

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026 | THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome, Bishop Bourlakas!

We are grateful to have with us the Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas, our assistant bishop, for the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services today. This is Bishop Bourlakas' first episcopal visit to St. Stephen's Church, and he will baptize, confirm, receive, or reaffirm more than 60 youth and adults. Bishop Bourlakas will also preach and celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Please welcome Bishop Bourlakas, and greet the candidates, at one of the festive receptions that will follow each of these two services.

Outreach ministry appreciation brunch

TUESDAY, MAY 19 | 9:30-11 A.M.



Please join Jennifer Bousquet and Anna Jones in the fellowship hall for a lovely brunch to show our appreciation and gratitude to everyone involved in outreach ministry in the past year. Brenda Burgner, LCSW, will give an interactive presentation on de-escalation and trauma-informed communication, teaching us practical skills to calmly navigate moments of conflict. These skills can be put to use while you are serving the community, at home with your family, or anywhere else. RSVP by scanning the QR code.

Next Sunday: the Day of Pentecost, and ministry appreciation

Next Sunday is a principal feast of the church year. The Day of Pentecost marks the end of the 50 days of Easter and celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit when those gathered in Jerusalem from many nations were able to hear the word of God in their own language. We celebrate this as the "birthday of the church." The liturgical color for Pentecost is red (for the tongues of fire above the heads of the apostles in the account from the Book of Acts), and many people like to wear red to church that day.

This will also be a day to show appreciation to all who do so much for and through St. Stephen's Church. Whether you are engaged in worship ministries, the altar guild, the flower guild, family ministry, hospitality, outreach, pastoral care, music, or any other ministry of St. Stephen's Church, we will honor and thank you during Sunday services and at a special reception following the 10 a.m. service, and during the Sunday Community Supper.

New opportunities to share God's welcome

TODAY AT 10 A.M. OR SUNDAY, MAY 31 | 7 P.M.

Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Many of us remember what it was like to be welcomed when we first visited St. Stephen's; it is why many of us returned and found a home here. We invite you to an information session where you can learn more about how our growing church shares the gift of God's hospitality, and how you can be part of it. There are two upcoming sessions, both of which take place in the Café @ St. Stephen's.

- Today at 10 a.m. OR
- Sunday, May 31 at 7 p.m.



Please join us to connect, learn, and get involved. These are among the most accessible and meaningful ways to serve within the church. If you can attend this morning, please do. If the Sunday evening session on May 31 suits your schedule better, please sign up by scanning the QR code, or call the church office at 804.288.2867. If you have questions, contact the Rev. John Jenkins, hospitality liaison (jjenkins@ststephensRVA.org), or Jennifer Bousquet, director of outreach and engagement (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.



SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY; SEE INSIDE



Resources for those experiencing grief and loss

Grief comes in many forms and at various times of life. It can come with the loss of a loved one, but it also comes with the loss of a relationship, the loss of a job, or any number of other changes and chances in life. You may have heard of the stages of grief, but it is important to note that the journey is not linear; it's different for each person.

Our website offers a wealth of information about this pastoral care, including church and community resources for those who grieve: ststephensRVA.org/pastoral-care.

Annual report available

If you attended the annual meeting in late February, you received photocopies of summaries from several ministries, committees, and parish leaders and staff, each presenting important data about our community of faith. Now, we have a different annual report to share with you, one with photographs and information about our activities in 2025 which demonstrate the importance of your involvement in this church—with your prayers, your participation, and your pledges. This colorful report is available at ststephensRVA.org/annual-report-2025. We are also mailing hard copies of the report to all who made a pledge during the “Abound in Hope” annual giving campaign.

The ‘soft space’ moves for the summer

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, the “soft space” that is available in Palmer Hall during the program year will move to the main church, since the Palmer Hall service does not take place in the summer. A few pews are removed from the Chapel of the Good Shepherd to make room for the soft space, to be re-installed after Labor Day. The soft space provides floor cushions, chairs, and books for young children who attend services with their families but need a bit of space to move around. Children in the soft space must be accompanied by a parent or other adult.

Summer opportunities at Peter Paul

Do you have an hour a week at lunchtime to read with a child? Peter Paul, one of our East End partners, seeks summer reading buddies on Mondays through Thursdays, June 15 to August 7. Email Dai Michelle at michelle@peterpaulrva.org to express interest or learn more.

In addition, there will be a “Lunch and Learn” on Thursday, June 4 at 11:30 a.m. at Peter Paul. Explore how your involvement can empower students, strengthen families, and lift up Richmond’s East End community. Hear directly from Peter Paul’s leaders and take a guided tour. For more details and to register, scan the QR code.



Dogwood Preschool is hiring

Dogwood Preschool at St. Stephen’s Church seeks a lead teacher and an assistant teacher for the coming school year. Dogwood serves children from 16 months to 5 years-plus with a half-day program that nurtures a child’s creativity and self-confidence using a dynamic, age-appropriate curriculum. If you are interested in joining the team, contact Elizabeth Sykes at 804.665.4902 or programdirector@dogwoodpreschool.org.

Pastoral announcements

St. Stephen’s Church is a large parish and it can be easy to miss important information about fellow parishioners, particularly when a member of our community dies. If you would like to be added to a list to receive email communications when a parishioner dies (and when available, the time and date of their memorial service), please scan the QR code to sign up. These emails are sent only for parishioner deaths, though other friends and loved ones who have died may still be included in our Sunday prayers. Please note that we send pastoral announcements only with the permission of the deceased parishioner’s family.



Summer schedule begins next Sunday

Today is the last day for our **regular worship schedule**.

Beginning May 24 (Memorial Day weekend), we move to our summer worship schedule, **8 a.m., 10 a.m., 5:30 p.m.**

Compline takes place Sundays at 8 p.m. through the end of May, then takes a break in June and July, and resumes in August.

Childcare will be available for the 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. services.

There is no Sunday formation during the summer.

The Sunday Community Supper continues throughout the summer, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The Wednesday supper takes a summer break beginning this week.

The farmers market is open Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon.

Summer hours for the May Fair House are 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays only. After Friday, May 22, the shop is closed on Sundays and weekdays until September.

Morning Prayer continues weekdays at 8:10 a.m. in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit unless the church is closed for a holiday.

The Café @ St. Stephen's is open Monday through Saturday mornings except holidays.

Holidays: St. Stephen's observes Memorial Day (May 25), Juneteenth (June 19), and Independence Day as holidays. Since July 4 is a Saturday, we will close on Friday, July 3.

The office closes at noon on Fridays beginning May 29.

Calendar of summer family ministry events

Our family ministry team has planned several events for children, youth, and parents this summer. To register for these offerings, please visit ststephensRVA.org/summer-family, where you'll find links to online registration for each event. (Popsicles after Baptism do not require sign-up, but all other events do.)

Sunday, 6/7 | Rising middle school students will go to Gelati Celesti together after the 10 a.m. service. Meet Caroline Harris at church at 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, 6/14 | Popsicles after Baptism: Following the 10 a.m. service, hang out on the playground and enjoy a popsicle! (For families—it's not a "drop off" event.) No registration needed.

Wednesday, 6/17 | Playground Hang, 9-10 a.m. for preschoolers and parents together; siblings are welcome.

July

Saturday, 7/11 | Shalom Farms workday from 9 a.m. until noon. Ages 4 and up with parents attending; rising 6th-12th graders may attend without parents.

Wednesday, 7/15 | Playground Hang, 9-10 a.m. for preschoolers and parents together; siblings are welcome.

Sunday, 7/19 | Popsicles after Baptism: Following the 10 a.m. service, hang out on the playground and enjoy a popsicle! (For families—it's not a "drop off" event.) No registration needed.

Sunday, 7/26 | Rising high school students will go to Gelati Celesti together after the 10 a.m. service. Meet Caroline Harris at church at 11:15 a.m.

August

Wednesday, 8/5 | Playground Hang, 9-10 a.m. for preschoolers and parents together; siblings are welcome.

Sunday, 8/9 | Cedarfield retirement community visit (elementary school children with their parents, and middle and high school youth). Social time and games with St. Stephen's parishioners living at Cedarfield, 2-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, 8/16 | Social for parents of rising 6th-12th graders, 4-6 p.m. Invitation with RSVP to follow.

Sunday, 8/23 | Popsicles after Baptism: Following the 10 a.m. service, hang out on the playground and enjoy a popsicle! (For families—it's not a "drop off" event.) No registration needed.

An orientation for visitors and newcomers

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 | 11:30 A.M. AND 7 P.M., IN THE CAFÉ

If you're newer to or exploring St. Stephen's Church, attend our next orientation to learn the lay of the land, tour the facility, and share your questions. RSVP by scanning this QR code or just drop in—all are welcome! Reach out to us anytime by submitting a Welcome Card, found in the pew racks in the church, in kiosks throughout the parish house, phone the church office, 804.288.2867, or scan the QR code on the first page of this newsletter.



Contribution statements are on their way

St. Stephen's finance office has mailed quarterly contribution statements which should arrive in your mailbox soon. You can also check on your giving record online using your Ministry Platform profile.

Stay in the loop about outreach ministry

Jennifer Bousquet, our director of outreach and engagement, and Anna Jones, the manager of our food ministry and farmers market, offer a monthly outreach e-newsletter. Stay up to date on what's happening with outreach partners and learn ways to be involved. Scan the QR code to subscribe. As with all our email newsletters, you may unsubscribe at any time, and we will never give your information to any outside party.



A friendly reminder to wear a nametag

At this church we like to be able to call one another by name. Since we are always welcoming new people, it's helpful if we wear nametags. If you don't have a St. Stephen's nametag (or you've misplaced yours), please request one at the table near the nametags. Temporary tags are available in the meantime.



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 (dgvwaltney), *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*

Robert McCormick (rmccormick), *Director of Music*

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), *Historian-in-Residence*

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*

Market has shifted to 8 a.m. opening

SATURDAYS, 8 A.M.-NOON

The Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's has made its annual shift to an 8 a.m. opening time for spring and summer. The market is open year-round and features fresh produce from local farms, flowers, prepared foods, eggs, meat, poultry, seafood, and more.



St. Stephen's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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

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