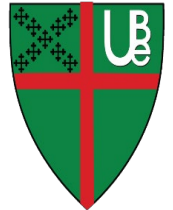
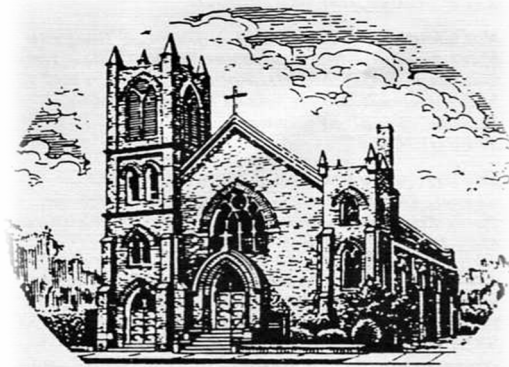
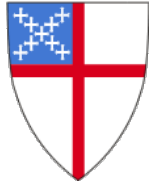


Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

228 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803

Founded 1867

*The Oldest Continuous Black Episcopal Congregation
in the State of Virginia*



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 26

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Year C

October 26, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Rev. John Boucher
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.

Please be aware that this church service is being live-stream televised via the following site:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89833169642?pwd=UEFjL29zRy9KWW5TWEF1cEdOTIjTOT09>

Please silence your phones and other electronic devices.

10:30 a.m. Sunday (Year C)

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Prelude

Organ

Bell rings to announce worship.

*All text in **bold print** is said/sung by the entire congregation.*

Processional Hymn

‘For all the saints’

Hymn 287

¹ For all the saints,
who from their labors rest
Who thee by faith
before the world confessed
Thy name, O Jesus,
be forever blessed
Alleluia, Alleluia!

³ O may thy soldiers,
faithful true and bold
Fight as the saints
who nobly fought of old
And win, with them,
the victor’s crown of gold
Alleluia, Alleluia!

² Thou wast their rock,
their fortress and their might
Thou, Lord, their Captain,
in the well-fought fight
Thou in the darkness,
drear the one true light
Alleluia, Alleluia!

⁴ O blest communion,
fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle,
they in glory shine
Yet all are one in thee,
for all are thine
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer

BCP Page 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria

“Glory to God”

LEVAS #243

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, - Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, - Lord we praise your Holy name.
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.**

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, - Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, - Lord we praise your Holy name.
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 glo-ry of the Father.**

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, -
Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, - Lord we praise your Holy name. A-a-a-men.**

**The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.**

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 26

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

A Reading from Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Clifton Dickens

¹ The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrong-doing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous—therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

¹ I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 119:137-144

(Sung by Congregation)

BCP Page 774

Sadhe Justus es, Domine

¹³⁷ You are righteous, O Lord, *
and upright are your judgments.

¹³⁸ You have issued your decrees *
with justice and in perfect faithfulness.

¹³⁹ My indignation has consumed me, *
because my enemies forget your words.

¹⁴⁰ Your word has been tested to the uttermost, *
and your servant holds it dear.

¹⁴¹ I am small and of little account, *
yet I do not forget your commandments.

¹⁴² Your justice is an everlasting justice *
and your law is the truth.

¹⁴³ Trouble and distress have come upon me, *
yet your commandments are my delight.

¹⁴⁴ The righteousness of your decrees is everlasting; *
grant me understanding, that I may live.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Minnie Wallace

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing.

⁴Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

- ¹¹To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith,
¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn ‘*Hear O my Lord, I see thee face to face*’ Hymn 318

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>¹ Here, O my Lord,
I see thee face to face;
here would I touch
and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer
hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness
upon thee lean.</p> | <p>³ I have no help but thine;
nor do I need
another arm save
thine to lean upon;
it is enough, my Lord,
enough indeed;
my strength is in
thy might, thy might alone.</p> |
| <p>² Here would I feed
upon the Bread of God;
here drink with thee
the royal Wine of heaven;
here would I lay
aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh
the calm of sin forgiven.</p> | <p>⁴ Mine is the sin,
but thine the righteousness;
mine is the guilt,
but thine the cleansing Blood.
Here is my robe,
my refuge, and my peace;
thy Blood, thy righteousness,
O Lord, my God!</p> |

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel

Luke 19:1-10

Rev. Boucher

PRIEST: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

PEOPLE: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through it.

²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich.

³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature.

⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way.

⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.”

⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him.

⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.”

⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.”

⁹Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Boucher

Musical Reflection

Organist

Please stand as you are able.

The Creed

The Nicene Creed

BCP Page 358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, - seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were
made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

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

**He will come again in glory to
judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no
end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the
Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the
Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for
the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of
the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

Form II

BCP Page 385

Anthony Lewis

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s); for our presiding Bishop – Sean; for our diocesan Bishop – Susan; for our priest – John; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially Biafra, Wanda and Iris], Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present.

I ask your prayers for _____. *(Our Saint Stephen's Prayer List.)

SAINT STEPHEN'S PRAYER LIST

Mattie Bell Antonio Belmar, Jr. Diane Bennett The Donald Birchette Family Pam Bolt The Joyce Brown Harris Family Jerome Burns + David Campbell The Wanda Jones Corbett Family Mary Cox Sarah Dickens Barbara Ford	Melissa Harrington Lamar Hawkes The George W. Henderson Family Kenya Jackson Earnestine Johnson Marie C. Jones The Helen Jordan Keene Family Michael Joshua Yvonne Joshua Elsie Lewis James Love Marciel Love Kelly Mills, Jr.	Otha Myers Jeanette Ransom The Biafra Sidney Family James Smith + Janice Smith Ann Taylor Vernita Taylor Olivia Theriot Laverne Venable The Vicki Hayes West Family Margaret Whiteman Deborah Williams
--	--	---

I ask your thanksgiving for _____.
Silence

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYERS

- The Rev. Peggy B. Buelow (Peter)
- Ritchie Memorial, Claremont
- St. David's, Chesterfield Co.
- St. Timothy's, Clarksville
- The Rev. Michael Stone (Virginia)
- The Very Rev. Dr. Nancy Meck (Michael)

SAINT STEPHEN'S CYCLE OF PRAYERS

Stephanie Bland-Harris

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

The Search Prayer

Nancy Ross

Reader: Please join with me in praying our Search Prayer.

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. *A-men.*

Celebrant:

Lord, please hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Confession

BCP Page 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

The Absolution

BCP Page 360

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

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

BCP Page 360

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

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.

Musical Offertory

‘I want to be ready’

LEVAS 7

Refrain:

**I want to be ready,
I want to be ready.
I want to be ready
To walk in Jerusalem just like John.**

**¹ John said that Jerusalem was four-square,
Walk in Jerusalem just like John.
I hope, good Lord, I’ll meet you there,
Walk in Jerusalem just like John. O [Refrain]**

**² When Peter was preaching at Pentecost,
Walk in Jerusalem just like John.
O he was filled with the Holy Ghost,
Walk in Jerusalem just like John. O [Refrain]**

Alms Presentation:

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

Remain standing as you are able.

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP Page 367

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, (*twice*)
heaven and earth are full, (full) of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes, in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel as able.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you:

This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you,
O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this
bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon
these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of
Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your
Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him,
being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time,
put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to
that heavenly country where, with [Stephen] and all your
saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and
daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all
creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and
for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

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

**And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil:**

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

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

*Please follow the Greeter's instructions of forming a socially-distanced single line in the center aisle to receive your Holy Communion. The sacrament will be **distributed** by a priest, deacon or licensed lay eucharistic minister who will intinct/dip the wafer into the wine (if wine is desired) and hand the wine infused wafer to the worshipper for consumption. To decline one or both of the elements simply cross your arms in front of your chest and you will receive a prayer (if desired) by the worship leader. You may then return to your seat by the side aisles. *Please tell a Greeter if you are unable to walk to the altar rail and would like your Holy Communion Cup brought to you in your pew.*

¹ Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior all the day long.

² Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture
now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
[Refrain]

³ Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness,
lost in His love.
[Refrain]

Post Communion Prayer *(standing or kneeling)*

BCP Page 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Announcements

- We welcome all of you to our Sunday Service today, November 2, 2025.
- We welcome all first time or returning visitors to our service today.
- We thank our Audio/Video Technology Committee.
- We welcome Rev. John Boucher for serving as our celebrant today.
- Clifton Dickens will be our worship leader next Sunday, November 9, 2025.
- We thank you in advance for your generous donations for our Brown Bag Ministry. The Brown Bag distribution will take place Sunday, November 23, 2025.
- You are invited to Christ & Grace, Petersburg on Sunday, November 9 at 5:15pm for a Celtic Evening Service. This is a candlelit service of Holy Communion with Celtic prayers, instrumental music, and silence to create a contemplative space where we can gather as a community before God. Our instrumentalists for this service include Timothy Hall on piano, Jonathan Shockley on cello, and Tim Richardson and Jonathan Shockley on recorder. A reception in the Parish Hall will follow the service. All are welcome! See flyer on Page 24 of bulletin.
- Please give your name and pertinent information to our Church Register, Marie C. Jones, if you are interested in running for Vestry. Elections will be on Sunday, December 7, 2025, during our annual Parochial Meeting. More details will follow.
- Please make sure you turn in your Stewardship Pledge forms during the collection today, November 2, 2026.
See the Finance Chair's letter and the Pledge Form found on pages 22 and 23, respectively, in this bulletin.
- Ministry Leaders are requested to submit their budget requests for the 2026 church year by today, Nov 2, 2025. The forms are available at the church entrances and in the Treasurer bin in the office. For any questions or concerns, please contact the treasurer.
- **Today's Coffee Hour is being hosted by ????**
- The Men's Club will host a Fall Jazz Concert on Friday night, November 14, 2025, at 7 pm, in the Parish Hall. We will feature James Holden, James "Saxmo" Gates and others. Ticket donations are \$30. Please come out and support this community ministry. Tell your friends. See page 21 of today's bulletin.
- When you come to church next Sunday, please remember to
'Bring a friend or a family member; Invite a neighbor; Welcome a stranger.'
- Thank you for any further announcements.

Please kneel as you are able.

Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. ***Amen.***

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. ***Amen.***

And the blessing of God Almighty, our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life, be with you always. ***Amen.***

Please stand as you are able.

Recessional Hymn

'I sing a song of the saints of God'

Hymn 493

¹ I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God—
and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

² They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and his love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier,
and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:

and there's not any reason,
no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

³ They lived not only in ages past,
there are hundreds of thousands still,
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school,
or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops,
or at tea,
for the saints of God
are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Flowers: *Given to the Glory of God, by Deborah Bell Young, in Thanksgiving for her son, Altmann Pannell, in Celebration of his birthday, November 2, 2025. Happy Birthday Altmann.*

Coffee Hour: Hosted by ?????

*Supply Priest Schedule**

** Subject to change based upon scheduling changes and priest availability.*

9 November – Clifton Dickens	7 December – Rev. Boucher
16 November – Rev. Boucher	14 December – Sandra Garner
23 November – Clifton Dickens	21 December – Rev. Boucher
30 November – Rev. Waters	28 December – Rev. Waters

NEXT SUNDAY: *The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost Proper 27 – November 9, 2025: Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 18-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38.*

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=UEFjL29zRy9KWW5TWEFicEdQTjJQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 3316 9642 Passcode: 6Up8xp

Mid-week Noonday Prayer <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88267646851?pwd=UGFBV0t3anlIM0x2UG15T2JlVFprQT09>

The Men's Club of
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
228 Halifax Street
Petersburg, Virginia

Presents

“An Evening of Jazz”



Friday, November 14, 2025

7:00 PM

Parish Hall – Side Door Entrance

Ticket Donation – \$30 (Cash or Check)

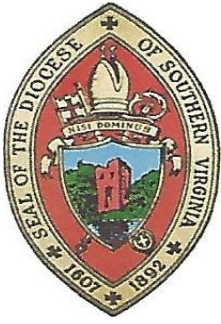
Guest Artists:

James Holden

James “Saxmo” Gates

And Guest Musicians and Vocalists

This is a Fundraiser & Fun-Raiser for the Men’s Club.



Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
228 Halifax Street
Petersburg, Virginia 23803
September 17, 2025



Phone: (804) 733-6228
Email: treasurer@ststephenspbgva.org

Dear Parishioners,

As St. Stephen's enters a new chapter of our church life, we continue to plan how the congregation will meet all the needs of the parish family. Stewardship of our time, talents, and financial giving is the cornerstone. These three components are exhibited through the four principles of Stewardship: Ownership, Responsibility, Accountability, and Reward.

Ownership: Own and protect what God has created and provided to us. Remember the legacy of our parishioners and their sacrifices.

Responsibility: Maintain and treat with respect all God's gifts given to each of us. God provides us with unique skills and talents for tasks. (Exodus 31 : 1-6)

Accountability: Use our talents, treasures, and financial resources efficiently and effectively for the church's life and mission.

Reward: Remain anchored in God, our foundation. God provides grace in abundance in all our work. (2Corinthians 9:8)

Let each of us enter into prayerful discernment in deciding our pledge for 2026, focusing on a future bi-vocational/shared clergy, care of our members and community, maintenance of our property and above all embracing our mission.

God has brought us this far; God will continue to bless us. We, St. Stephen's Christian Soldiers, are marching onward with the cross of Jesus. Triumph and Victory are ours.

In Service to Our Lord,

Deborah B. Young

St. Stephen's Finance Committee Chair



**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
2026 Offering Pledge
Return by: Sunday, November 2, 2025**

This financial commitment is my support of Our Mission and Our Vision.

General Operations Fund:

One-time \$ _____

Monthly \$ _____

Weekly \$ _____

Quarterly \$ _____

Annual Total \$ _____

Building Fund:

One-time \$ _____

Monthly \$ _____

Weekly \$ _____

Quarterly \$ _____

Annual Total \$ _____

I understand that my pledge may be adjusted at my discretion anytime during the 2026 year by notifying the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, or Finance Committee Chair. Pledge information is strictly confidential.

Signature(s) _____

Printed Name(s) _____

Address _____

Preferred Phone _____

Preferred Email _____

Please return your pledge form by Sunday, October 26, 2025. Please put in a sealed envelope, place in collection plate, or give to Finance Committee Member, or mail to church attention Finance Committee.



Celtic Service

Come away and rest for a little while

November 9, 5:15 pm

Christ & Grace
Episcopal Church

Vestry

Cheryl Talley, 2025; Senior Warden

Clifton Dickens, 2026;

Sandra Garner, 2025

Kenneth Lewis, 2026

Jolisa Mills-Sheets, 2027;

Otha Myers, 2026;

Nancy Ross, 2025;

Marie Carol Jones, Register

Vestry Nomination Requirements

You must be baptized.

You must be confirmed in the Episcopal Church.

You must be at least 16 years of age.

You must be a regular attendee.

You must be a regular communicant.

You must be a regular donor.

Greeters

Anthony Lewis
Otha Myers

Lay Worship Leaders

Sandra Garner - Chair
Clifton Dickens, Sr.

Trustees

Judy Bland
Brandon Kimble
John Russell

HOPE Center

Feeding Committee

Yvonne Coleman, Chair
Judy Bland
Marie Carol Jones
Minnie Wallace
Bennie Wooten

Lectors

Jada Bing
Judy Bland
Anthony Lewis
Kenneth Lewis
Aleisha Manson
Nancy Ross
Minnie Wallace

Live-Streaming Committee

Clifton Dickens - Chair
Taylin Manson
Thomas R. E. Sidney

Finance Committee

Deborah B. Young - Chair
Bennie Wooten – Treasurer
Kenneth Lewis –
Assistant Treasurer
Joan Campbell - Emeritus
Michael Walker

Acolytes:

Acolyte Master:

Nancy S. Ross

Acolytes

Dwelaya Burns
Midori Sheets

Brown Bag

Lunch Committee

Luke Berneking – Chair
Clifton Dickens – Asst. Chair
Autumn Berneking
Marie Carol Jones
Anthony Lewis
Otha Myers
Harriett Scruggs
Thomas R. E. Sidney
Ann Taylor

Please submit announcements you would like to have included in the next Sunday bulletin by the preceding Monday. Materials may be edited for content and length.

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.
We are not here to shine.
We are here to serve.*