

## ***ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS***

**Sunday, August 24, 2025**

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

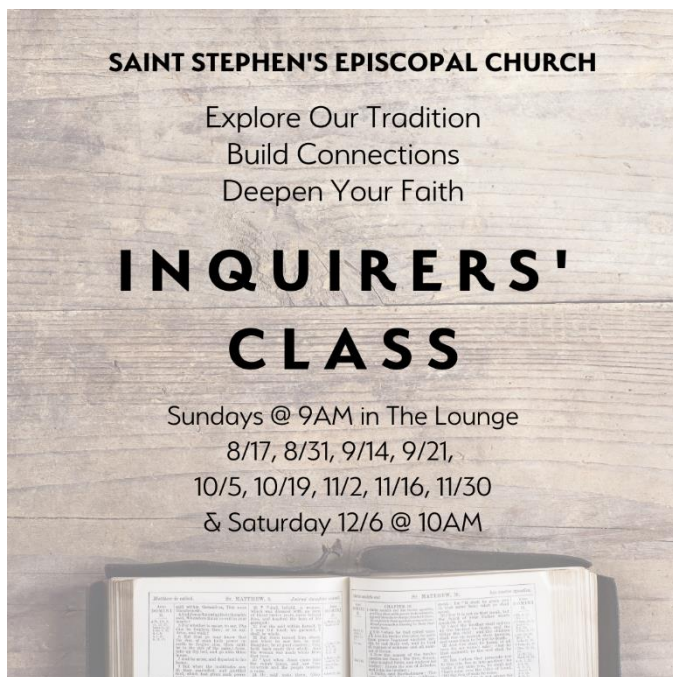
### **WELCOME!**

If you are worshipping at St. Stephen's for the first time today, you are welcome to share in the Holy Communion. Please fill out a "Visitor" card at one of the Greeters tables and/or the guest book on the podium before you leave and get a welcome packet.

### **COMMUNION**

If you are in need of a gluten free wafer during Communion, please let an usher know before the offertory or let one of the persons serving the host know. If you have a mobility problem, please let an usher know before the service begins and communion will be brought to you.

### ***LOOKING FORWARD***



As we prepare for our upcoming Episcopal Visitation from The Rt. Rev. Frank Brookhart on Sunday, December 7, 2025, Rev. Christopher will be leading a 10-session class beginning on Sunday, August 17 2025 at 9AM in The Lounge. Classes will continue every other Sunday through November 30th with two back-to-back sessions in September. The last class will be on the Saturday before the Bishop's visit. The specific dates are: 8/31, 9/14, 9/21 (11:30am), 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 11/30 at 9AM & Saturday 12/6 @ 10AM. This is open to anyone in the congregation who wishes to participate, including youth in 8th grade and up. It will serve as sort of an Episcopal

Church 101 course for newcomers and will also be crafted to directly support those interested in Young Adult or Adult Baptism, Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation. To register: <https://tinyurl.com/3tn9b96e>

Or sign up in person in the parish hall. For those interested in more information about baptism for small children or infants please see Rev. Christopher directly.



### **St. Stephen's Bookstore Re-Opens!**

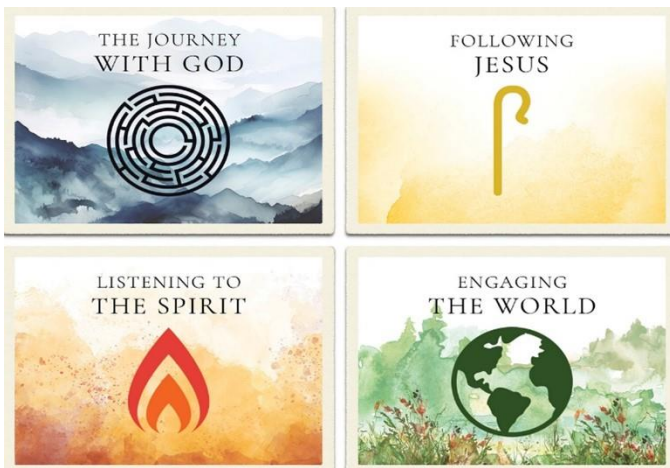
**Volunteers needed!** To keep our bookstore open every Sunday, we need some parishioners to please offer their time for 30 to 45 minutes after either worship service (during coffee hour), just one Sunday a month.

It's quite simple — Be available to open the doors, stay nearby to answer questions, handle the donations, and lock the doors before you leave. We'll even provide some training!

To avoid overburdening anyone, the ultimate schedule would list a different person for each service, each Sunday of the month (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after 7:45 or 10:30 service, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, etc.). That means about 8 to 10 volunteers are needed.

All books are available for donation (suggested \$3-\$10 per book), depending on their length, date, and condition. All donations go directly to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and can be made by cash, check, or online at [www.st-stephens.orggive](http://www.st-stephens.orggive).

If you'd like to be a bookstore volunteer, please speak with Mary Jo Higginbotham or contact her via email at [maryjohigg@gmail.com](mailto:maryjohigg@gmail.com)



**EfM 2025 now offers 2 Great Choices! Choose “*Classic*” or “*Wide Angle*”** This year, Education for Ministry (EfM) is celebrating 50 years of service to God and the Church! With its recent revisions, EfM moves from being text-based to a new, redesigned multi-media program with a new twist.

**EfM: *Classic*** remains the traditional four-year group program in which registrants commit to studying one year at a time for 36 weeks (Sept.-June), beginning with the Old Testament.

**EfM: *Wide Angle*** is a new offering inviting you to “*taste of four years of EfM in one year,*” experiencing an introduction to scripture (both OT & NT), Christian history, spiritual practices, ethics, and theological reflection in a 36-week program.

*Wide Angle* registrants will meet simultaneously with our *Classic* group on campus, Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9.

*Wide Angle* may be taken by anyone, including former EfM graduates, people with no experience in the EfM program, or by anyone who feels they need a break from “*EfM: Classic*”, regardless of what years were previously taken.

Participants in both *Wide Angle* & *Classic* are represented in all discussions and reading assignments. Everyone will experience the 5 Core Practices, including spiritual autobiographies, worship, and theological reflection. For more information, please stop by the EfM table in the parish hall during coffee hour or contact Mary Jo Higginbotham at [maryjohigg@gmail.com](mailto:maryjohigg@gmail.com)

Do you love to sing?

## Come join the Parish Choir!

Rehearsals on Thursday nights at 7:30pm  
Rehearsals begin September 4th.

For more information contact Josh Wentz at [josh@st-stephens.org](mailto:josh@st-stephens.org).

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH  
1:00 PM

## SAGES MOVIE DAY

IT'S *Movie* TIME

LAEMMLE THEATRE IN NEWALL

The Church and  
Preschool offices will  
be closed on Monday,  
September 1<sup>st</sup> in  
observance of  
Labor Day.





## GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S

If you are able to continue supporting the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's, you can pay your pledge or make a new or recurring donation online here [st-stephens.org/giving](http://st-stephens.org/giving). You can also text your donation by texting the word GIVE to 661.228.8909 and following the prompts. Click here for an easy [How To Use Text Giving guide](#). We are deeply grateful for your commitment and support



If you wish to have your birthday or anniversary prayed for during Sunday services or if you would like a white rose to signify a death in your family or a red rose to signify a birth in your family, please email Tracy in the Church office at [office@st-stephens.org](mailto:office@st-stephens.org) no later than 5:00pm on Thursdays with all of the relevant details.



Click on picture above to register.

## St. Stephen's Prayer List

**On-Going Needs:** Joanne

**Current Needs:** Vickie, Innocent Victims of Wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, Jim and Judy, Laura, Trudy, Gayle, Lella, Eliza, Janet, John, Sue, Gail, Sandy, Mrs. Lerma, Rebecca, Claudia, Brisa, Connor, Ruby, Nora and Lonnie, Ty, Linda, Kristen, Malik, Trevor, Alexander, Jack, Mary and Sepp, Mario, Laura, Jon, Kathy, Sara Anne, Vera, Patrick, Michelle, Lisa and Lou, Linda, Kristen, Vera, Patrick, Denis, Ro and Denis, Sr., Malcolm, Linda, Pat, Michelle and Bridgette, Sharon, Rt. Reverend Stephen Charleston, Trish, Peggy, Summer, Judy, Steve, Bill, Rosina, Jan and Jim, Nicole, victims of the Canyon Fire, Sally, **Rachel**, Ursula, Suzie, Chris, Fran, Ron, George

**Rest in Peace::** Galen Taylor, Cheryl Merkens Foley, Rosina Mascolo, Ovidio Ayala

If you would like to have prayers for yourself or someone else, please email Peggy Stabile at [pstable@pegasus2.net](mailto:pstable@pegasus2.net) or call the church office at 661.259.7307. Please be aware that your prayer request content will be shared with the members of the prayer chain. If you wish for Peggy to hold your prayer request in confidence, please clarify that in your submission. Prayer requests remain active for 4 weeks and must be renewed thru Peggy or the office to be on the list again.

St. Stephen's Week		August 24, 2025 to August 31, 2025	
TODAY'S SERVICES		7:45 & 10:30 AM	
<b>SUNDAY 8/24</b>		VPOD: Nick Vestuto	
7:45am		Holy Eucharist	
10:30am		Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed via Facebook live)	
10:30am		Blessing of the Backpacks	
<b>MONDAY 8/25</b>			
6:45pm		Troop 2019 / Spurling Hall	
<b>TUESDAY 8/26</b>			
6:00pm		Vestry meeting / Spurling Hall	
<b>WED. 8/27</b>			
7:00am		Holy Eucharist	
7:30am		Breakfast at Lily's Café / Newhall	
9:30am		Circle of Gratitude / Zoom	
7:00pm		PFLAG / Spurling Hall	
<b>THURS. 8/28</b>			
9:30am		Book Study / Sacristy	
1:00pm		SAGES Movie Day / Laemmle Theatre	
6:30pm		Troop 2222 / Spurling Hall	
<b>FRIDAY 8/29</b>			
<b>SAT. 8/30</b>			
<b>NEXT SUNDAY 8/31</b>		VPOD: John Alexopoulos	
7:45am		Holy Eucharist	
9:00am		Inquirers' Class / Lounge	
10:30am		Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed via Facebook live)	