

SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1695 Perrowville Road † Forest, VA 24551 † 434-525-5511
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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 19, 2026

HOLY EUCHARIST II



Meal in Emmaus (Arnold Houbraken, 1718)

***Saint Stephen's welcomes you!
If you are visiting, your presence is a blessing.***

The Rev. Matt Rhodes, Rector
ststephenspriest@gmail.com

Dana Ballard, Music Director

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

10:30 A.M.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Hymn: *He is risen, he is risen*

Hymnal 180

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

Gloria

Hymnal S-277

The Salutation

BCP 357

The Collect of the Day

Bulletin Insert

THE LESSONS

First Lesson

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Bulletin Insert

Psalm

116:1-3, 10-17

Bulletin Insert

Second Lesson

1 Peter 1:17-23

Bulletin Insert

Hymn: *Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks*

Hymnal 178

The Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

Bulletin Insert

Sermon

Rev. Matt Rhodes

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People Form III

BCP 387

The Confession of Sin

BCP 360

The Absolution

BCP 360

The Peace

BCP 360

Parish Announcements/Prayer for Birthdays & Anniversaries

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Today's loose plate offering is designated for the Rector's discretionary fund.

Offertory Music

Presentation of Gifts

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 369

Sanctus

Hymnal S-124

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Prayer for Spiritual Communion (for those joining from afar)

Jesus, we believe that you are present in the Blessed

Sacrament of the Altar. We love you above all things, and long for you in our souls. Since some at this time are unable to receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Ministration of Communion

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

Hymn: *The day of resurrection!*

Hymnal 210

The Dismissal

BCP 366

Postlude

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Welcome to St. Stephen's Church! We are delighted you have chosen to worship with us. If you are visiting for the first time we invite you to make yourselves known to us. We also invite you to learn more about our worship, fellowship, and outreach opportunities. With thanksgiving and gratitude for our past, we live boldly in the present even as we imagine a glorious future in God, for God is always preparing "better things than we can ask or imagine."

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MINISTERS

Celebrant: Rev. Matt Rhodes

Organist: Dana Ballard

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Tom Mohr

Prayers of the People: Wes Smallshaw

Eucharistic Minister: Larry Flores

Ushers: Hal Clark and Greg Branan

Altar Guild: Jennifer Moore, Bea Mohr, Jessica and Mustafa Siddiqi

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. STEPHEN'S

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, a parish in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, was established in 1824 by The Rev. Nicholas Hamner Cobbs (later to become the first bishop of the Diocese of Alabama). The first building was completed in 1825 on land given by Anne Irvine Moseley, the mother of Elizabeth Moseley Radford. Mrs. Moseley had purchased part of the Poplar Forest tract from Martha Jefferson Randolph, the oldest daughter of Thomas Jefferson, who had given the land to his daughter for her dowry in 1790. The original church was torn down and the present one erected on the same site in 1844. In the same year William Radford and Elizabeth Moseley Radford deeded additional land to enlarge the church property and provide a cemetery for members and their families. The cemetery is still in use.

A lack of funds to make necessary repairs closed the church temporarily in 1911, although occasional services were held in the interim. In 1941, at the instigation of Malcolm Griffin, interested families organized to restore and reopen the church. Since that date services have been held continuously.

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2026

COLLECT OF THE DAY (TRADITIONAL)

O God, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open, we pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming works; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY (CONTEMPORARY)

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14A, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

PSALM 116:1-3, 10-17

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *

because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called

upon him.

The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; *

I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *

"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

How shall I repay the LORD *

for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *

and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *

in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the LORD *

is the death of his servants.

O LORD, I am your servant; *

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *

and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *

in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the LORD'S house, *

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE: 1 PETER 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at

the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in

all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

WEEKLY PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL 19, 2026

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A PRAYER FOR A YOUTH PROGRAM

Gracious and loving God, it was your Son Jesus who said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." As we discern and plan a program to welcome, include, and strengthen our youth in the life of your Church, may we remember those words and be always mindful of our role in walking with them through their journeys of faith. Be with each of us as we consider how we may best contribute our time, gifts, and love to mentor the next generation. Give us patience and wisdom in our work and grant us grace to accept that the end of this journey - wherever it leads - will be according to your will. All this we ask in your holy name. Amen.

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ADULT FORUM SERIES: JOURNEY THROUGH GENESIS

Join us in the Parish Hall each Sunday morning at 9:30 for our current Bible study series, a deep dive into the Book of Genesis. We're examining the first book of the Old Testament and period running from the primeval history and creation of the world to the stories of the first patriarchs. All are welcome to attend!

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BOYS HOME COMES TO ST. STEPHEN'S

Join us next Sunday, April 26 as we welcome Chris Doyle, executive director of Boys Home of Virginia, and several of the students to St. Stephen's. Since the early years of the 20th century Boys Home residential school has provided exceptional academics, hands-on trades training, and structure and support for young men, giving them the tools and motivation to succeed in life. We have been longtime supporters of Boys Home, and our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper offering is dedicated

to their support. Chris and the young men will speak at 10:30 service and lead a special adult forum in the Parish Hall at 9:30, and our loose plate offering that day will be donated to the school. Please make plans to join us and help welcome our visitors from Covington.

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CAVALIER THEATRE PRESENTS "LES MISÉRABLES"



The Cavalier Theatre at Jefferson Forest High School will present "Les Misérables" in four performances on April 30 and May 1, 2, and 3. Parishioner Lane Tankersley is part of the cast and invites everyone to come enjoy this musical. Information on tickets and performance times is available at cavaliertheatre.com.

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CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES AND ALL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

The end of the school year is approaching fast, and to mark that special time we'll be recognizing our graduates and celebrating all our students during the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 3. If you have a graduating senior in your family (high school or college), please contact Matt+.

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SEVEN HILLS CHORUS PRESENTS "SONGS OF A NATION"



The Seven Hill Chorus of Lynchburg will present "Songs of a Nation," a celebration of 250 years of American music, on

Sunday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic Academy Theatre. A chorus of 130 local vocalists, including our own parishioner Jessica Siddiqi, will perform a wide range of musical styles representing the diverse history of American music. Performance and ticket information can be found at thesevenhillsschorus.org.

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UTO INGATHERING

The UTO Ingathering is this Sunday, April 19!

The UTO Ingathering and reception is this Sunday, April 19 in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service. The UTO Ingathering is an opportunity to donate your UTO Blue Boxes or other contributions and have them blessed.

UTO encourages us to live lives of gratitude and make thank offerings that empower missions and ministry.

Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
UTO is Grateful
for You.

Please bring your UTO Blue Boxes to church this Sunday or give them to me beforehand. Please join us for the reception! I look forward to seeing you.



Jeannie Cornelius, UTO Coordinator

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VESTRY MEETING

The next Vestry meeting is Monday, April 20 at 6:45 p.m. in the Parish Office. Remember that these meetings are open to anyone who would like to learn more about the important work

being done by your Vestry members.

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PRAYER LIST

Jake Bruce; Phyllis Bruce; Kayia Campbell; Imelia Culpepper; Pat Deacon; Chris Gallegos; Laura Goley; Kim Grant; Jimmy Gratto; Denny Hayes; Jim Hite; Joyce and Tom Houck; Susie Hubbell; Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr.; Neal Justis; Jim LeBlanc; Susan Major; Wade Mays; Cheryl Smith; Martha Stokes; Barry Terry; Philip Weeks; Lauren Wright; Sharon and Bob; Terry and family; Vanessa and family; Mary Lou; and Julia.

This week we celebrate the birthday of Penny Thomas (April 19) and Mustafa Siddiqi (April 23).

We pray for all who have died, especially Delma Branscome and Mark Worrell, and ask for comfort for those who mourn.

We pray for those serving in the armed forces, especially William, Nick, Hunter, Jared, Thomas, Brennan, Max, and Logan.

We pray for all facing food insecurity, homelessness, or job uncertainty.

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APRIL 2026 CALENDAR

Monday, April 20

6:45 p.m.: Vestry Meeting (Parish Office)

Friday, April 24

Rector's Day Off

Sunday, April 26 (Easter 4)

8:30 a.m.: Service of Holy Eucharist I (no music)

9:30 a.m.: Adult Forum and Bible Study (Parish Hall)

10:30 a.m.: Service of Holy Eucharist II (with music)

MAY 2026 CALENDAR

Friday, May 1

Rector's Day Off