



# *Red Door Chronicles*

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

Experience Christ's Welcome Within Our Doors

Eastertide Edition 2023



## **Easter vs. Eastertide**

Why an Easter newsletter four weeks after Easter itself? Easter is more than a day; it comprises the great fifty days of Easter during which the Risen Lord appeared to many until Ascension Day. Our Sundays are not counted “after Easter” as they are during the season of Pentecost, which was a single day, but rather “of Easter.” Eastertide is the historic designation of the great fifty days, where every day can be – and is – Easter. That is why the Easter Crosses are still on the front doors of the church and the wreath on the sacristy door. If we could, we would use Easter lilies every week on the Altar, all as reminders of the continuing joys and blessings that come our way during Eastertide. May you experience those same joy and blessings until we celebrate the Day of Pentecost on May 28.

## **Pete's Retirement Date is Set**

Pete suggested to the vestry that he set April 30, 2024, as his retirement date, and the vestry accepted that date. He notified the Diocese of Virginia of his plans, and the Rev. Shirley Smith Graham, Interim Transition Minister for the diocese, will meet with the vestry on June 18 of this year to explain the current transition process and begin to explore the many possibilities open to St. Stephen's. While Shirley's title is "Interim," she expects to be fully involved and engaged with St. Stephen's throughout the transition. Pete and the vestry ask your prayers during this long period of discernment.



Bishop Stevenson announced on April 20 that he has converted two interim positions to permanent status. The Rev. Shirley Smith Graham moves from interim to permanent Transition Minister, working with clergy who are discerning new calls, and guiding congregations in search of new clergy.

## **Vacation Bible School Registration is Open**

After a long hiatus, St. Stephen's will once again offer Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer! Under the leadership of Donna Anders, VBS is looking for volunteers during the week of August 7-11 during the mornings. Please let Donna know by phone, email ([donnaanders44@gmail.com](mailto:donnaanders44@gmail.com)) or through the office, of your participation in this ministry!

## **4-H Show and Sale on May 8**

The Fauquier County 4-H is holding its annual show and sale on Wednesday, May 8, at the Fauquier County Fairgrounds. The show includes a raffle for loads of stone, a pallet of hardwood mulch, and custom-made duck and goose calls. See posters around the parish or ask Noah Nye about signing up for the raffle.

## Regional News

A reminder that everyone in the Culpeper Region of the diocese has been invited to join Trinity Church, Washington, for their annual weekend retreat at Shrine Mont, which will take place on July 14-16. Cost, including all meals, is something under \$200 per person, and regional scholarship funds are available. More information about the program, as well as the exact cost, will be available from Trinity Church in late May.

Grace Church, Casanova, and St. Luke's Church, Remington, will be offering an AED/CPR class soon. Dates and times will be forthcoming.

We received an invitation from the Bridge Community Church to join them for the annual Blessing of the Badges during National Law Enforcement Week. That service will be on Monday, May 15, at 6:00 p.m.

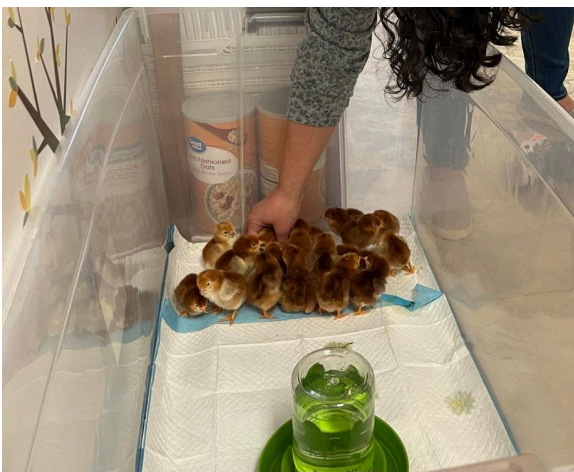


## St. Stephen's Preschool Update

We've had a great year at preschool! This year we've been able to welcome the return of many parent-involved events such as our Christmas Play, Donuts with Dads, our Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon. In the coming weeks, we'll be hosting Muffins with Moms, Teachers Appreciation week, an End-of-the-year Luau and our Pre-K Graduation Ceremony. We've loved having all of our preschool parents back in the building to join us for these fun activities!

We've been busy learning a lot as well, sometimes even welcoming special visitors from our community. In the month of March, we got to incubate chicken eggs while we learned about the chicken life cycle. We hatched 18 of our own chicks! We also had a preschool family bring some baby lambs to visit. We're so blessed to have so many great opportunities for learning in our little community! This month we're beginning to prep our garden for planting, finishing up our curriculum plans, and starting to plan for graduation. We'll be sending 33 kiddos off to Kindergarten this year; we can't believe their time with us is already over! We're also making plans to host 4 weeks of summer camp split between June and July.

We're currently enrolling for summer camp and next school year. If any you know of anyone looking for care, please have them reach out to Kristina at [ssep20119@gmail.com](mailto:ssep20119@gmail.com) 😊



## ECW Spring Fling on May 13

The day before Mother's Day is the day of the ECW's annual Spring Fling, which will include barbeque, a bake sale, a yard sale, and chicken and ribs for carry-out. If you have items you are willing to donate to the yard sale, please bring them to the church library any time! As always, LOTS of help is needed in every area, so we hope you'll clear your calendars and plan on using this event for your last-minute Mother's Day shopping!



# Spring Fling

May 13th 9am-1pm

**HOSTED BY THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WOMEN**

St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church  
8695 Old Dumfries Rd.  
Catlett VA 20119



Yard Sale  
Bake Sale

**BAKE  
SALE**

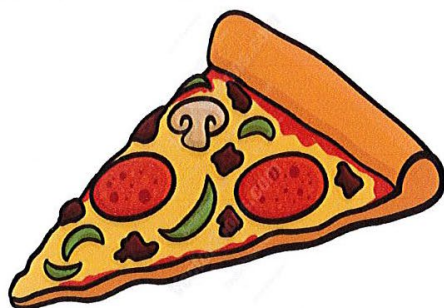


BBQ Chicken & Ribs  
as Carry-Out  
with potato salad,  
baked beans and rolls

Questions? Contact Christine  
Sanford (540) 788-4619

# Family Fun Night!

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St. Stephen's Church invites you and your family  
to join us on Saturday, May 6th  
from 5:30-7:00pm.

**\*PIZZA\*MUSIC\*CRAFTS\*GAMES\***

It's a night that we say THANK YOU for a  
wonderful school year!!

So that we can plan accordingly, please RSVP by  
May 1st to:

[letseatststephens@gmail.com](mailto:letseatststephens@gmail.com)

(please let us know if there are  
any dietary restrictions)

free will donation accepted.



We give thanks for the May Birthdays of Susannah Gerhardt, Tom Derco, Amanda White, and Kay Shuck.



We give thanks for the May Anniversary of Wesley & Becky Duvall.

**RED DOOR CHRONICLE**

by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church & Preschool.

**RECTOR**

Rev. Dr. Peter Gustin

**VESTRY**

Donna Anders  
Tom Derco – Jr. Warden  
Joanne Faunce - Sr Warden  
Chris Drazdowsky – Registrar  
Richard Gerhardt  
Noah Nye  
David White

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR**

Kristina Glick

**TRUSTEES**

Richard Gerhardt  
Robin Gulick  
Christine Sanford  
Bessie Woodward

**CONTACTS**

Karen Pickrell, *Secretary*  
  
Dr. Virginia Palmer Fuechsel  
*Organist*  
  
Marianne White, *Treasurer*

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday - Friday, 8 am -1 pm



**WORSHIP AT ST. STEPHEN'S**  
8:00 AND 10:00 AM  
SUNDAY

CONTACT ST. STEPHEN'S

Church

[www.ststephenscatlett.org](http://www.ststephenscatlett.org)  
[ststephencatlett@yahoo.com](mailto:ststephencatlett@yahoo.com)  
540-788-4252

Preschool

[www.ststephenspreschool.org](http://www.ststephenspreschool.org)  
[ssep20119@gmail.com](mailto:ssep20119@gmail.com)  
540-788-3364

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Catlett, VA 20119



**OUR MISSION**

**We will minister  
to each other  
and reach out to  
all people in the  
community to  
strengthen the  
Body of Christ**



Like us on Facebook and get up to the  
minute activities