



ABOUND in **HOPE**

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In the fifteenth chapter of his letter to the church in Rome, 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.”

Paul was speaking to a fledgling, underground church facing an uncertain future. The hope of the gospel – and the community they found with each other – is all they had. Centuries later, though our context is different, we too live in uncertain and anxious times.

Still today, that same hope sustains us and compels us to embrace more deeply our mission to live as a community of hospitality, healing, and hope, sharing the love of Christ.

Your pledges and gifts toward our annual budget sustain our collective spirit and mission, helping us bring hope to each other and to a world in need. Here are some of the ways we seek to abound in hope in the year ahead.

PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

- **Investments in Christian formation for all ages**

Seasonal altar hangings and liturgical furnishings for Palmer Hall, building on the excitement from last year’s physical expansion

Refurbish and refresh upstairs classrooms for improved small group meeting space, semi-dedicated youth space, and an enhanced wellness studio

- **Reaching in and reaching out in love**

More funding for hands-on outreach opportunities, mission trips, and more as we continue to deepen our commitments in the community

Increased coordination of pastoral care ministries, including implementing spirituality of aging programs and a peer resource network

- **Expanding the reach of our music ministry as we welcome a new director**

Improved audio equipment and focused marketing to spread the word about our sung Compline service and our amazing *a cappella* choir, Sanctuary

Continue to grow and nurture the chorister program and the handbell choir

- **Extending hospitality and welcome**

With our new signage project underway, further extend our physical welcome by repainting the parking lot and tending to the hospitality and accessibility of our buildings and grounds

All of this will be possible only with your generous financial support. As we look toward 2026, we ask your help to continue to abound in hope and further God’s dream for our church and for the world.

WHAT IT TAKES

Did you know that the work we do as a parish is funded primarily by your pledges and gifts? Fully 87 percent of our budget comes from pledges and other annual gifts from individuals and families, with six percent from facility rentals and other income streams and seven percent from our endowment. Your generous annual commitment is crucial.



IT COSTS:



to provide the worship and music, spiritual formation, hospitality, pastoral care, and outreach that give life and hope to so many.

The dollars pledged are important; broad participation in this annual support is important, as well. Last year, we received pledges from 822 households. Those commitments totaled \$2.86 million, a significant portion of the funds needed to carry out our mission of hospitality, healing, and hope.

Our goal this year is to receive pledges from 850 households for a total of \$3 million. Every gift of any size will help us reach that goal!

*Costs are for 2025 budget

ABOUNDING in **HOPE** TOGETHER

Please use the attached commitment card and return it in the envelope provided by November 23. If you prefer to make your pledge online, visit **ststephensRVA.org/pledge** or scan the QR code on the back of the card. Thank you for your commitment to our shared mission!

Stephen, our patron saint, is remembered in the Acts of the Apostles as the early church's first deacon. This fall, we will once again honor our namesake with a **Week of Compassion, November 9 through 16**, featuring special services, guest speakers, and opportunities to reach out in love and service and hope.



ABOUND in HOPE

Please complete this card and mail or bring it to St. Stephen's in the return envelope in your packet by November 23, 2025.

FIRST AND LAST NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (with area code) _____ EMAIL _____

I commit to supporting the vital work of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in my parish, my community, and the world in 2026 with an annual pledge of \$ _____, to be fulfilled by December 31, 2026.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

This commitment, made in faith, may be increased or decreased if your circumstances change.

What Sunday worship service(s) do you **usually** attend in person? (You may select more than one.)

☐ 8 a.m. ☐ 9 a.m. main church ☐ 9 a.m. Palmer Hall ☐ 11:15 a.m. ☐ 5:30 p.m. Celtic service ☐ 8 p.m. Compline

Do you **primarily** attend any of the above services virtually? If so, please tell us which one(s).

WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF HOSPITALITY, HEALING, AND HOPE, SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

(form continues)

You may fulfill your pledge anytime before December 31, 2026, with donations made weekly, monthly, or annually; with gifts of stock or qualified distributions from an IRA. To make a stock gift, please contact Susan McNamara in the parish office for instructions. smcnamara@ststephensRVA.org, 804.288.2867. If you wish to make donations in cash, please ensure that your donation is in an envelope with your name so that we can post it to your giving record.

To make a pledge online,
scan this code or go to
ststephensRVA.org/pledge.



THE LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society is a group of parishioners who have included St. Stephen's Church in their estate plans.

Would you like to receive information about planned giving and the Legacy Society?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am already a member of the Legacy Society

Thank you for your support of St. Stephen's Church.



St. Stephen's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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