

CAFÉ MINISTRY FAQs

As a comfortable and inviting gathering place for the whole community—with a particular emphasis on youth—our proposed café will be a ministry, not a business. Though open to all, an extension of our “village green,” any communication about the ministry outside the parish will be by word of mouth only.

WHAT WILL BE SERVED IN THE CAFÉ?

The café will serve primarily pre-packaged foods, purchased wholesale from Ellwood Thompson’s, with an emphasis on healthy, locally sourced fare. This will include sandwiches, wraps, and salads made by Ellwood Thompson’s; breakfast foods, bottled drinks, and snacks. Coffee and smoothies (fruit and green) will be prepared onsite. The café will also serve delicious treats prepared by Farmers Market vendors like King of Pops and Red Cap Patisserie.

WHAT HOURS WILL THE CAFÉ BE OPEN?

The projected hours of food service are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The café would also be open as a gathering space at all times when the church building is open. Free Wi-Fi will be available at all times.

HOW LARGE WILL IT BE?

The café will have indoor seating for approximately 36 people (12 at the large community table, 16 at 2-seat tables, and 8 in a soft seating nook). In warmer weather, the café will have additional outdoor seating, both at tables and on the steps surrounding the café.

WHO WILL WORK IN THE CAFÉ?

The café will be managed by a full-time staff person with experience in café management. The manager will be supported by a café staff of 2 to 3 part-time employees and volunteers from the community. The cost of this staffing will be covered by revenue from the café. Members of St. Stephen’s family ministry staff will be present in the café space every day after school, not as café staff, but to connect with youth and other members of the community.

WILL THE CAFÉ MAKE MONEY?

The project team, with professional input, has created a thorough and realistic projection of the costs and income that the café would generate. On the conservative side of the projection (smaller number of daily customers) the café would be revenue neutral. On the more optimistic side (larger number of daily customers) the café would become a modest source of revenue. Patrons will include youth, members of St. Stephen’s, preschool families, people from the neighborhood and surrounding schools, and the steady stream of people who visit the church every day for worship, Bible studies, classes, recovery groups, the May Fair House and the Bookshop @ St. Stephen’s.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact Michael Sweeney, msweeney@ststephensRVA.org or 288.2867.

PROJECT TEAM: Kate Roy Christian, Mac Hines, Rick Hood, Gene LeCouteur, Jim Orville, Mac Purrington, Steve Simon, Michael Sweeney