



# *Red Door Chronicles*

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

Experience Christ's Welcome Within Our Door

Fall Edition 2023



## **Welcome Back Sunday & Ministry Fair!**

**September 10, 2023**

**Following the 10 AM Service**

**Pot-Luck Lunch**

Please join us for food and fellowship as we say good-bye to summer  
and welcome in the new school year!

Come visit with old friends and make some new friends!

Please check out our ministries and perhaps, join one (or 2!) that appeal to you.

\*Acolytes \*Altar Guild \*Book Club \*Buildings and Grounds \*Capital Fund/Rectory  
Renovation \*Christian Ed/VBS \*Choir/General Music \*ECW \*Eucharistic  
Ministers/Chalicers \*Flower Guild \*Redemption Diner \*Scholarship Funds \*Vestry  
\*Videography

**All are welcome!**

Please see the Pot-Luck sign-up sheet in the Narthex at the church  
or on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. You can also send an email to:

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

## Update to Rectory Renovations



Everyone at St. Stephen's recently received an email saying that repairs to the rectory in preparation for new tenants have exceeded initial expectations and that contributions to the capital fund were urgently needed and would be deeply appreciated. Since that time, the requirements have escalated and now include the following:

The foundation of the rectory had been leaking for a number of years, so the vestry resealed the basement walls and installed a series of drains, waterproofing the entire basement for the first time. The total cost was \$10,572. Because of the mold, the vestry also cleaned all of the air ducts for \$700. The entire main floor was painted, which hadn't been done for many years, for \$2,650. Additional repairs, mostly plumbing, amounted to about \$800. During the moisture assessment, the vestry discovered that not only were the basement windows partially responsible for the flooding, but also that all of the main floor window frames (the original wood) were rotted, the storm windows were falling apart, and screens proved useless. Replacing all of the 21 windows, including the basement, will cost \$14,660. The final cause of the flooding turned out to be rain gutters that were missing pieces and were largely inoperable. An inspection of the gutters led to the discovery of several issues with the roof. Replacing the gutters will cost \$1,594, and repairing the roof will cost \$985. Replacing the entire roof will cost \$12,500.

The vestry would like to offer deep thanks to Marianne and David White, who not only gathered many of the estimates for necessary repairs, but also did much of the work themselves. Joanne Faunce noted that during the recent heavy rains the basement remained entirely dry, and Marianne said that they could breathe clean air for the first time since they began the work. Finally, after extensive discussion, the vestry opted to close off rather than repair the fireplaces and chimney.

The work that has been completed thus far has depleted the capital fund, and the vestry is exploring various options to complete the rest of the work and render the rectory suitable for commercial residency. Marianne will be on hand at the parish ministry fair (see related article) on September 10 to answer any questions from parishioners and to describe in greater detail the work that has been done and remains to be done.

## Preschool Update Fall, 2023

Preschool is off to a GREAT start this week! We've started the year with 46 students enrolled, and 7 teachers returning. We've hired 3 new assistant teachers; Ms. Kayleigh is the daughter of one of our current teachers and has been a familiar face for years. Ms. Tracy is the mother of one of our preschoolers and was a regular volunteer last year. Ms. Marianne, in addition to her roles as a church member and vestry member, was also a regular volunteer last year. We're so blessed that each of them has joined our team, and we're looking forward to a great year!

We're also looking forward to the completion of our playground expansion project! Thanks to the Coale family for their generous donation, and the church for allowing us the space to expand, our 2's and 3's will be getting their own space designed just for their needs. HUGE thanks to Conner Landscaping and an awesome crew of parent volunteers that came out to help move carpports, shift playground equipment, prepare the ground for this project, etc. It truly takes a village!!! The playground should be officially complete in early September.



*Our 3's class using their "binoculars" with Ms. Kayla!*



*Our 4's class helping Ms. Amanda with Morning Meeting.*



*Our littlest learners, the 2's class, singing the days of the week song with Ms. Kaitlyn and Ms. Kayleigh!*

## St. Stephen's Book Club



The Book Club meets once a month and we read a wide variety of books ranging from fun to serious. In September we are reading "Prepare to Die: Living with Purpose, Dying in Peace", by Mark Bellows M.Div., LMFT. A book about helping people live with purpose but also being prepared to die. Our next meeting is **September 17<sup>th</sup> following the 10 am service**. Next month we will be reading "Miles From Where We Started", by Cynthia Ruchti. Cynthia Ruchti is known for her novels about faith and hope.

## Altar Flowers Update

With Pete gone from the rectory, the cutting garden was not getting the attention it needed. Most of the perennials were successfully moved to the little cemetery garden, where Norman has been faithfully watering them after the transplants. The annuals, however, were not able to be saved, so we don't have as many flowers as we had hoped for this year. If you have flowers around your house that you'd be willing to donate for church use, it would be great if you could drop them off by Friday morning. Or let us know, and we can pick them up (or come raid your yard!). As always, flowers in memory of someone or in celebration of an event are always most welcome; sign-up book is in the church narthex.



## Welcome Back Sunday and Ministry Fair

The Let's Eat folks are giving us another chance to get together and enjoy one another's company on **Sunday, September 10**, with a welcome-back brunch after the 10:00 service. This is a pot luck, and sign-up sheets are in the church narthex. In addition to the brunch, we'll also have something of a "ministry fair," with people from our various ministries and activities on hand to tell you about what they do and how you can participate. This would be an especially great time for you to invite your friends and neighbors to experience St. Stephen's!

## Discernment (Search) Committee Set

The discernment committee (what we used to call a search committee) has been finalized by the vestry and will be commissioned at the **10:00 service on Sunday, August 27**. The committee includes Ted Anders, Nolan Demski, Emily Derco, Christine Sanford, and Lori Wicka. In approving the members of the committee, the vestry tasked the committee with providing a list of candidates to become the next rector of St. Stephen's. The committee and the vestry are both working closely with the diocesan transition minister, the Rev. Shirley Smith Graham.

## Looking Ahead to the Annual Congregational Meeting

St. Stephen's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held as usual on the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Church year, which is **November 26 this year**. It will follow the 10:00 service. The meeting will include a look at the draft 2024 operating budget, a review of the capital fund and rectory renovations, vestry elections, and reports from various organizations within the parish.



*Mark Your*  
**CALENDAR**



### Crabs To Go!



The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) will be hosting "Crabs To Go" on **Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 p.m.** at St. Stephen's. More information to come!

Mark your calendar also for the October PIG ROAST and Silent Auction!  
Keep an eye out for the confirmed date with more to follow!



We give thanks for the August & September Birthdays of Becky Duvall, Alyssa Demski, Debi Gustin, Jay Anders, Greg Moyers, Olivia Gulick, Donna Anders, David White, Connie Chintall, Michael VonTomaszewski, and Norman Williams.



We give thanks for the August & September Anniversaries of Craig & Gigi Granché, Gary & Lori Wicka, C.J. & Bethany VonTomaszewski, and Ed and Charlotte Dandar.

**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