

the SPIRIT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026 | ALL SAINTS' DAY

Adult formation offerings this morning

SUNDAY FORUM, 10:10 A.M., LARGE FELLOWSHIP HALL: Our new forum series: "Ordinary faith, extraordinary lives" will have us consider the examples of a variety of "ordinary saints." Together, we'll strive to discover how each of us can lead an extraordinary life of faith in the midst of ordinary days. Today's focus will highlight some ordinary saints of St. Stephen's Church: those who contributed their remembrances to *World War II: Personal Stories of the Greatest Generation*. This book, initiated by former St. Stephen's staff member Lyn Presson and shepherded to completion by parishioner Nancy Emerson, is available for order (\$40/copy). Orders placed after November 3 are not guaranteed for Christmas delivery. Use the QR code here to place your order now.



MANY PARENTS, ONE VINE, 10:10 A.M., ROOM 14: Today, we begin our November series: "Reading the Bible with heart and mind: A primer for parents." Three sessions led by our clergy are designed to be a primer series for parents of children of all ages, with resources to use at home. We'll start with "Bible basics: Who wrote it, what's in it, and how do we approach it?" Additional sessions will be held November 15 and 22. On November 8, we'll participate in a family outreach event as part of the Week of Compassion.

TRAILHEADS, 7-7:50 P.M., CAFÉ @ ST. STEPHEN'S: Movement as a spiritual practice engages the whole person: body, mind, and soul. By tuning into rhythm, breath, and the physical body, we can quiet the thinking mind and deepen our connection to ourselves, our community, and the divine. Sacred Circle Dance is one embodied expression of this. Participants hold hands in an unbroken circle, moving, chanting, or meditating together. Rooted in traditional folk cultures and revitalized globally by modern spiritual and interfaith communities, Sacred Circle Dance transforms simple, synchronized steps into a moving prayer. All are welcome, no experience required. Led by Celestine Jones. Questions? Contact Celestine at voyage4j@gmail.com.

Annual All Saints' Service remembers loved ones

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | NOON

Our traditional All Saints' service is a deeply meaningful liturgy offering time to light a candle, place it on the altar, and speak the name of a beloved one who is now at peace. All are welcome to participate; anyone may come forward to light a candle.

May Fair House Holiday Bazaar is nearly here!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 | 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

Before (or after) you visit your polling place on Election Day, be sure to stop by May Fair House for the annual Holiday Bazaar! The shop will be bursting with stocking stuffers, entertaining needs, indoor and outdoor décor, Advent calendars and more. Food also makes a great gift and eases holiday preparations. The holiday bazaar includes guest vendors and is the time to order a magnolia wreath (or two!). All proceeds support the Women of St. Stephen's outreach grants. Please note: The shop will be **closed on Sunday, November 1**, to prepare for the bazaar. On **Tuesday**, the **Café @ St. Stephen's will be open until noon**.

Shopping with a purpose

THROUGH NOVEMBER 8

One way to support students in at our partner schools in Richmond's East End is by donating essentials. Boys' boxers and briefs in sizes XS (4-5), S (6-8), and M (10-12), are needed at Fairfield Court Elementary School. (Smaller sizes preferred.) Anna Julia Cooper School is collecting new or gently used khaki and navy pants sized for children (4 and up) to adult. Donations may be left in the basket on the Outreach table. Questions? Contact Jennifer Bousquet, 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.





Nominations for 2027 vestry class

SUGGESTIONS DUE BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Every year, at the annual meeting, the congregation elects new members of the vestry, a body that tends to temporal matters in conjunction with the rector. A nominating committee gathers names and will present the slate in February. Visit our website via the QR code here to learn what's asked of vestry members and the nominating process.



'Approaching the Bible: The story of God's compassion'

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 11, 18 | 6:30 P.M., PALMER HALL CHAPEL

On three Wednesdays in November, St. Stephen's clergy will discuss how to approach the major themes and narratives of Scripture through the lens of God's compassion. We'll hear presentations from the Rev. John Rohrs and the Rev. Cate Anthony, and participate in discussions with one another to deepen our understanding of the Bible and discover ways to apply it to our lives today. No registration is required.

Young adults monthly fellowship

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 | 6:30 P.M.

All young adults are invited to an evening of community and food on the second Thursday of each month. In November, we'll be at Toast, 7007 Three Chopt Road. A small team of parishioners convenes the dinners, with staff support and presence most months. This is a great way for young adults who are new (or new-ish) to get connected to the community. Feel free to bring friends. Use the QR code to register as soon as possible, and no later than the day before the dinner. This enables us to reserve adequate seating.



Caregivers' Table

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | NOON-1:30 P.M.

Caring for those we love with dementia is a challenging journey. St. Stephen's pastoral care ministry has created a special luncheon for parishioners who are caregivers. We hope to offer a resting place for refreshment, friendship, mutual support and perhaps a little grace along the path. While there is no charge, please register by **November 13** using the QR code so we may accommodate dietary restrictions or otherwise make this time more welcoming for you.



Secure tickets now for Winter Solstice Concert

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 | 7 P.M.

Sanctuary, the St. Stephen's *a cappella* Compline choir, offers a concert to feed the spirit on one of winter's longest nights. Seasonal music and poetry will center around the texts of the Great O Antiphons, pleas for longing and fulfillment at the darkest time of year. The program will include music of Kerensa Briggs, Anna Lapwood, Paul Manz, James MacMillan, Robert McCormick, and Arvo Pärt. Tickets are \$20 (\$10 for students) and are available via this QR code. (No paper tickets will be issued; simply give your name at the door.)



Annual giving campaign is ongoing

THROUGH NOVEMBER 22

Growing in Grace is off to a great start! As of Wednesday, October 28, we have received \$1,529,648 in pledges from 327 households. Personalized packets were mailed Monday, October 12. If you have pledged in the past and have not received a packet, please collect one from Giving Central (in the Hollerith Foyer) or on the Family Ministry table outside Palmer Hall. Or pledge online via this QR code. Thank you for helping us grow in grace, supporting the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's Church in 2027 and beyond!



Fellowship and coffee hour

TODAY | FOLLOWING 11:15 A.M. WORSHIP

Today's reception is graciously provided by Boy Scout Troop 418, which calls St. Stephen's home. The troop has been in existence for more than 100 years, making it the oldest active troop in the Heart of Virginia Council. With nearly 30 active scouts, the troop meets weekly at our church and participates in monthly campouts. Parents of interested youth seeking more information may email scoutmaster@troop418.org.

Feeding our neighbors

This week, please consider donating **canned soup and canned fruit** to stock our food pantry shelves. Every week, we welcome apples, oranges, and bananas for our fresh fruit ministry. Plastic and/or paper grocery bags with handles are also useful. All donations may be left inside the parish house foyer facing Somerset Avenue or in baskets in the church.

Music to our ears

The pieces of music offered at the beginning and the end of most Sunday morning services receive the designation "voluntary." The term indicates the music is not a required component of the liturgy; playing such pieces was not originally part of organists' job descriptions. Nonetheless, some organists began to do so of their own volition, and the trend spread, leading to the name. Diana Chou and Robert McCormick select and prepare these pieces carefully, and they always are offered in a spirit of worship and prayer.

This Sunday, the voluntaries at the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services have been chosen with the theme of "There is a happy land [far, far away where saints in glory stand]," a hymn tune arranged for organ by the famous jazz pianist and faithful Episcopalian George Shearing; and the *Chorale-Fantasia on Darwall's 148th* by Harold Darke. A "fantasia" or "fantasy" is a musical form that is free or "rhapsodic." *Darwall's 148th* is the name of the tune that we sing with the text "Ye holy angels bright," which is our last hymn at both services.

Annual diocesan convention begins Thursday

This Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, representatives of the 173 churches that make up the Diocese of Virginia will meet for the annual diocesan convention in Fredericksburg. The convention includes worship, legislative work, the discussion and approval of a diocesan budget, workshops, and the pastoral address of our bishop. St. Stephen's Church is represented by our clergy and by lay delegates elected by St. Stephen's vestry. This year's delegates are Gussie Bannard, Kathy Brock, Bill Davis, Darrell Headrick, Lynn Ivey, Allen Jamerson, Chip Jamerson, Anne Pinion, Joan Putney, Gayle Royals, and Meg Tucker.

Week of Compassion highlights

Please take a moment to review the Week of Compassion offerings and consider what is calling to you. This week is designed to foster our shared ministry of hospitality, healing, and hope, sharing the love of Christ. A full list is available on our website via the QR code here; registration is required for **events in bold marked with an asterisk (*)**.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 10:10 A.M.

HEAR FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

With us for their annual visit, Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega will share about their ministry in Jujuy, Argentina. They work closely with women and children who suffer the effects of violence and addiction to drugs and alcohol, and engage in projects with the community to create safe space and physical shelter, and provide practical help to build new lives.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, ALL DAY

THANKSGIVING BOX PICK-UP

At the Outreach table in the main hallway, parishioners may collect an empty box to fill with ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal (a shopping list will be provided). Decorating the outside of the box is warmly encouraged! Filled boxes are due at St. Stephen's by **Sunday, November 23**.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 6:30-8:30 P.M.

'LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME'

This program, offered by the Women of St. Stephen's, recalls Matthew 19:14 by focusing on two organizations doing extraordinary work to heal and revitalize the lives of children in Richmond. Come hear from Allison Pollock, corporate and community partnership officer for VCU Children's Hospital Foundation, and SCAN Executive Director Jeanine Harper. We are also collecting donations of individually wrapped snack items for SCAN, such as cereal bars, cracker packs, animal crackers, fruit snacks, juice boxes, and small water bottles.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 8:45 A.M.-NOON

*SHALOM FARMS WORKDAY

Join us for a morning spent volunteering at Shalom Farms' North Side urban farm. This event is appropriate for ages 4 to 104. Tasks might include planting and/or harvesting fall crops, weeding, or washing and packing produce. Shalom Farms not only grows food for people with limited access to fresh produce, but also provides ecological, agricultural, and nutritional education for the community.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 6 P.M.

EVENSONG FOR ST. STEPHEN

This musical offering will be a celebration of St. Stephen. The service of roughly 40 minutes will include music of Margaret Burk, Harold Friedell, and Ernest Bullock. Donations of non-perishable items are requested for the food pantry.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 8:30 A.M.-4 P.M.

***REBUILDING TOGETHER RICHMOND**

Join a team from St. Stephen's Church making repairs to a home in Petersburg. We will meet at the house in the morning. Lunch will be provided.

More from the Week of Compassion

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Family Ministry Activity, 10:10-11 a.m., Room 14

Children, youth, and parents will gather for a variety of age-appropriate hands-on activities to assist several organizations.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

***St. Stephen's Food Pantry, 12:20-3:30 p.m.**

Up to four people may help visitors select food during our weekly distribution.

"Recipes of the World" release, 1-3 p.m., Food Pantry

Farmers market manager Anna Jones has compiled a booklet containing recipes donated by members of our food pantry community. Distribution begins today.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

***CrossOver Clinic, 8:30-10:30 a.m. or 1-3 p.m., Henrico clinic**

St. Stephen's parishioners are invited to assist with a diabetes education and awareness display table. No medical knowledge is required of volunteers.

***Self-care wellness event, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Café**

Enjoy a self-care chair class with yoga teacher and massage therapist Robin Raver. Come early for coffee and fellowship.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Morning prayer and conversations over coffee, 8:10-10:30 a.m.

Gather with representatives from St. Stephen's creation care committee and racial healing commission for Morning Prayer in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit (8:10 a.m.) followed by coffee in the Café @ St. Stephen's.

***St. Stephen's Food Pantry, 7-8:30 p.m.**

Up to 12 people are invited to help organize and shelve pantry items donated by St. Catherine's students and families, and by those attending Evensong.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

***Gleaning, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., St. Stephen's Farmers Market**

Gleaning: Two people are invited to join veteran gleaners to collect donations of produce, meat, etc., from vendors at the farmers market and store them for use in Monday's food pantry distribution.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Monica Vega, one of our missionaries in Argentina, will preach at the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services; Heidi Schmidt, our other missionary, will lead the "wondering" in the 9 a.m. Palmer Hall service and will also provide a reflection at the 5:30 p.m. service of Celtic Evensong and Communion. In the Sunday Forum, 10:10-11 a.m., we'll hear from Tommy Blain, new head of school at the Anna Julia Cooper School.



St. Stephen's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

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

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