

# the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026 | THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## St. Stephen's youth leave on mission trip today

A group of St. Stephen's youth and adult chaperones are partnering with Youth Mission Co for a mission trip in Charleston, S.C. beginning today. They will take part in service projects, worship, evening programs, and community-building activities. They will learn about the history of Charleston, including issues related to racial justice and healing. **Participants in this trip will be commissioned during the 10 a.m. service today before they embark on their trip.** Please hold them in your prayers this week.

## Local Episcopal churches observe Juneteenth this Friday, June 19

St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Church Hill, one of our partners in ministry, will hold their sixth annual Juneteenth celebration on Friday, June 19. This a free community-wide event is 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 honoring 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 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. Visit St. John's website for details, [saintjohnsrichmond.org/juneteenth](http://saintjohnsrichmond.org/juneteenth).

**Please note that on Friday, the parish office will be closed in observance of this day of African American freedom.**

## Our observance of Juneteenth

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

In addition to participating in the events mentioned above, St. Stephen's Church will observe Juneteenth next Sunday during our worship services. In addition to special prayers, music for the 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. services is being selected with this occasion in mind. Stop by Information Central to pick up a summary of these musical choices, or visit [ststephensRVA.org/music-notes](http://ststephensRVA.org/music-notes).

## Rebuilding Together, again

SATURDAY, JUNE 27



On April 25, members of St. Stephen's Church spent the day making repairs to a house in south Richmond but didn't quite finish the to-do list. We are returning June 27 to finish the job. We will repair the porch, paint the porch and a ramp, replace window screens, and check for other repairs. For details and sign-up, scan the QR code.

## A way to participate in our food ministry

FeedMore—central Virginia's food bank—has paired our pantry with the Wegman's supermarket on Midlothian Turnpike for FeedMore's Direct Store Pickup Program. Each Saturday a St. Stephen's 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, have an SUV or other vehicle with plenty of cargo space, and are able to commit to picking up the donations at least once a month, please contact Anna Jones, [ajones@ststephensRVA.org](mailto: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.

## 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.





## Kudos to our farmers market

OPEN SATURDAYS | 8 A.M.-NOON

Readers of two periodicals—Virginia Living magazine and Style Weekly—have recently voted the Farmers Market @ St. Stephen’s as one of the top three in our region. Thank you!

The market, founded in 2009, is a self-supporting ministry of St. Stephen’s Church. It allows the church and our customers to support local farms and small businesses while reducing our carbon footprint. In turn, our generous vendors donate fresh food to our food pantry for weekly distribution.

Patrons love our market because they can speak directly to the people who grow and produce their food, learning what methods and practices the farmer or producer uses, and getting tips about how to prepare the produce, eggs, meat, poultry, seafood and other goodies. Many customers remark on the size of the market: it’s big enough to have what they need, but it’s not overwhelming. Free parking is available. Children are welcome.

The market is open year-round except the Saturday after Christmas, and both the May Fair House and the Café @ St. Stephen’s are open during market hours. Summer is “high season” at our market, and at this time of year it opens at 8 a.m.

## Observe the summer solstice with a labyrinth walk in Palmer Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 21 | AVAILABLE 4:30-5:30 P.M. AND 6:30 TO 8 P.M..

At the threshold of seasonal change, on the evening of the summer solstice, you are invited into walking contemplation with St. Stephen’s labyrinth. The labyrinth is offered in Palmer Hall Chapel before and following the Celtic Evensong service. Spend 10 to 20 minutes in contemplation and stillness. Votive candles will be available for you to light as a sign of your prayers. Facilitators from St. Stephen’s labyrinth guild will be present to offer guidance, so no prior experience is necessary. If you have questions, please contact the Rev. John Jenkins, [jjenkins@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:jjenkins@ststephensRVA.org).

## Help us find our next communications director

Do you know someone with excellent writing skills, deep and broad knowledge of print and digital media, experience overseeing communications strategy, and who would be effective in a not-for-profit, mission-focused environment? Send them to our website ([ststephensRVA.org/employment](http://ststephensRVA.org/employment)) to see the job description for a communications director for St. Stephen’s Church. We are publicizing this opportunity widely, but word of mouth is an important tool, as well.

## Racial healing: walking with the enslaved

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 | 8:30 A.M.-5 P.M.

St. Stephen’s Church has reserved 10 spots for this event. Walking with the Enslaved is a Spirit-led pilgrimage through Richmond’s sites of enslavement and resistance. Rooted in the intertwined histories of St. Paul’s and St. Philip’s Episcopal churches, this journey invites participants to confront the truth of slavery, encounter stories of courage and resilience, and open pathways toward healing, reconciliation, and shared wholeness. We encourage St. Stephen’s parishioners to participate on this date so that we can experience pilgrimage together. Please note, there is a \$35 registration fee. Scan to read more and register.



## 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 [dmichelle@peterpaulrva.org](mailto:dmichelle@peterpaulrva.org), to express interest or learn more.

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## A friendly reminder to wear a nametag

At St. Stephen's 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 nametag station. Temporary DIY tags are available in the meantime.

## New here? Orientation is offered monthly

SUNDAY, JULY 12 | 11:30 A.M. AND 7 P.M., IN THE CAFÉ

If you're newer to or exploring St. Stephen's Church, attend one of our July orientation sessions 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 in the lower right corner of page 1.

## Fellowship hall floor is being refinished

This week the floor in the large fellowship hall is being refinished. Please observe instructions on signage about when and where you may walk in that area of our campus. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

## 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 with a dynamic, age-appropriate curriculum. If you are interested in joining the team, contact Elizabeth Sykes at 804.665.4902 or [programdirector@dogwoodpreschool.org](mailto:programdirector@dogwoodpreschool.org).

## Don't be a stranger this summer

Many people travel in the summer, and if that includes you, this is a reminder that all our Sunday services are livestreamed at [ststephensRVA.org/this-sunday](http://ststephensRVA.org/this-sunday).

If you do not already receive the **eSpirit**, our weekly email newsletter, why not sign up now? You'll stay in the loop about what's happening at your church even if you're away for a time. This is also a good way to ensure that you know about upcoming registrations for small groups or other offerings.



We have other newsletters focused on specific ministries. Scan the QR code for a sign-up/menu of the eSpirit and other newsletters. All are free, you may unsubscribe at any time, and we do not give your information to any outside party.

And finally, be sure to keep current with your pledge over the summer. The church's finances do not take a vacation!

## Taking care of our kneeling cushions

Is the pew you are sitting in missing a kneeler? St. Stephen's needlepoint guild has undertaken a cleaning project for our kneelers due to excessive soil and wear that are damaging the beautiful hand-stitched artwork. We are sending kneelers, 12 at time, for professional steam cleaning. All knelers should be back in place by mid-July. To preserve the beauty of these kneelers, lovingly stitched by talented volunteers, the guild would be most appreciative of your refraining from resting your feet on the edge or top of the kneelers, or standing on them. Thank you!

## Our parking lot

Doesn't the parking lot look great? Many parishioners had asked that spaces be restriped, and thanks to your generous pledges, we were able to make it happen!

## Food insecurity is year-round (and growing)

This week as you do your grocery shopping, please consider a donation of **tuna and/or macaroni and cheese** to stock our pantry serving those in need. In addition, we always need fresh apples, oranges, and bananas for the fruit ministry, and plastic or paper grocery bags with handles. You may drop off these items at the Somerset entrance to the parish house, or in baskets inside the church. Remember that children and youth who receive food assistance in the form of school breakfasts and lunches may not have access to these programs in the summer; this not only affects them, but puts added financial pressure on their families. If you will be away this summer, please consider "doubling up" on your usual food pantry donations. Thank you for your generosity!

## Reminders about flower dedications

The beautiful floral arrangements designed by our talented flower guild are possible thanks to donations to remember or honor loved ones. If you have requested a Sunday flower dedication in the past, Laurie Rogers gives you a courtesy call or email to find out if you wish to continue the practice in the current year. Since Laurie is working with bulletin printing deadlines set by the parish staff, please respond promptly. We don't want your flower dedication to be left out of the bulletin! Please use the form at [ststephensRVA.org/flower-memorials](http://ststephensRVA.org/flower-memorials). (use the form for Sunday, not holidays.) There are two steps to giving a memorial: filling out a request form, and paying online or sending a check. Be sure to fill out the request form on our website—the payment alone will not alert us to your request.

## Where to find videos of services and sermons

Worship videos, sermons, and reflections are all cataloged on our website with filters to help you find what you're looking for. From the main menu, select the Worship and Music tab, then Worship Video Archive. Also: we provide links in the **eSpirit** each week to the past Sunday's videos. (Please note that we do not archive videos from weddings and funerals; we provide these videos to the families involved.)



## Reminders about summer at St. Stephen's

STSTEPHENSRVA.ORG/SUMMER-AT-ST-STEPHENS

The Sunday summer schedule is:

8 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One

10 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two\*; *coffee, iced tea, water, lemonade served afterwards*

5:30 p.m., Celtic Evensong and Communion\*

6:30 p.m., Sunday Community Supper

\**Child care is available during the 10 and 5:30 p.m. services.*

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 office closes at 12:30 p.m. on Fridays during the summer.

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.

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

Holidays: St. Stephen's observes Juneteenth (this Friday, June 19), Independence Day, and Labor Day (Monday, September 7) as holidays. July 4 is a Saturday, so we'll close July 3.

## Family ministry events this summer

Our family ministry team has planned several events for children, youth, and parents this summer. Postcards about these offerings have been mailed to those in our database with children and youth in their households. Cards are also available at Information Central. The same information and sign-up links are at [ststephensRVA.org/summer-family](http://ststephensRVA.org/summer-family).

## Stop by the café

At the Café @ St. Stephen's, you can enjoy AC indoors, tables under shade trees outdoors, freshly brewed Rostov's coffee or tea, hot or iced, and the full range of espresso drinks, made to order. Snacks, exhibits by local artists, and free wifi make it even more welcoming. We're open Monday through Saturday mornings.

Instagram: [@thecafeRVA](https://www.instagram.com/thecafeRVA) | phone 804.288.3318.

## Praying for one another

To ask that someone be added to the parish prayer list, send an email to Kitty Ball, [kball@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:kball@ststephensRVA.org), or use the form at [ststephensRVA.org/prayer-requests](http://ststephensRVA.org/prayer-requests). It's very important that you obtain prior permission from the person whose name you wish to add. Keep in mind that the prayer list is included in Sunday bulletins (except when there is insufficient space), and the bulletins are posted online with our livestreams. If requested, we can list someone's first name only.

Another option is to ask for prayer from the Daughters of the King. These requests are kept in strict confidence and are not added to the printed prayer list. You can use the form referenced above to ask for these prayers, or use a paper form and envelope available at Information Central outside the parish office.

We print names on the list for three months or less. If you would like for someone to remain on the list for more (or less) time, please call the parish office, 804.288.2867.



**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](http://ststephensRVA.org)