, indoor and outdoor décor, Advent calendars, original art, and more. Pick up our popular casseroles, sides, breads, and desserts to have on hand for busy nights, or to give to a neighbor, a teacher, new parents, or someone who has experienced a loss. The bazaar also features wonderful guest vendors. Proceeds support community organizations!

Vestry nomination process is underway

SUGGESTIONS DUE BY NOVEMBER 23

In the Episcopal Church, each parish elects a vestry, a board composed of parishioners who work with the rector. Six new vestry members are elected at each annual parish meeting so that the total vestry of 18 is continually rotating in new members to work with continuing ones. Prior to the annual meeting, parishioners are invited to submit names for consideration by a nominating committee. This committee is appointed by the vestry and consists of at-large members as well as the six members of the vestry who will complete their service with the next annual parish meeting.

The committee looks for a diversity of nominees, including men and women of different ages, those who have been at St. Stephen's a long time and those who are newer to this community, those who worship at different services on Sunday, those who are involved in a range of ministries, those who bring varied gifts, skills, and perspectives to the vestry.

Visit ststephensRVA.org/vestry-nominations to read about criteria for vestry service, a timeline of the nomination and election process, and how to suggest a parishioner for the nominating committee to consider.

Annual diocesan convention begins Thursday

This Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, representatives of the 173 churches that make up the Diocese of Virginia will meet for the annual diocesan convention in Fredericksburg. The convention includes worship, legislative work, the discussion and approval of a diocesan budget, workshops, and the pastoral address of our bishop. St. Stephen's Church is represented by our clergy and by lay delegates elected by St. Stephen's vestry. This year's delegates are Kathy Brock, Sarah Bartenstein, Bill Davis, Darrell Headrick, Lynn Ivey, Allen Jamerson, Nan O'Connell, Joan Putney, Whitney Robertson, and Meg Tucker.

Welcome, Andrew Scully

Andrew Scully has joined our facilities team as a full-time sexton. Andrew has a degree in painting and printmaking from Virginia Commonwealth University. He recently returned to Richmond from Los Angeles where he worked in film, and before that, Portland, Oregon, where he worked in theater and live music venues. He is also a guitarist. Andrew is delighted to join the St Stephen's community—and we're delighted to have him! Welcome, Andrew!

Please wear a nametag

St. Stephen's Church is a large parish and we like to be able to call one another by name. And we are (happily) always welcoming new people. So please wear a nametag whenever you are here. If you've never had one (or you've misplaced yours), please request a nametag at the table near the entrance to the parish house. Temporary sticky-back nametags are available for you to use in the meantime.

This morning's reception host

Thank you to St. Stephen's flower guild for providing the reception following the 11:15 a.m. service today. Each week a different ministry or group hosts this reception, and we are grateful. If you attend the 11:15 service, be sure to come to the fellowship hall to enjoy tasty food and conversation afterwards. Would your group like to host a reception? Please contact Marilyn Kirkpatrick, woss@ststephensRVA.org.

Giving boxes

Children can take part in our annual giving campaign! At Information Central (the table across from Palmer Hall) is a basket of simple white boxes that kids can fill with coins or bills to add to our offerings supporting outreach partners. We've been distributing these boxes during the Palmer Hall service, but children who attend a different service are most welcome to take and fill a box. You can decorate it if you wish. Please bring the box back to church on November 23 for our ingathering.

Is your info accessible to other parishioners?

When we launched the online portal for our membership database earlier this year, each person's record was set to "opt out" of sharing information through the online parish directory. If you would like parishioners to be able to find you in the directory, be sure to log on and make your details accessible by changing this default. You can tailor your profile to make some things visible and others private, such as your email address, phone, street address, etc. Instructions are at ststephensRVA.org/ministry-platform and in a flyer at Information Central. Rest assured that this password-protected directory is not available to the public. Questions: call 804.288.2867.

Our market is year-round!

SATURDAYS, 9 A.M.-NOON

The Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's has made its annual shift to a 9 a.m. opening time through the spring. The market features fresh produce from local farms, prepared foods, eggs, meat, poultry, seafood, art, and more. Help us spread the word that **the market is open year-round**. The only time the market is not open is the Saturday after Christmas Day. Details: ststephensRVA.org/farmers-market.

For your calendar

We are entering the time of year when special services and events abound. Here are some dates to be aware of.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 Filled Thanksgiving boxes due

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 No Wednesday activities

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27 Thanksgiving Day service, 10:30 a.m. (parish office closed)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 Parish office closed

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 Farmers Market **is open**, 9 a.m.-noon

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 Advent I; Regular worship schedule, but morning formation is an all-ages Advent Fair, 10:10 a.m.



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*

The Rev. Judy Webb Davis (jdavis), *Associate Rector*

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 (nurseries), *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*

Andrew Scully (ascully), *Sexton*

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*

What (and where) is Information Central?

Information Central is the area just outside the parish office and across from Palmer Hall with a video screen, a large table with printed information, and literature holders on the walls. Often an announcement in our weekly communications will direct you to Information Central to pick up a particular brochure, flyer, the parish prayer list, or other item.



St. Stephen's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

A community of hospitality, healing, and hope, sharing the

6000 Grove Avenue | Richmond, Virginia 23226 | 804.288.2867 | ststephensRVA.org