

*Welcome to*  
**St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church**



A GUIDE FOR VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS

**W**hoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here. We are a community of hospitality, healing, and hope, sharing the love of Christ. Thank you for joining us today.

If this is your first visit, you may wonder what you will find in this place. Here are a few characteristics of our community:

**We strive to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.** We seek to follow the way of Jesus, who embodied the breadth and depth of that love throughout his life. Through Holy Baptism and regular sharing in the Eucharist, we are formed in the fellowship of Christ and called to go out into the world as ambassadors of peace and love.

**We keep sacred time.** Amidst the busyness of life, we gather to pause and seek God's presence and peace. We host Morning Prayer each weekday and offer opportunities for contemplative prayer. Our principal Sunday morning services feature resonant liturgies of prayer, preaching, choral music, and Communion. *All* are welcome to receive the sacrament. Our Sunday evening services slow down, with periods of silence and meditative music, bathed in candlelight. The 8 p.m. service of sung Compline, led by Sanctuary, our mixed *a cappella* choir, has been described as a "sound bath" for the soul.



**We value diversity and inclusion.** Parishioners come from varied backgrounds and perspectives, finding a common faith in the Episcopal Church. We welcome people from all stages and walks of life, including LGBTQ+ persons, who are full and beloved members of our community. In these divided times, we embrace our identity as a “big tent” parish where we value dialogue amidst diversity and overcome differences to celebrate our oneness in Christ.

**We foster healing and wholeness.**

We strive to be a place of refuge from the stress of modern life and for those who have been harmed or disaffected by the church. Through music and worship, contemplative practices, and healing prayer, we offer an environment of healing and hope. Our popular Celtic Evensong and Communion on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. has been a particular source of healing for many people. Parishioners and clergy share in the ministry of pastoral care, including visits, phone calls, notes, home Communion, knitting and blessing prayer shawls and more.



We host programs supporting mental health and wellness, recovery groups and yoga classes. We visit two retirement communities for worship and fellowship. Above all, we seek to battle the plague of isolation by fostering a sense of belonging.



**We practice hospitality in many ways.**

Through various “front porch” ministries we open our doors and hearts to our neighbors. Our weekly food pantry is arranged as a grocery store, allowing guests to select their own groceries, honoring their dignity. Saturday mornings year-

round we host a farmers market, rated one of the best in Richmond. The Café at St. Stephen’s, open each morning Tuesday through Saturday, is a gathering place for food and fellowship. The May Fair House sells entrees and other foods made by volunteers using beloved recipes; proceeds fund outreach grants in the community. The shop offers a unique array of gifts.



**We honor children and youth.** Our 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning service in Palmer Hall is geared entirely to young families, with a children's sermon, special music and prayers, and elementary school age choristers, readers, and acolytes joining the clergy and staff to lead worship. Our Sunday morning formation for children is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-based approach that invites the curiosity and creativity of every child. As children mature, they serve as ushers and acolytes in other services, and participate in our Journey to Adulthood youth program which emphasizes spiritual formation and exploration in faith, ministry, and mission.

**We nurture adult formation and fellowship.** The Sunday Forum and other adult offerings feature speakers from near and far sparking discussion, reflection, and spiritual growth. We host parish suppers on Wednesday





and Sunday evenings: warm meals and warmer conversation. The suppers often give way to a variety of small group offerings including affinity groups, book studies, inquirers classes, and more. Occasional pilgrimages and mission trips provide opportunities for deeper connection and spiritual exploration.

**We prioritize relationships beyond our campus.** Each week, parishioners can be found tutoring in schools, delivering fresh fruit to low-income housing communities, and visiting residents of the city jail. Our engagement in the East End of Richmond goes back decades and includes ongoing partnerships with Fairfield Court Elementary School and Peter Paul. With local partners, we founded Anna Julia Cooper School, a tuition-free independent school in the East End, and ReWork Richmond, a unique employment initiative helping East End adults secure family-sustaining careers. Volunteers with Rebuilding Together Richmond make repairs that allow Richmonders to remain safely in their homes. In addition to this local focus, we support two missionaries caring for vulnerable women and children in a remote community in Argentina.



**We celebrate beauty.** Our top-notch musicians and choirs offer beautiful sacred music each week, and periodic concerts feature larger pieces of music. Flowers and candles adorn our worship space, and our gardens and courtyards provide areas for quiet contemplation. We

host rotating art galleries in several spaces in our parish house. Most of all, we see beauty in the faces of all who come through our doors and share in our common life.

**We are a community of hope.** Our conviction is that in an ever-changing social and religious landscape, St. Stephen's Church has much to offer – conversations that matter, healing and fellowship, sacred beauty, and a spirit of mission. We feel a deep sense of hope for the church and for the world, and we strive to share that hope broadly, especially with those in need. We are a community of hospitality, healing, and hope, sharing the love of Christ. We are so glad you are here!



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sundays

8 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One

9 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (two simultaneous services, one in the main church and one in Palmer Hall oriented for children and young families)\*

10:10 a.m., Formation for all ages\*

11:15 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two\*

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

6:30 p.m., Sunday Community Supper

8 p.m., Sung Compline with Sanctuary, our mixed *a cappella* choir

## **Weekdays**

8:10 a.m., Morning Prayer and Communion

## **Summer Sundays**

8 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One

10 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two\*

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

6:30 p.m., Sunday Community Supper

8 p.m., Compline (this service takes a break for part of the summer; check our website for details)

\*Nursery available for ages 4 and younger

All regular services held in the church are livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and our website.

## **THINGS TO KNOW**

### **Parish suppers**

Donation-based; pay what you can or be our guest:

- Wednesdays during the academic year, 5:45 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- Sundays year-round, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### **The Café @ St. Stephen's**

**804.288.3318**

Located at the Three Chopt  
end of the parish house  
Tuesday through Friday, 7-11  
a.m.; Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-  
noon

Freshly brewed coffee and  
tea; espresso drinks; iced  
beverages; breakfast fare; grab  
and go items; indoor & outdoor seating; free wifi



## **The May Fair House**

**804.282.3004**

Located on the Grove Avenue side of the parish house off the large parking lot, with inside and outside entrances; managed by the Women of St. Stephen's to raise funds for community grants  
Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. | Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon  
Sunday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Closed June, July, August

## **The Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's**

Anna Jones, manager, [ajones@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:ajones@ststephensRVA.org)

Located in the large parking lot

Saturdays year-round except the Saturday after Christmas

8 a.m.-noon, April-October; 9 a.m.-noon, November-March

Local produce; eggs, meat, poultry and seafood; prepared and baked foods; plants and flowers; handcrafted items. All items are locally grown, raised, sourced. Free weekly email newsletter available.



## **Dogwood Preschool @ St. Stephen's**

**804.665.4902**

**[dogwoodpreschool.org](http://dogwoodpreschool.org)**

An independent preschool located at St. Stephen's for ages 16 months to 5+ years; for enrollment and info, please contact Dogwood Preschool directly.





## **MORE ON OUR WEBSITE**

**Go to [ststephensRVA.org/visitors](http://ststephensRVA.org/visitors) for links to the following:**

- Ways to serve: outreach, hospitality, market, worship and more
- Newcomer, visitor receptions
- Subscribing to free email newsletters
- Seasonal offerings (e.g. groups and classes during Lent and Advent; daily Advent meditations; Holy Week, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas services and pageants)
- Holy Baptism
- Confirmation (youth and adults)
- Holy Matrimony
- Pastoral care
- Family ministry (babies, children, youth, parents)
- Sunday Forum topics and speakers
- Small groups and classes
- Choirs
- Concerts
- Menus for parish suppers
- Online giving

## HERE FOR YOU

### The parish staff

To reach a staff member, call 804.288.2867 or send an email using the initial and name provided in parentheses followed by **@ststephensRVA.org**.

The Rev. Cate Anthony (canthony), *Associate Rector*

Kitty Ball (kball), *Office Coordinator*

Sarah R. Bartenstein (sbartenstein), *Director of Communication*

Larry Bidwell (lbidwell), *Facilities Manager*

Dennis Bowe, *Barista*

Omar Catedral (ocatedral), *Sexton*

Diana Chou (dchou), *Associate Director of Music*

Matt Depaolis (mdepaolis), *May Fair House Cook Teams Coordinator*

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*

Caroline Harris (charris), *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Claire Hackley (chackley), *Parish Suppers Coordinator*

Chris Holman (cholman), *Sexton*

Jack Hotchkiss (jhotchkiss), *Sexton*



The Rev. John Jenkins (jjenkins), *Associate Rector*  
Anna F. Jones (ajones), *Farmers Market Manager/Assistant Director of Outreach*  
Wondell Kareem (wkareem), *Sexton*  
The Rev. Abby Kocher (akocher), *Director of Children's Ministry*  
Susan McNamara (smcnamara), *Finance and Administrative Assistant*  
The Rev. John D. Rohrs (jrohrs), *Rector*  
The Rev. William L. Sachs (bsachs), *Associate Rector*  
Fred Staley (fstaley), *Executive Director of Church Operations*  
The Rev. William S. Stanley (wstanley), *Vicar*  
Brent te Velde (btevelde), *Director of Music*

*Our Missionaries in Argentina*  
Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega

## TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

We'd love to know more about you. Here are some ways to introduce yourself.

- Scan the QR code for an online visitor card, or fill in one of the cards in the pew racks in the church.
- Come to a newcomer/visitor reception (**[ststephensRVA.org/newcomer](http://ststephensRVA.org/newcomer)**).
- Call us at 804.288.2867.
- Speak to any member of the clergy following a worship service.





St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
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Richmond, VA 23226  
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