

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

228 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803

Organized in 1867

Dedicated on June 2, 1918



*The Reverend Father Willis R. Foster, Sr., Rector
John Thompson, Verger*

CHURCH SERVICES

8:00 A.M Sunday

10:30A.M. Sunday

1:00 P.M. Wednesday

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Bible Study

Office Hours: By Appointment

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Mission Statement:

*To meet the needs of the
Church and Community*

Vision:

We are Stewards of God's Grace

Core Values:

*Actively Engage
Clear & Timely Communication
Integrity
Transparency
Trust*

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 16, 2018

8:00* am & 10:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist Rite II

The Prelude

Organ

'All are Welcome'

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space: as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

The Processional

Hymn 409

'The spacious firmament on high'

*The Opening Acclamation

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*The Collect for Purity

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*The Gloria

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Song of Praise

LEVAS 245

'We have come into His house'

*The Collect for the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

*** Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*** J. Bland / J. Norman**

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens--
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

***Psalm 116:1-8**

***J. Bland**

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my
supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon
him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.

5 The Lord watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the Lord has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.

* **James 3:1-12**

*C. Dickens / S. Garner

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The Gradual

Hymn 525

'The Church's one foundation'

***The Holy Gospel Mark 8:27-38**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful

generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

*The Sermon

Father Foster

*The Nicene Creed

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*Prayers of the People

*C. Dickens / S. Garner

Priest: Gracious God, you have saved us through your Son Jesus Christ, and you call us to take up our cross and follow him: Incline your ear to us as we call upon you, saying: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O God, our strength and our redeemer.

Almighty God, you have promised life to your church as we lose our lives for Jesus' sake and for the sake of the gospel: Inspire our witness to your Messiah, that we may share in his work of resurrection. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight; **O God, our strength and our redeemer.**

All-Wise God, keep our leaders and all in authority from presumptuous sins and guide them, that they may set their minds upon divine things and not upon human things. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight; **O God, our strength and our redeemer.**

Benevolent God, give us a love of knowledge and a respect for you as our Creator, that we might care for your creation and eat the fruit of its bounty. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight; **O God, our strength and our redeemer.**

Ever-present God, comfort all who undergo great suffering throughout the world and let your saving hand raise them to new life.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight; **O God, our strength and our redeemer.**

The heavens declare your glory, O God, and the firmament shows your handiwork. Hear our prayers for those for whom we intercede, especially ____.

In Christ you have suffered, died and risen. Hear our prayers for those who have died, especially _____. May Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One of God bring them into eternal life.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight; **O God, our strength and our redeemer.**

Priest: Through your Son, Jesus the Messiah, you have shown us that losing ourselves into the grace of your good news is the path that leads to eternal life: Fill us with the power of your Spirit, that we may live with faithful courage, sharing in your sufferings so that we may share in your resurrection through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*The Confession of Sin

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*The Peace

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RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE

*The Offertory

* At the Offertory

All things come of Thee O Lord and of Thine own
have we given Thee. Amen

The Musical Offertory

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| *The Eucharistic Prayer "B" | Page 367 |
| *Holy, Holy, Holy..." | Page 367 |
| *The Lord's Prayer | Page 364 |
| *The Breaking of the Bread | Page 364 |

*Communion

Communion hymn Hymn 474

'When I survey the wondrous cross'

*Post Communion Prayer Page 365

Choral Response ***'On Eagle's Wings'***

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear
you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like
the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

The Recessional LEVAS 136

'I have decided to follow Jesus'

PRAYER LIST

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Jerome Burns</i> | <i>Willie Campbell</i> | <i>Mary Cox</i> | <i>Amani Dailey</i> |
| <i>Benjamin Ford</i> | <i>Mina Forte</i> | <i>Annie & George</i> | <i>Henderson</i> |
| <i>Eleanor Johnson</i> | <i>Maureen Norman</i> | <i>Helen Pulliam</i> | <i>Jeanette Ransom</i> |
| <i>Brandon Seymour</i> | <i>Porcher Taylor</i> | <i>Olivia Theriot</i> | <i>Mildred Townes</i> |
| <i>Laverne Venable</i> | <i>Gary Young</i> | | |

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING

Eleanor Johnson, Sunrise Senior Living, 19310 Club House Rd.
Montgomery Village, MD 20886

James Lowe, English Meadows, 1140 W. Main St., Rm.39A,
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Benjamin Ford, Ashland Nursing & Rehab Center, Rm. 104
906 Thompson St., Ashland, VA 23005

Helen Pulliam, Petersburg Healthcare Center, 287 South Blvd.
Petersburg, VA 23805

ST. STEPHEN'S CYCLE OF PRAYERS

Helen Pulliam
Avery McGilvary, III
Charles 'Buck' Palmer

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYERS

St. Michael's, Bon Air

PARISH NOTES

FLORA: Offered by Clifton Dickens in celebration of his birthday

FELLOWSHIP: Clifton Dickens

NEXT SUNDAY: Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 54

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37



The Men's Club will meet today immediately following the 10:30am service

The ECW will have a regular business meeting on Sunday, October 7th following the 10:30am service



An Evening of Jazz is scheduled for Friday, September 21st. See members of the Men's Club for tickets or additional information.



St. Stephen's Men's Day will be Sunday, November 4, 2018. The scheduled guest speaker is Dr. Farid I. Muhammad.



Acolytes (6yrs+)

See Michael Walker or Nancy Ross

Lay Readers

See Sandra Garner or Rev. Foster

Choir Members

See Cecil Jones

Altar Guild

See Robin Magee

*“Our shared values define us
more than our differences.
And acknowledging those shared
values can see us through our
challenges”*

~Senator John McCain

Vestry
Charles Palmer, Sr. Warden
Cassandra Coleman, Jr. Warden
Joy Chapman C. Martin Cutler, Robin Magee
James Norman, Harriet Scruggs, Joyce Small, John Thompson



The administration reserves the right to edit all material printed and distributed via the church