

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026 | THE DAY OF PENTECOST

The Day of Pentecost and ministry appreciation

Today is the Day of Pentecost, a principal feast of the church year. 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.”

Also today, we will express 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.

Our summer schedule begins today; final Compline service next Sunday

Today we begin using our summer worship schedule with services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 5:30 p.m. There is no Sunday formation in the summer, but childcare for those age 4 and younger is available during the 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. services.

Compline takes place tonight and next Sunday at 8 p.m., then takes a break in June and July, and resumes August 2.

The Sunday Community Supper continues throughout the summer, 6:30-7:30 p.m. More about the summer schedule is inside, and at ststephensRVA.org/summer-at-st-stephens.

Memorial Day

The church is closed tomorrow in observance of Memorial Day. As a reminder, when the church is closed for a holiday or due to inclement weather, there is no Morning Prayer and there are no meetings or events. The Café @ St. Stephen's is closed, and the Monday food distribution moves to Tuesday. A priest is always on call for pastoral emergencies; call the parish office at 804.288.2867 and follow the prompts.

Opportunities to share God's welcome

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 next Sunday in the café 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. Please join us to connect, learn, and get involved. These are among the most accessible and meaningful ways to serve within the church. To sign up, scan 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).

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 pastoral care, including church and community resources for those who grieve: ststephensRVA.org/pastoral-care.

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.





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, providing 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’ has moved for the summer

Beginning today, the “soft space” that is available in Palmer Hall during the program year is available in the main church since the Palmer Hall service does not take place in the summer. A few pews have been removed from the Chapel of the Good Shepherd to make room for the soft space. 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.

Summer at St. Stephen’s

Besides the schedule changes noted on page 1, here are some things to know about summer at St. Stephen’s Church.

The Wednesday supper has concluded for this program year; it resumes in September.

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. 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 this week.

Calendar of summer family ministry events

Our family ministry team has planned several events for children, youth, and parents this summer. Postcards about these offerings are at Information Central and are being mailed to those in our database with children and youth in their households. The same information and sign-up links are at ststephensRVA.org/summer-family. We've listed the June events below.

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. Register online.

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. Register online.

Local Episcopal churches observe Juneteenth

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 | BEGINNING AT 8:30 A.M.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Church Hill, one of our partners in ministry, will hold their sixth annual celebration of Juneteenth on June 19. This is a free community-wide event, open to all, hosted by several area Episcopal churches along with St. Peter's: St. John's, Church Hill; St. Philip's, Richmond; and Calvary, Hanover. Financial support is provided by St. Paul's, Richmond.

In addition to celebrating Juneteenth as the day of African American freedom, this event celebrates the story of the historically black Episcopal churches in the Richmond area, and their collaboration with St. John's, which was instrumental in founding St. Peter's.

The day begins outside St. John's Church at 8:30 a.m. At 9:30 a.m., participants will parade to Peter Paul—another of St. Stephen's partners—for a worship service to begin at 10:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Michael Paul Williams of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. A dance performance follows, and a picnic lunch begins at 12:15 p.m. outside St. Peter's, along with children's activities. Bus transportation will be available from St. John's to Peter Paul and back for those who prefer not to walk.

A reception introducing Journey for Change

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 | 4-6 P.M.

Come to the Café @ St. Stephen's for a reception to meet the artists of Journey for Change, and learn about this organization and its mission. You can see art by their staff and volunteers in the café and enjoy light refreshments. The reception is free and open to all; no reservations needed.

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, open year-round, features fresh, local produce, flowers, prepared foods, eggs, meat, poultry, seafood, and more.

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.



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.



A new way to participate in our food ministry

We are happy to say that FeedMore has paired our pantry with the Wegman's supermarket on Midlothian Turnpike for FeedMore's "Direct Store Pickup Program."

Each Saturday our team goes to Wegman's at 10 a.m. to pick up grocery donations for the pantry, documents the donations, and puts them away. If you are interested, able to lift 25 pounds, and able to commit to picking up the donations at least once a month, please contact Anna Jones, ajones@ststephensRVA.org. A brief online food safety training is required before you start.

You can also sign up to meet the drivers at church around 11:15 on Saturdays to help unload and efficiently move the food to cold storage.

This new program is already making a tremendous difference in the amount and variety of fresh foods that our pantry shoppers get to eat! It is not too late to sign up.

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.

A friendly reminder to wear a nametag

At St. Stephen's 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*

Where to find Information Central

Information Central is just outside the parish office, across from Palmer Hall, with a video screen, a large table with printed information, and literature holders on the walls. Weekly communications often direct you there for brochures, prayer lists, or other items.



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