

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*

*Mission Statement: To meet the needs of the Church and Community
Vision: We are Stewards of God's Grace*

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

Phone: (804) 733-6228

Fax: (804) 733-1257

Email: ststephensepiscopal@yahoo.com Website: <http://ststephenspbgva.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ststephenspbgva228>

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2019

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 423

'Immortal, invisible, God only wise'

*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 This House"

*The Collect for the Day

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

*Collect for Alexander Crummell

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander Crummell, whom you called to preach the Gospel to those who were far off and those who were near. Raise up, in this and every land, evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

HEARING GOD'S WORD

***Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

***C. Dickens / N. Ross**

Moses said to all Israel the words which the Lord commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

***Psalter**

Psalm 1

***C. Dickens**

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked*
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment
comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

***Philemon 1-21**

*C. Dickens / M. Walker

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become

effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Gradual

Hymn 664

'My shepherd will supply my need'

***The Holy Gospel Luke 14:25-33**

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

*The Sermon

Father Foster

*The Nicene Creed

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*Prayers of the People

*C. Dickens / M. Walker

Priest: Holy and gracious God, you have called us to give up all things temporal for the sake of loving you and our neighbors: Grant us the zeal of your grace, that we may choose life and love, and walk in your ways, as we pray: Guide us in your paths, O God; that we may live in your love.

Reader: Gracious One, you have called your Church to carry the cross and to follow Christ in faithful discipleship: Let not family, prosperity, or pride separate us from the infinite love of God given to us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Guide us in your paths, O God; **that we may live in your love.**

Infinite One, you have set before the leaders of the nations life and prosperity, death and adversity: Inspire with your wisdom those who make choices which affect the lives of others, that they may choose life and love, so that we and our descendants may be blessed in the land and be given prosperity and length of days. Guide us in your paths, O God; **that we may live in your love.**

Compassionate One, look upon all who live in bondage or fear, under slavery or oppression, and upon those who suffer with lives that are less than abundant: Bring them advocates and deliverance, that they may enjoy fullness, equality, and joy. Guide us in your paths, O God; **that we may live in your love.**

Generous One, you have planted the people of this community like trees by streams of water: Nourish all who live among us, that they may bear fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, and may prosper in the ways of the righteous. Guide us in your paths, O God; **that we may live in your love.**

We thank you O God for the love of all the saints and their faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. Hear your Church as we pray for those who are ill, in danger, or any kind of trouble, especially ____.

We have received much joy and encouragement from your love, O Christ, and our hearts are refreshed through you. Hear our gratitude as we offer our prayers of thanksgiving, especially for ____.

Embrace into your everlasting arms those who have surrendered everything unto death, especially _____. Finish the good work begun in them, that they may know the consolation of your eternal presence.

Guide us in your paths, O God; **that we may live in your love.**

Priest: Gracious Father, let our hearts turn so completely toward your child Jesus, that we may cling only to the love we know from you and the life we receive from his cross; that following the Father in the way of obedience and trust, we may perceive all the good that we may do for Christ and become more and more effective servants of your grace, through the Holy Spirit working in us, now and forever. **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

Musical Offertory

*The Eucharistic Prayer "A"

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*Holy, Holy, Holy..."

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*The Lord's Prayer

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*The Breaking of the Bread

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*Communion

Communion hymn

LEVAS 136

'I have decided to follow Jesus'

*Post Communion Prayer

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Choral Response 'This is my Father's world'

*This is my Father's world - O let me ne'er forget
That tho' the wrong seems oft so strong God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world! The battle is not done
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and heav'n be one.*

The Recessional Hymn 563

'Go forward Christian soldier'

*The Dismissal
The Postlude

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Organ

PRAYER LIST

Antonio Belmar, Jr. Jerome Burns Mary Cox Mina Forte
Eleanor Johnson Annie Henderson George Henderson Judy Hawkes
Maureen Norman Helen Pulliam Jeanette Ransom Brandon Seymour
Porcher Taylor Olivia Theriot Mildred Townes Laverne Venable
Gary Young The Gilliam family The Deramus family
The Voorhees family The Ford family

NURSING HOME

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

ST. STEPHEN'S CYCLE OF PRAYERS

Vera Young
Clifton Dickens
Cassandra Coleman

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYERS

St. Andrew's, Baskerville
St. Luke's, Blackstone

PARISH NOTES

FLORA: Offered by Clif Dickens and Cassandra Coleman in

FELLOWSHIP:

NEXT SUNDAY: Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-11
1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

† † † † †

The ECW will meet today after the 10:30 am service.

The Men's Club will meet September 15th after the 10:30 am service.

Please do not back into parking spaces along the new fence.

Downtown Churches United / Hope Center is sponsoring the annual **Walk Against Hunger**, Saturday, October 5th. See the bulletin board in the parish hall for additional information.

For the month of **September**, donate school supplies that will re-supply the Teacher's Closet for the teachers of Petersburg's public schools. They will need of the following...

children's scissors
rulers (12 inch)
pencils
pens
composition notebooks
kleenex
hand sanitizer
cleaning wipes for surfaces
white-out
small, handheld pencil sharpeners
crayons
colored pencils





"Harvesting a Healthy Family"

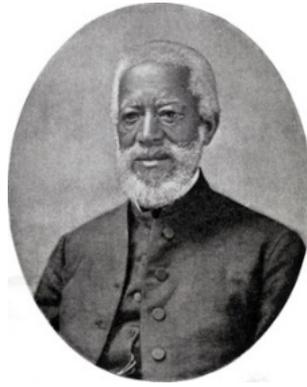


*Community Health Fair
Life Planning
&
Blessing of Animals*



*October 5, 2019
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
St. Stephens Episcopal Church
224 Halifax Street, Petersburg*

*Please bring the family to this free fun-filled
Community event!*

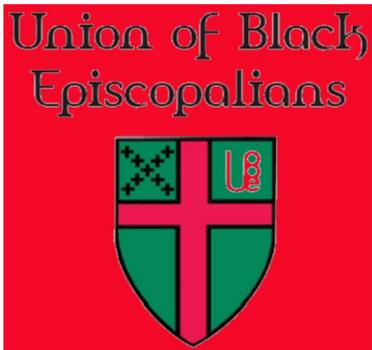


Born March 3, 1819 in New York City, Alexander Crummell struggled against racism all his life. He was driven out of an academy in New Hampshire, dismissed as a candidate for Holy Orders in New York and rejected for admittance to General Seminary. Ordained in 1844 as a priest in the Diocese of Massachusetts, he left for England after being excluded from participating in diocesan convention.

After receiving a degree from Cambridge he went to Liberia as a missionary. He traveled extensively in the United States urging blacks to immigrate to Liberia & support the work of the Church there. Returning to Liberia he worked to establish a national Episcopal Church. Political opposition & lack of funding forced him to return to the United States.

He concentrated his efforts on establishing a strong urban presence of independent black congregations that would be centers of worship, education & social service. When southern bishops proposed a separate missionary district for black congregations, Crummell created a national convocation to fight the proposal. The Union of Black Episcopalians is an outgrowth of that organization.

His faith in God, his perseverance, his perception that the Church transcended the racism and limited vision of its rulers, and his unflinching belief in the goodness and greatness of black people are the legacy of the Afro-American pioneer.



Today, we celebrate the life and legacy of our notable saint, the Rev. Alexander Crummell. It is also designated as Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) Sunday to commemorate the racial justice ministry of this organization which was an outgrowth of the Rev. Crummell's advocacy.

Donations in support of the UBE's ministry of racial justice and reconciliation should be made/mailed to:

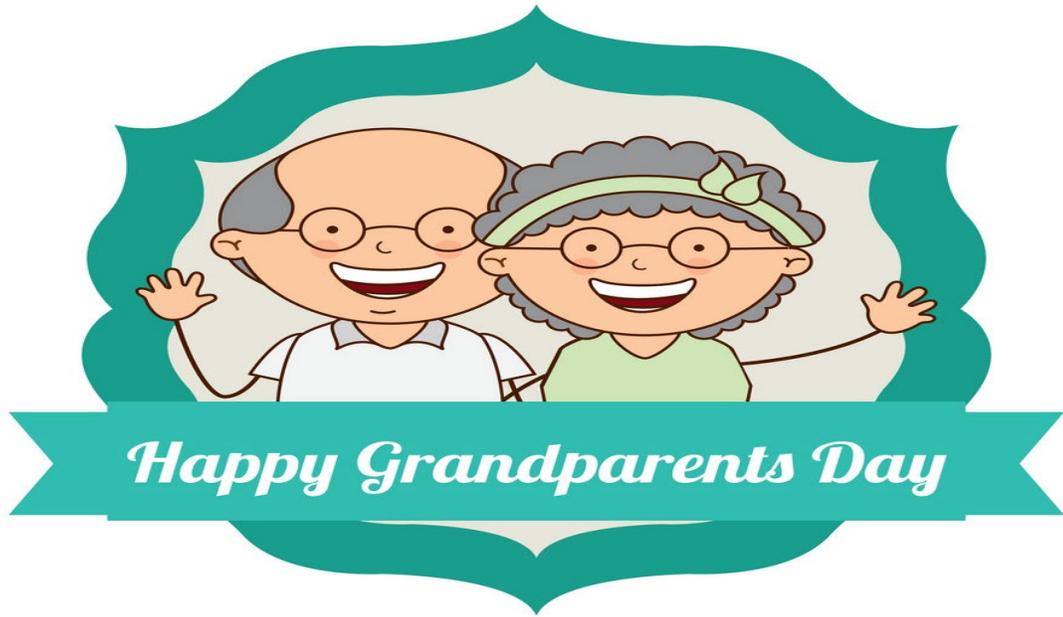
UBE/James Solomon Russell Chapter
Grace Episcopal Church
1400 E. Brambleton Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23504

The *Sci-Tastic* Camp will return to St. Stephen's Episcopal



This year, in addition to the summer camp, we are planning to hold four *Sci-Tastic Saturdays* with science themes and fun activities:
October 26, 2019 – Scary Science November 9, 2019 – Food Science
February 15, 2020 – I Love Science April 18, 2020 – Earth Day Science

Please contact Leslie Richardson (l.w.richardson@comcast.net) with any questions/concerns regarding the *Sci-Tastic* Camp.



Vestry

John Thompson, Sr. Warden

Cassandra Coleman, Jr. Warden

Joy Chapman, Chyrel M. Cutler, Michael Joshua,

Otha Myers, James Norman, Nancy Ross, Joyce Small

