

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*

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 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 58

‘Lo! He comes with clouds descending’

*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’

*Lighting the Advent Candle – the candle of Hope**

*The Collect for the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

***Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*C. Dickens / M. Wallace

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

***Psalm 25:1-9**

*C. Dickens

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

***1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*J. Bland / J. Norman

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Gradual

Hymn 68

'Rejoice! rejoice believers'

***The Holy Gospel Luke 21:25-36**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your

heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

*The Sermon

Father Foster

*The Nicene Creed

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*Prayers of the People

*J. Bland / J. Norman

Priest: In a time of distress among nations, when people faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world: Hear the prayers of your people as we raise our heads to behold our redemption that is drawing near, as we pray: Remember, O God, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

To you, O Gracious One, we lift up our souls: Restore whatever is lacking in our faith, that your Church may increase and abound in love for one another and for all, remaining alert at all times to see the Son of Man coming with power and great glory. Remember, O God, your compassion and love, **for they are from everlasting.**

O Holy One, whose reign casts away the works of darkness: Cover the leaders of the world with the armor of light and come quickly to let your righteous Branch spring up to execute justice and righteousness in all the earth. Remember, O God, your compassion and love, **for they are from everlasting.**

Source of refuge and hope for all who suffer: Let none who look to you be put to shame; though the powers of the heavens may be shaken, fulfill the promise you have made on behalf of everyone who suffers throughout the world. Remember, O God, your compassion and love, **for they are from everlasting.**

Hear our prayers for everyone in need, especially ____.

Come in your glory, O Christ, and take to yourself those who have died, that they may rise to the life immortal, especially ____.
Remember, O God, your compassion and love, **for they are from everlasting.**

Priest: Holy and Almighty One, as we see the foreboding signs in our times, teach us that your reign is near; guard our hearts so they may not be weighed down with the worries of this life but strengthened in holiness, that we may be blameless before you, our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints, in the power of your Holy Spirit. **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 LEVAS 152

'Let us break bread together'

*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 Hymn 592

'Teach me, my God and King'

*The Dismissal Page 366
The Postlude Organ

PRAYER LIST

Jerome Burns	Antonio Belmar, Jr.	Mary Cox	Amani Dailey
Benjamin Ford	Mina Forte	Annie Henderson	George Henderson
Eleanor Johnson	Maureen Norman	Helen Pulliam	Jeanette Ransom
Brandon Seymour	Porcher Taylor	Olivia Theriot	Mildred Townes
Laverne Venable	Gary Young		

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

Linnie Foster, Sentara Rehabilitation Center, Rm. 323
776 Oak Grove Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23320

ST. STEPHEN'S CYCLE OF PRAYERS

Anne Henderson

Joy Chapman

Shanda Wallace

Renee McGilvary

Vatell Martin, Sr.

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYERS

Christ Church, Eastville

St. James', Emporia

PARISH NOTES

FELLOWSHIP: Cheryl Talley & Janice Smith
NEXT SUNDAY: Baruch 5:1-9 Canticle 16
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6



Immediately after the 10:30am service there will be a short call-meeting to discuss the Children's Christmas party. Everyone's participation is encouraged.

Please come to the church offices as soon as possible:
M. Joshua
T. Talbott

The annual Parochial Meeting and Vestry election will be held Sunday, December 9, 2018 following the 10:30 am service.



If you are interested in serving on the Vestry, feel free to speak with any current Vestry member.



The Rev. Canon Glenice Robinson-Como, Petersburg native, is a finalist for Bishop Suffragan in Texas. Please keep her in your prayers as she goes through this process.

Please do not adjust the thermostats. Every mis-adjustment requires a costly re-calibration by the heating company.



Thank you,
~*Property Committee*

The ECW is looking for fund-raising ideas. Any suggestions? Please see or call RJ Bragg at 804-243-0454.



Winter heating assistance information for Columbia Gas is available on the display rack in the parish hall.



The 4th Sunday Feeding ministry is transitioning to non-perishable food items. For the December feeding, we are providing soup and crackers.

Please place these donations in the bin in the parish hall.



Due to industry changes, the cost of altar flowers will increase in December. As of January 1, 2019, flowers will cost \$45.

The Fellowship sign-up book is now available for 2019



The Salvation Army Angel Tree 2018

To add to the \$100 donations from the ECW & Men's Club, Christmas stockings for the children below will be given in the name(s) of the Jewels of St. Stephen's.

Please place your gifts in the stockings that hang on the parish hall tree. Use the guidelines below to make your purchases.

NAME	Shzmell	Branden
AGE	8	8
GENDER	Female	Male
PANTS SIZE	7/8	8
SHIRT SIZE	7/8	8
SHOES	2	1
GIFT WISH	Baby dolls, play make-up sets, tablet	Games for PS 4, tablet
GIFT NEED	Clothes, Shoes, Underclothes	Clothes, Shoes

- **Donate gifts by Sunday, December 2**
- **Donate gifts unwrapped, with all price tags removed**
- **No candy or gift cards.**



The season of Advent marks the start of the Christian year, and is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church looks forward to celebrating the birth of Christ.

Advent begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and has no specific number of days. Sundays are “of” the season (in contrast to Lent when Sundays are “in”). As a result, Advent Sundays fully share the themes of the season.

The season is poignantly marked as one studies the readings and themes of Advent that show the tensions between a joyful anticipation Christ’s arrival and that of His second coming.

The Advent wreath has its roots in 17th c Germany. Before the church adapted it, the fascination it held was with the lengthening and shortening of the days, represented by lighting and extinguishing candles. Upon the arrival of Christmas, the clock has run out and the Advent wreath properly disappears.

This season the acolyte's cincture or roped belt is blue or purple, like the colors of the candles in the advent wreath. If available, the altar should be dressed similarly. Unless expressly permitted, flowers should not be on the altar or reredos, but instead some type of greenery may be used.**



Amen.

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
**Information taken from *Celebrating Liturgical Time*, and *A Sample Instructed Eucharist* from St Peter's Episcopal Church in Cambridge, MA.