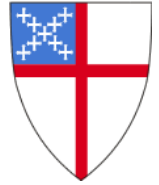


Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

228 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803

Founded 1867



The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost Proper 12 Morning Prayer Rite II

July 28, 2024
10:30 a.m.

Clifton Dickens, Lay Worship Leader
Cecil T. Jones, Organist

Our Mission:

To meet the spiritual needs of the church and community.

Our Vision:

*We strive to become valued servants to a diverse community by keeping
our community connected through service and commitment.*

*All text in bold print is read/recited/sang by the entire congregation
(all stand or kneel)*

The Prelude

Organ

Processional

'My God, thy table now is spread'

Hymn 321

**¹ My God, thy table now is spread,
thy cup with love doth overflow;
be all thy children thither led,
and let them thy sweet mercies know.**

**² O let thy table honored be,
and furnished well with joyful guests:
and may each soul salvation see,
that here its sacred pledges tastes.**

**³ Drawn by thy quickening grace, O Lord,
in countless numbers let them come
and gather from their Father's board
the Bread that lives beyond the tomb.**

**⁴ Nor let thy spreading Gospel rest
till through the world thy truth has run,
till with this Bread shall all be blessed
who see the light or feel the sun.**

Officiant:

I was glad when they said to me," Let us go to the house of the Lord." *Psalm 122:1*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in thy Son's Name: We beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have asked faithfully according to thy will, may be obtained effectually, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP Page 79

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against
you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our
whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as
ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and
we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

BCP Page 80

All stand

Officiant *Lord, open our lips.*

People *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

You may be seated.

Officiant: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate Psalm 100

BCP Page 82

Officiant only

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm 14 *(sung by Congregation)*

BCP Page 598

Dixit insipiens

¹ The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." *
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;
there is none who does any good. /

² The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all, *
to see if there is any who is wise,
if there is one who seeks after God. /

³ Every one has proved faithless;
all alike have turned bad; *
there is none who does good; no, not one. /

⁴ Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers *
who eat up my people like bread
and do not call upon the LORD? /

⁵ See how they tremble with fear, *
because God is in the company of the righteous. /

**⁶ Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, *
but the LORD is their refuge. /**

**⁷ Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! *
when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad. /**

**~ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. /**

Please be seated for the Lessons

Old Testament:

A Reading from 2 Samuel 11:1 - 15

Sandra Garner

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

(Recite in unison)

A Song of Praise

Benedictus es, Domine

Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

*Glory to you; Lord God of our fathers; **

you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

*Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; **

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

*Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; **

on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

*Glory to you; seated between the Cherubim; **

We will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

*Glory to you; beholding the depths; **

In the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

*Glory to you; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; **

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

The Epistle:

A Reading from Ephesians 3:14-21

Sandra Garner

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Glory to God

Gloria in Excelsis

Officiant

BCP Page 94

(Recite in unison)

***Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,***

***we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.***

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father;

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**¹ I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.**

**² I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.**

**³ As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.**

**⁴ And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known:
we see and praise him here.**

**⁵ Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways
and as his people in the world
we'll live and speak his praise.**

Please remain standing if you are able.

The Gospel**A Lesson from John 6:1-21****Clifton Dickens**

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him,

for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated for the message

Message

Clifton Dickens

Melody of Reflection

Organist

Please stand as you are able

Officiant and People together, all standing

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.**

**He will come again to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

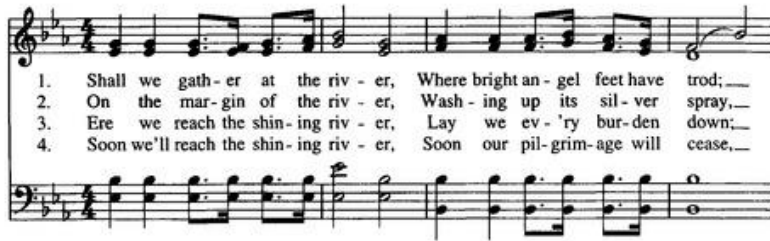
The Offertory *(Seated)*

The Offertory Sentence

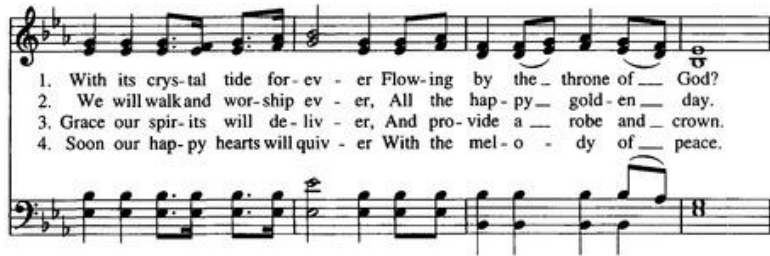
Let us walk in love, as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us,
an offering and a sacrifice to God.

141

Shall We Gather at the River



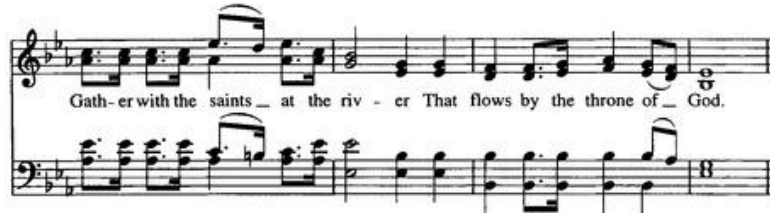
1. Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, Where bright an-gel feet have trod;—
 2. On the mar-gin of the riv-er, Wash-ing up its sil-ver spray;—
 3. Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, Lay we ev-'ry bur-den down;—
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er, Soon our pil-grim-age will cease;—



1. With its crys-tal tide for-ev-er Flow-ing by the throne of God?
 2. We will walk and wor-ship ev-er, All the hap-py gold-en day.
 3. Grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, And pro-vide a robe and crown.
 4. Soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er With the mel-o-dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, The beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;



Gath-er with the saints at the riv-er That flows by the throne of God.

Words: Robert Lowry (1826-1899)
 Music: Robert Lowry

Alms Presentation:

*All things come of thee, O Lord,
 and of thine own, have we given thee. A-men.*

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

The Prayers

Officiant

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Officiant and People together:

The Lord's Prayer

BCP page 97

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Suffrage B

BCP page 98

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Officiant:

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

BCP page 99

The Officiant:

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Search Prayer:

Clifton Dickens

Reader: Let us read our Saint Stephen's Search Prayer together.

Almighty God, Giver of every good gift: Guide this congregation in its search for a Priest for St. Stephen's. Give us wisdom to work together effectively to represent the needs of this parish. Let the thoughts of many be expressed through our actions; and if we stray from our purpose, right our path by enlightening us with your Holy Spirit. Grant us your favor in this vast undertaking so that when we have concluded this process, we will know that we have done what you would have us do. All this we ask for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Parish & Diocesan Prayers

Clifton Dickens

For the health, care and well-being of those on our prayer list, as well as those on the cycle of prayers for St. Stephen's and our Diocese.

(People are invited to offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud).

SAINT STEPHEN'S PRAYER LIST

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Antonio Belmar, Jr. | Melissa Harrington | Otha Myers |
| Diane Bennett | Lamar Hawkes | Jeanette Ransom |
| Donald Bichette | George Henderson | Biafra Sidney |
| Pam Bolt | Kenya Jackson | James Smith |
| Jerome Burns | Earnestine Johnson | Janice Smith |
| David Campbell | Marie C. Jones | Cheryl Talley |
| The Clinkscales Family | Michael Joshua | Ann Taylor |
| Mary Cox | Elsie G. Lewis | The Porcher Taylor, Jr. Family |
| Sarah Dickens | James Love | Vernita Taylor |
| Barbara Ford | Marciel Love | Olivia Theriot |
| The Ardieth P. Hamilton Family | The Emily Madden Family | Laverne Venable |
| The Carlyse Hammond Family | Kelly Mills, Jr. | Margaret Whiteman |

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYERS

- The Rev. Canon Roy Hoffman
- The Rev. Lauren McDonald
- St. Aidan's, Virginia Beach
- St. Francis', Virginia Beach
- The Rev. Mary Turner
- Mrs. Mary Estes
- The Rev. Mimi Lacy (Tom)
- The Rev. Rick Willis, Jr.
- The Rev. Robert Johnson (Joanie)
- The Rev. Samuel Sheridan

ST. STEPHEN'S CYCLE OF PRAYERS

Cecil Jones
Charlie Bonilla
Roger Williams

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially _____ whom we remember today]. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and
to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord
Jesus Christ; for the means of grace,
and for the hope of glory. And, we pray,
give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show
forth your praise, not only with our lips,
but in our lives, by giving up our selves to
your service, and by walking before you in
holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom,
with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and
glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

- We welcome all of you to our Saint Stephen's Sunday Service today.
- We thank our Layreader, Clifton Dickens, our worship leader, today.
- The Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will celebrate a Women's Day Service on Sunday, August 4, 2024, during the Holy Eucharist Service. The guest speaker will be Dr. Violet Whiteman. Her message is entitled "*Women on a Mission.*" A special souvenir service booklet will be created. We hope you will be a sponsor or place an ad. See attached information.
- The ECW will have a brief meeting following today's service.
- Rev. Fr. Elliott Waters will be present on Sunday, August 4, 2024, to celebrate Holy Eucharist Rite II.

- The Vestry will hold our Semi-Annual Parish Meeting today, Sunday, July 28, 2024, following the regular church service. Please try to attend.
- The Ransom/Patterson Men’s Club will be hosting our annual church cookout on Saturday afternoon, 3:00 pm, August 10, 2024. Location will be the parish hall.

Closing Prayer: A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP page 102

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional:

‘Can we by searching find out God’

Hymn 476

**¹ Can we by searching find out God
or formulate his ways?
Can numbers measure what he is
or words contain his praise?**

**³ Our boastfulness is turned to shame
our profit counts as loss,
when earthly values stand beside
the manger and the cross.**

**² Although his being is too bright
for human eyes to scan,
his meaning lights our shadowed world
through Christ, the Son of Man.**

**⁴ There God breaks in upon our search,
makes birth and death his own;
he speaks to us in human terms
to make his glory known.**

Officiant:

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*
Romans 15:13

Dismissal

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Parish Notes

Flowers: *Given to the glory of God, by Mr. Cecil T. Jones, and in thanksgiving for his birthday.*

Coffee Hour:

NEXT SUNDAY: *Proper 13 – August 4, 2024*

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-13; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

Coffee Hour Sign Up Sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Thank you for joining us for worship today:

St. Stephen's is a diverse community of faith where all people find home in Jesus and each other. We unite to transform the world to celebrate God.

We encourage you to get to know us better by visiting our website, www.ststephenspbgva.org. (You can worship with us on ZOOM.)

Email: ststephensepiscopal@yahoo.com

Church office: (804) 733-6228

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

ZOOM LINKS:

Sunday Worship 10:30 am



Scan QR code above or Click on link below!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89833169642?pwd=UEFjL29zRy9KWW5TWEFicEdOTIjTQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 3316 9642 Passcode: 6Up8xp

Mid-week Noonday Prayer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88267646851?pwd=UGFBV0t3anllM0x2UG15T2JlVFprQT09>

Vestry

Nancy Ross, Sr. Warden, 2025

RJ Bragg, Jr. Warden, 2024

Clifton Dickens, 2026

Kenneth Lewis, 2026

Otha Myers, 2026

Cheryl Talley, 2025

Marie Carol Jones - Register

Greeters

Anthony Lewis

Otha Myers

Trustees

Judy Bland

Brandon Kimble

John Russell

Finance Committee

Deborah B. Young - Chair

Bennie Wooten – Treasurer

Kenneth Lewis – Assistant Treasurer

Joan Campbell

Michael Walker

Acolytes:

Acolyte Masters:

Nancy S. Ross

Michael C. Walker

Acolytes

Dwelaya Burns

Midori Sheets

Brown Bag Lunch

Committee

Harriett Scruggs - Chair

Clifton Dickens

Marie Carol Jones

Anthony Lewis

Otha Myers

Please submit announcements you would like included in the bulletin by the preceding Monday.

Materials may be edited for content and length.

Supply Priest Schedule*

Rev. Elliott Waters August 4, 2024

Rev. Ruth Partlow August 18, 2024

Rev. Elliott Waters August 25, 2024

* *Subject to change based upon scheduling changes.*



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
228 Halifax St
Petersburg, VA 23803
(804) 733-6228



Good day beloved!

We cordially invite you to our Women's Day Celebration service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Petersburg, VA at 10:30 am on Sunday, August 4, 2024. We will acknowledge and honor the many accomplishments of the Women of St. Stephen's, which includes our extended family and friends throughout the world. If you have ever worshiped at St. Stephen's, you should know that you are a member of our church family! Our guest speaker for the event, Dr. Violet K. Whiteman, will reflect on "Women on a Mission". Dr. Whiteman is the wife of Neville Clarence Whiteman and daughter-in-law of Margaret S. Whiteman, one of St. Stephen's beloved Jewels. Refreshments will be provided in the parish hall after the service concludes.

Please see our electronic sponsorship form at the QR code below or at:
<https://tinyurl.com/StStephensWomensDay> Your sponsorship will support St. Stephen's mission to meet the spiritual needs of the church and community. We are asking to receive your sponsorship form no later than Sunday, July 28, 2024 to ensure all names are included in the Women's Day commemorative church bulletin. Checks/funds may be received on or after August 4 by donating at the church or by mailing to: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 228 Halifax St, Petersburg, VA 23803.

Please join us as we honor all Women Servant Leaders who have and continue to move St. Stephen's Episcopal Church forward, focused and committed with God's grace and mercy.

Please come as you are, and let's worship together.

Best wishes!!

Sandra Garner – Women's Day Chairperson

Leslie Whiteman-Richardson – Women's Day Co-Chairperson



P. S. You will also find a regular paper copy of the Sponsorship form in today's church program.

*Saint Stephen
Our Patron Saint*



*When you come to church next Sunday,
please remember to ...
Bring a friend or a family member,
Invite a neighbor,
Welcome a stranger.*