

The Scroll

MAY 2022

RECEIVE, REFLECT, AND RELAY CHRIST



St. Stephen's 
United Methodist Church
9203 Braddock Road • Burke VA, 22015
703-978-8724 • ststephensfairfax.org

Pastoral Transitions

Dear Beloved Saints of St. Stephen's,

In the spirit of sadness and of thanksgiving after three years as the senior pastor at St. Stephen's Church, I write to thank you and say goodbye. As many of you know, Carolyn and I will be moving to Virginia Beach in retirement, where we can be closer to our family. However, before we begin a new chapter in our lives, you need to know of our thankfulness for our time at St. Stephen's Church and for all the important memories that we will take



with us. It has been an honor to serve as your senior pastor, to worship and serve the Lord with you, and even struggle together to meet the challenges of the pandemic.

You have invited me into the important moments of your lives – births, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, celebrations, losses, and deaths. I am grateful that you have allowed me to walk with you on such holy ground. I will fondly remember our ministry together. With a humble heart, I give thanks to God and to you in deep gratitude for these many blessings.

Taking leave from friends is never easy. I do not believe a person truly realizes how much they love someone until they must say goodbye. I will miss you and will cherish these years we have shared together in service to our common Lord. I thank God for you, and I expect God to do even more wonderful things here in the future.

My last Sunday at St. Stephen's Church will be May 22nd. I hope you will be able to attend worship and the farewell reception, so that I might thank you in-person.

In God's Love and Service,

Pastor Rob Robertson

It has been an honor to serve as your senior pastor.

Dear St. Stephen's Church family,

It's a bittersweet time to say goodbye to a loving congregation. As I get ready to serve a new community this summer, I'm so thankful for you and the opportunity to serve as your pastor for the last four years. The grace-filled and spirit-led time in my ministry at St. Stephen's will soon be coming to an end, but I will always be most appreciative of how I have been loved by the St. Stephen's Church family and well-trained by every serving and growing opportunity and pastoral responsibility as the Associate Pastor for Children and First Impressions Team (FIT). I cherish all the love, prayers, support, and encouragement that I've received from each of you, and I will take them with me as I take a new step forward to respond to God's calling.



Beginning July 1, I will serve Wesley UMC in Vienna. My farewell sermon will be on June 12, and my last Sunday with farewell reception for Pastor Forrest and me will be on June 19. I hope we have enough chances until then to thank God for all God has done through our time together. Your continued prayer for St. Stephen's outgoing and incoming pastors would be appreciated. May God's continued blessings be upon all who faithfully serve God's Church.

Peace,
Pastor Jiyeon Kim

Dear friends,

Goodbyes never seem to be easy, especially when you've made great memories such as I have with y'all at St. Stephens. Over the past 3 years, many of you have become friends and



helped me grow. I have been delighted to work with our youth and thankful for the support to do so in a church that is so supportive of not just me, but also of young people in general. Seeing the generosity of this church through Grace Ministries and many others has warmed my heart along with its wonderful leaders who did not give up on the valued ministry even during lockdowns.

It is with hope and joy that I look forward to what is next for my family and me in the Hampton Roads area. My discernment process continues as I seek God's calling on my life even further. My last activity with the youth will be the Appalachia Service Project summer mission trip in June before my final sermon and service on Sunday, June 19th. I will forever remember the kindness and support many

have shown to help me grow into a more confident leader and to be more authentic. Thank you St. Stephens family. I look forward to what God has in store for each of us.

May the peace of God Rest upon you,
Pastor Forrest Teague

Receptions for Pastors

St. Stephen's Church Family and Friends,

As we expect multiple pastoral transitions and changes in the life of the church this summer, here are some updates where your continued prayers and support are appreciated in St. Stephen's transitioning process.

Please mark your calendar and do not miss out these days to thank our pastors' ministry at St. Stephen's and send the best wishes to their next journey.

Our new Senior Pastor Spencer Broce, new Associate Pastor Minoo Kim, and their families will join us on July 1.

Our Pastors' Last Sundays:

- Pastor Rob on Sunday, May 22
- Pastor Jiyeon and Pastor Forrest on Sunday, June 19

Reception Schedules:

- Pastor Rob's retirement: Sunday, May 22
- Pastor Jiyeon and Pastor Forrest' farewell: Sunday, June 19
- Pastor Spencer and Pastor Minoo's welcoming: Sunday, July 10

Our new Senior Pastor Spencer Broce, new Associate Pastor Minoo Kim, and their families will join us on July 1. Their first Sunday at St. Stephen's will be July 3.

Getting to Know our New Pastors:

We want to schedule some smaller events for our new pastors and their families to spend time with members of St. Stephen's so we can learn more about each other. This will also be a great time for us to see folks that we have not seen in a while. These events can be scheduled at the church, at your home or another location and can occur after July 10. If you are able to host an event such as an ice cream party or dessert party, please contact the church office at office@ststephensfairfax.org.

Children's Ministries

Register for Summer Children's Programs

Registration for children's summer programs has opened. This year, we offer two summer programs:

- Mini-VBS "Defense" on June 13-15 at 10-11:30 a.m. for children ages 4 (by June 1) through rising 1st graders, and
- VBS "Food Truck Party" on July 11-15 at 1-4 p.m. for children rising 1st through 6th graders.



Please use the QR code to register.

For youth and adults willing to serve as a station or group leader, please contact Pastor Jiyeon at pastorjiyeon@ststephensfairfax.org.

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Easter Eggstravaganza, April 2022

Music Ministries

What's Going On in Music Ministry

Summer Sundays in Song

Summer Choir – This short-term choir meets only from June 12 – August 21. It's a perfect time to give it a try! Come join us whenever you are in town this summer. We'll meet at 10:00, go through some hymns and sing in the 11:00 service. We'll keep it simple with familiar tunes. Bring the whole family!

Summer Bells – We'll have two opportunities for Handbells this summer. One in July and one in August. All are welcome, beginner through advanced. Solos and Ensembles – I've got a couple of Sundays still open for the summer schedule, so if you would like to do a solo or sing/play with a group, let me know and we'll get together.

Save the Dates!

- St. Stephen's Choir will take their summer break starting June 20 and will resume on August 21.
- Genesis Bells will stop for the summer. Their last Spring practice will be June 5 and we will start up again on August 21.
- Maranatha Singers will take their summer break after May 22 and will resume on Sep. 6.



Sermon Series

“Resurrection Walking” Begins on April 24th

t. Stephen’s Church begins a new worship series, titled “Resurrection Walking” on Sunday, April 24th, the Second Sunday of Easter that will continue for a total of six weeks through Ascension Sunday, May 29th.

During “Resurrection Walking,” we will examine Jesus’ resurrection

appearances, the disciples’ and others’ responses, and the essence of living a resurrected life beyond the tomb. Christians are not set apart to merely exist, we are called to align ourselves with God’s vision and to the extraordinary in the power of the Holy Spirit.

You are invited to “Resurrection Walking” as we seek to become the people who God works through to bring good news to

the world as we live into the promise “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18 NRSV).

May 1: John 20:19-31
May 8: Luke 24:13-35
May 15: John 21:1-17
May 22: Acts 9:1-21
May 29: Acts 1:6-14

Walking Into an Upper Room
Walking the Emmaus Road (Mother’s Day)
Learning to Walk
Walking the Damascus Road
Walking In the Meantime



Welcome Team Volunteers

Since returning to in-person worship both outdoors and later in the sanctuary, the coordination of our worship services has been handled by a group of dedicated folks called Welcome Team volunteers. Their tasks initially included such things as signing in attendees, taking forehead temperature checks, confirming pew seat “reservations” at the 11:00 service, etc. Now that the pandemic has stabilized somewhat, Welcome Team volunteers have assumed the more traditional role of ushers: welcoming

folks to worship, handing out bulletins and Connect Cards, and taking up the offering with collection plates.



There are currently three Welcome Teams for each service, 9:00 am and 11:00 am, who serve on a rotating basis. But more volunteers are always needed. And the more Welcome Team participants we have, the more their duties can be spread out. If you would like to become a Welcome Team volunteer, or would like more information about what’s involved, please

contact Roger Hartman, 703-425-7268 or rogerhartman47@gmail.com, or indicate your interest on a Connect Card.

Praying for Graduates

Are you or someone in your family graduating from High School, College, or Graduate School this year? We would like to pray for you & recognize you on Sunday, May 29. Please use the Connect Card or contact the office to give us the name & institution for each graduate by Monday, May 16.

Youth Missions

Our youth are going on two mission trips this summer! Our high-schoolers will be volunteering at the Appalachian Service Project (ASP), and our middle schoolers will be volunteering with the Jeremiah Project (JP). Our high-school team leaves on June 12 and will be gone through the 18th, while our Middleschool team will be gone July 3-9th.

These are wonderful opportunities for our youth to put their faith in action, help others, and learn new skills all while having fun and encountering a new culture. We still have spots open for both trips for both youth volunteers and adult volunteers are needed to make the trip possible!

St. Stephen's has been partnering with both ASP and JP for many years and



ASP Signup

it is something our youth always look forward to. You can help our teams by volunteering for the trip, participating in our fundraisers, and praying for us. So please think about volunteering, pray for both trips safety and work, and send us off in love to do the good work of Christ.



JP Signup



We brought back the Altar Flower Calendar where you can sign up to give flowers to grace our sanctuary on a specific Sunday. The flowers can be given in memory or in honor of someone or however you want the dedication to read. The cost of the flowers is \$40-50 depending on your selection.

The calendar is now located next to the coat closet and family break room across the hall from the office. We have many Sundays available, so please sign up on the calendar and pick up a dedication form and return it to Karen Wells in the church office along with your check. If you have any questions, please contact our flower coordinator at altarflowers@ststephensfairfax.org.

Annual Conference 2022

The 2022 Annual Conference session will be held starting at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 16 to noon on Saturday, June 18, in person, at the Hampton Convention Center based on John 4:24 (CEB):

“God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

The Annual Conference Planning Team, in partnership with Bishop Lewis and conference planner Neal Wise, continues to plan for the 240th session of the Virginia Annual Conference to be in-person.

The Planning Team and conference leadership have continued to monitor the COVID pandemic: positivity rate, hospitalizations, surges, and new variants.

Of the utmost importance is the health and safety of all members and guests attending Annual Conference 2022. At this time, the Planning Team remains confident the meeting can proceed forward in-person, but plans for pivoting to a virtual Annual Conference, should it be deemed necessary, are in place.

As the date of the conference gets closer, the Planning Team will share more about any COVID protocols that conference members and guests can expect while attending the conference. As the Hampton Roads Convention Center (HRCC) is owned by the city of Hampton, the conference will be subject to their protocols in addition to any made by conference leadership.

Questions may be directed to the Rev. Dr. Steve Summers, Assistant to the Bishop and Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, at SteveSummers@vaumc.org.



Remote viewing of worship services and the sessions of the Virginia Annual Conference, June 16-18 in Hampton, VA, will be available. The link will be shared as soon as it is available.

Annual Conference Offering

The St. Stephen's Church family is encouraged to participate in this second-mile offering mission supporting projects and programs locally, nationally, and globally. The Virginia Conference goal set by Bishop Lewis for the offering is \$200,000. Our collective effort to become a blessing will remind us how we are 'United as One' in God's mission with other congregations throughout the Virginia Conference!

Recipients of the 2021 Annual Conference Missional Offering

Food Insecurity in the Commonwealth – Long lines across the country, with people waiting in line for food, revealed the food insecurity ordinary people experience. The long-lasting effect of COVID creates more demand for food. The Virginia Annual Conference members' offering will address this problem and contribute to support and solve food insecurity in the Commonwealth.



Partnerships of Hope

– formerly known as 'Initiatives of Hope,' Partnerships of Hope has been a unique approach to focus our efforts to share the Good News globally. With the name change, we plan to strengthen our partnership among local churches to reach out to our partners overseas. Cambodia, Mozambique, and Brazil are the three countries in which we are focusing our efforts. A couple of years ago, we recognized and included the Native American ministries and expanded our partnership.

In **Mozambique** we provide support for Theological Education for Leaders ministry while in **Brazil**, our efforts support the Shade and Water Ministry. In **Cambodia** our focus is on support for street children and making Cambodia a provisional methodist denomination.

Offerings collected through the 2022 Annual Conference will be distributed evenly among the causes.



Hypothermia Prevention Sheltering - Thanks!

Thanks to all who helped provide a warm shelter, delicious food, and great fellowship to our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. For the week of March 6th to 13th, St. Stephen's provided radical hospitality to 38 to 45 of our neighbors. They were very appreciative of all that was provided and for the warmth of the welcome they received at St. Stephen's! A special thanks to the 22 volunteers from our congregation who made this possible and to the volunteers from our partnering churches, Parkwood Baptist, Centreville United Methodist, and St.

Peter's in the Woods Episcopal. Thanks also to all who donated supplies and to those who covered this ministry with your prayers!

Blood Drive May 23rd

Many thanks to everyone who donated blood at our January drive and contributed to the collection of 31 units of blood. Our next drive with Inova Blood Donor Services (IBDS) will be on Monday, May 23, 2022, from 2:00 - 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is the Monday before Memorial Day weekend, when the demand for blood is likely to be high. You are eligible to donate if you are in



scan here to register

good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, are at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent), and will not have donated whole blood since March 28. Currently, IBDS's supply of all 8 types of blood is low. You can help by being a donor on May 23.



Endowment Fund Opportunities

Estate planning is not only for the wealthy, it is for everyone. It is simply the process of deciding where your assets should be distributed after your death. The plan is implemented through a will or a revocable living trust.

For many people a revocable living trust is an excellent tool through which to implement their estate plan. Like a will, a trust makes provision for the transfer of your assets at the time of your death. Unlike a will, assets in the trust are usually not subject to the costs and delays of probate. During your lifetime the trust remains completely under your control.

Many people who have supported their church throughout their lifetime want to make sure that part of their estate goes to support their church at their death. A gift to the St. Stephen's Permanent Endowment Fund would be used to support the ministries of St. Stephen's UMC in future years.

The assistance of your attorney or financial planner is suggested.

For additional information on Endowment Fund Opportunities contact Jim Allison, Chair of the Permanent Endowment Committee (703-323-8132).

Do You Need A St. Stephen's Name Tag?

As we prepare for the arrival of our new pastors, we have a question for you. Do you have a St. Stephen's name tag? It will be a great help to our new pastors to learn people's names if everyone wears their name tags. If you need one, we'll make it easy for you! Complete one of the forms on the table in the Gathering Place and leave it in the basket or contact the church office. The cost of each name tag is \$7.00. Please forward exact change or a check to Karen Wells in the church office at your earliest convenience. If you have questions, please contact Karen at 703-978-8724 x102.



Shepherd's Ministry is Re-Launching

The St. Stephen's Shepherd Ministry is forming regional Care Teams to connect and share God's love in our community. Care Teams receive, reflect and relay the love of Christ by offering prayers and support from St Stephen's Caring Ministries. Many people have received this support at challenging times, such as during illness or after hospital stays, birth of a child or death of a family member.

What do Care Teams Do?

Care Teams offer connection and encouragement through email, notes or cards, or social media, phone conversations, or occasionally getting together at home, coffee shop, church gathering or other meeting space. Care Teams may provide referrals to the St Stephen's prayer list, to the pastors, and to other St Stephen's Caring Ministries such as the Stephen Ministry.

Who Are The Care Teams?

Care Teams are made up of special people who make caring for others a priority. CCT's currently exist in four regions, as follows:

Region	Group email address	Care Team Members
Annandale	annandalecareteam@ststephensfairfax.org	Roger & Mary Hartman Teryl Pomeroy
Burke	burkecareteam@ststephensfairfax.org	Valerie Bates Priscilla Parrott
Fairfax	fairfaxcareteam@ststephensfairfax.org	Patti & Mike Keppler Kathy & Rick Heer Darlene Allison Rue Nunnally
Springfield	springfieldcareteam@ststephensfairfax.org	Jill Barney Gary Klinger Penny Crickenberger

If you would like to be contacted by a Care Team, send an email to the group email address shown above, or call or email the church office at 703-978-8724, office@ststephensfairfax.org.

More volunteers are needed to care for our congregation and share God's love! If you would like to volunteer to serve on an existing team or form a new team for outlying region to the South, North, East and West, let the church office or one of the pastors know using a Connect Card, email or phone call, or contact one of the Shepherd's Ministry or Congregational Care Coordinators: Lauri Snider, Carolyn Brewer, or Kathy Heer at shepherdcareteam@ststephensfairfax.org.

Shepherd's Ministry



With your help, we will be able to strengthen current teams and form Care Teams for outlying areas where members of St Stephen's congregation live, including: Fairfax Station, Clifton, Dumfries, Lake Ridge, Lorton,

Stafford, Woodbridge, Alexandria, Arlington, Washington DC, Maryland, and Greater Areas North and West, including Gainesville, Centreville, Haymarket, Herndon, Manassas, Nokesville, S. Riding, S. Ridge, and Ashburn.

Please pray for our St Stephen's community and consider volunteering for a Congregational Care Team.

Service Opportunity

Can You Help Us in the Church Office?

We need volunteers to help answer the phones and greet visitors a few hours each day when our office manager is on vacation. The first dates are May 9-12. On May 9 and 11 we need someone from 10-1 and on May 10 and 12 from 9-1. Training on phones will be provided (it's easy!). If you can help, please contact Karen Wells in the church office as soon as possible.

*May
9-12*

Green Day is May 1st from 12 - 2 pm

All are welcomed at our first Green Day on May 1st from 12 noon to 2 pm. Bring your own picnic and enjoy treats and beverages provided by the fellowship committee. We plan to enjoy the outdoors, but we will move inside in the weather insists. There will be music, games and crafts for children, youth, and folks of all ages as well as information booths to learn more ways that your household and our church can be greener stewards of God's creation.

Bring in your household electronics for collection and transportation for recycling.

This time of fellowship and learning is sponsored by Church and Society, Children's ministries, Youth ministries, Fellowship committee, and First Impressions team, with some help from Trustees and Music thrown in! For more information contact Victoria Bryant Bateman or Pastor Forrest.

