

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026 | THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Two guest preachers are with us this summer

TODAY, AUGUST 16, AND AUGUST 30

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is pleased to welcome two familiar faces to our pulpit on three Sundays this summer. Today our preacher at the 10 a.m. service is the Rev. Penny Nash, who was associate rector here from 2014 to 2020, and served most recently as interim rector of St. James's, Richmond. She will also preach Sunday, August 16, at the 10 a.m. service. The Rev. Whitney Z. Edwards is the former chaplain at St. Christopher's School and has served parishes in this and other dioceses, most recently as vicar of Varina Church. She will preach here Sunday, August 30. We are excited to have these fine clergy in our pulpit!

A delicious outing for rising senior high students today

Rising senior high youth are invited to go to Cameo Cakery this morning with youth ministry coordinator Caroline Harris. Please meet Caroline at 11:15 a.m. at Information Central (near the church office and Palmer Hall) to walk to Cameo together. It's our treat!

Family ministry discernment process takes next steps

St. Stephen's family ministry discernment process, begun in the spring, has arrived at a new stage. After gathering robust feedback from over 100 households in the parish, a team of stakeholders and staff are reviewing and refining plans for fall formation and beyond. At a meeting on July 1, the team formed four working groups to address various aspects of this project. The larger team will meet again July 29, and will share a larger report of its findings and plans with the parish in August. Please keep the group in your prayers: Lacy Briney, Katie Chase, Diane del Bueno, Ara Hobbs, Lolly Hodge, Ginny Jamerson, Sarah Paulette, Whitney Robertson, Emily Souder, and Eric Van Der Hyde; family ministry guild co-chairs Katherine Farley and Greta Kidd; and staff members Caroline Harris, the Rev. John Rohrs, and the Rev. Will Stanley.

Call for choristers in grades 1 and up (and a new video!)

St. Stephen's Chorister program instills confidence and poise in each chorister, as each learns to be part of a team—both as members and as leaders—whose sum is greater than its parts. We provide choristers with outstanding professional vocal training, music theory, leadership development, and abundant performance opportunities. We welcome young people in grades one and above, inclusive of all genders; join at any point during the year! Watch a new video and read more about this group at ststephensRVA.org/choristers, and be in touch with Robert McCormick, rmccormick@ststephensRVA.org, to join or ask questions.

Missing the Compline service?

RESUMING AUGUST 2 | 8 P.M.

Sanctuary, the mixed choir that leads our sung Compline service on Sunday nights, takes a two-month break each summer. If you've been missing this exquisite candlelit 30-minute service—a sound bath for the soul—the wait is almost over. Compline will resume next Sunday, August 2, at 8 p.m.

Two opportunities to walk the labyrinth at St. Stephen's

SUNDAYS, AUGUST 2 AND AUGUST 30 | 6:30-7:50 P.M.

You are invited into walking prayer and contemplation with St. Stephen's labyrinth, available between our two evening services (5:30 p.m. Celtic Evensong and Communion, and 8 p.m. Compline) on two Sundays in August. The labyrinth will be available in Palmer Hall Chapel, located opposite the parish office, near the entrance from the large parking lot. Walk the labyrinth for 10 to 20 minutes, or simply sit in the chapel in prayer. Votive candles will be available for you to light as a sign of your prayer. Facilitators from St. Stephen's labyrinth guild will be present to offer guidance, so no prior experience is necessary. If you have questions, contact the Rev. John Jenkins, jjenkins@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.





Farewell to two of our sextons

We are sad to announce that two valued members of our facilities team, Jack Hotchkiss and Randy Ransone, will leave our staff in the coming days. Jack, who joined the staff in 2022, plans to return to school to finish requirements to become an electrician. Randy, who's been with us since 2025, will be the new facilities manager for the Bolling-Haxall House. We are so grateful for their time with us. Godspeed, Jack and Randy.

Missing something? We have a 'Lost and Found'

Did you leave behind a pair of glasses, a water bottle, a backpack or other item? St. Stephen's Church has a Lost and Found in the closet in the front office. Stop by during office hours (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., summer Fridays) to look through the eclectic collection of items.

Addressing food insecurity, week by week

Our food pantry is receiving record-breaking numbers of visitors who come to us for assistance to feed their families. Food insecurity is a growing problem. This week, please consider donating **spaghetti sauce, green beans, and/or chickpeas (canned or dried)** to stock our pantry serving those in need. In addition, the weekly fruit ministry needs fresh apples, oranges, and bananas for their weekly distribution, and plastic or paper grocery bags with handles. You may drop off these items at the Somerset entrance to the parish house anytime, or in baskets in the church. Thank you for your generous response to the needs. You're making a difference!

August family ministry events

STSTEPHENS RVA.ORG/SUMMER-FAMILY

The family ministry team has one more month of summer events before the new program year begins. Join us for any of these. We ask for registration for the playground hang on August 5, and the Cedarfield visit on August 9 (go to the web page noted above). An invitation for the parent social will follow soon, along with an RSVP link.

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

Sunday, 8/9 | A Cedarfield retirement community visit (elementary school children with their parents, and middle and high school youth) will include 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 details and RSVP to follow.

Sunday, 8/23 | Popsicles after Baptism: Following the 10 a.m. service, hang out on the playground and adjacent courtyard and enjoy a popsicle! (Not a "drop off" event.) No registration is needed.

Racial healing: Walking with the Enslaved

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

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 us to confront the truth of slavery, encounter stories of courage and resilience, and open pathways toward healing, reconciliation, and shared wholeness. The 10 spots we reserved for St. Stephen's parishioners are filled; if you wish to attend but have not signed up, please contact Jennifer Bousquet, director of outreach and engagement, at jbousquet@ststephensRVA.org.

Help us find a facilities and operations director

David Ellis, director of facilities and operations, has shared his intention to move on from St. Stephen's Church at the end of the summer. He has graciously agreed to remain in his current role until September 1, 2026 to help ensure a seamless transition as we conduct a search for his successor. We've launched that search and you can help. If you know a potential candidate, please send them to ststephensRVA.org/jobs for a job description and application instructions.

Finance office letter headed your way

If you submitted a pledge commitment for 2026, be on the lookout for a letter from St. Stephen's finance office concerning the status of your pledge. Moving forward, we will be shifting away from sending giving statements via postal mail, and we will instead be making them available for you online. If you would like to continue receiving giving statements in the mail, the letter you receive will include information for opting in to continue receiving mailed paper statements.

Otherwise, going forward, you will view your giving record on our website. You will click "login" in the top right corner of our website and enter your email and password. If you have forgotten your login information, you can click 'forget password' or reach out to Mary Feldman at mfeldman@ststephensRVA.org or 804.288.2867. This is the same portal you use to update your personal information (address, phone, etc.) and obtain contact information for others who have opted to make that information accessible to fellow parishioners. Rest assured that this information is secure and is not accessible to the public.

If wish to opt in to continue receiving mailed statements, **you do not need to do anything until the annual giving campaign** this fall.

The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson to preach here

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 | 6:30 P.M.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is honored to host the annual Pride Eucharist for the Central Richmond, North Richmond, and West Richmond regions of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. Held as part of the City of Richmond's Pride festival, this joyous occasion provides a time for the wider community to give thanks for the life and witness of LGBTQ+ people in the church and the world. We're thrilled to announce that the guest preacher will be the Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, ninth bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire, who served from 2003 to 2013. Bishop Robinson was the first openly gay partnered man to be consecrated a bishop in the Episcopal Church. A festive reception will follow in the large fellowship hall. Make plans now to be here for this service.

Sunday suppers are for everyone

SUNDAYS | 6:30 P.M.

Each Sunday evening following the Celtic service, we serve an informal supper in the fellowship hall. Join others for this simple, delicious, donation-based meal. It's a wonderful way to meet others. No reservations are needed.

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 Nametag Central. Temporary DIY tags are available in the meantime.

Orientation to St. Stephen's offered each month

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 | 11:30 A.M. AND 7 P.M., IN THE CAFÉ

If you're newer to St. Stephen's Church or still exploring, attend one of two orientation sessions August 23 to learn the lay of the land, tour the facility, and share your questions. All are welcome! You can also reach out to us anytime by submitting a Welcome Card, found in the pew racks in the church, in kiosks throughout the parish house, at Visitor Central, or at ststephensRVA.org/visitor-card (or scan the QR code in the bottom right corner of page 1 of this newsletter), or call 804.288.2867. These orientation sessions are offered every month; if August doesn't work for you, watch this space for fall dates.

Stay in touch this summer

Many people travel in the summer, and if that includes you, remember that all our Sunday services are livestreamed at 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.



During the summer, please be sure to **keep current with your pledge**. Church finances do not take a vacation!

Summer at St. Stephen's

STSTEPHENSVA.ORG/SUMMER-AT-ST-STEPHENS

The Sunday summer schedule:

8 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One

10 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two* *followed by coffee, tea, lemonade*

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

6:30 p.m., Sunday Community Supper

8 p.m., Compline (resuming August 2)

*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. May Fair House summer hours are 9 a.m.-noon on Saturdays only. The Café @ St. Stephen's is open Monday through Saturday mornings except holidays.



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 (on sabbatical until September 1)*

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 (on medical leave until December 6)*

Robert McCormick (rmccormick), *Director of Music*

Susan McNamara (smcnamara), *Finance and Administrative Assistant*

Madison Prather (nurseries), *Nursery Coordinator*

Randy Ransone (rransone), *Sexton*

Robin Raver (raver), *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*



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