

A young girl with brown hair, wearing a white headband with red and white floral patterns and a light pink dress, is looking down at an open book. A man in a dark blue suit is holding the book open for her. The background is a church interior with other people seated in pews, slightly out of focus.

GRATEFUL HEARTS  OPEN HANDS

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.  
JOHN 10



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH HAS LONG BEEN A PLACE OF ABUNDANT LIFE. OUR DEVOTION TO GOD SHINES FORTH IN MOVING WORSHIP AND MUSIC, IN HEALING PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE, IN REACHING OUT TO OTHERS, BOTH WITHIN AND BEYOND OUR PARISH.

This devotion springs from a deep well of gratitude for the blessings God has showered on us individually and as the community of St. Stephen's Church.

Prayer, pastoral care, spiritual nourishment for all ages and stages, outreach to our neighbors near and far: the people of St. Stephen's Church have grateful hearts and open hands.

After a particularly challenging time of pandemic and separation, leadership transition, and discernment about our future, we are in an exciting new season for this great parish. As stewards of all that God has entrusted to us through the ministries of St. Stephen's Church, we look ahead with energy, hope, and enthusiasm to the ministry we share with our new rector, the Rev. John D. Rohrs.

You play an indispensable role in sustaining and strengthening St. Stephen's Church. Join others in this parish to support our work for the days and years to come. Demonstrate your grateful heart by opening your hands in generosity.





## WHEN YOU GIVE TO ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH:

- You help keep the doors of this church open, seven days a week, to all who come to us in crisis, sorrow, grief, illness, uncertainty, need, and joy.
- You support the spiritual growth of children and youth, and sustain and equip families during challenging times.
- You assist hundreds of households each week by providing fresh, healthy produce, eggs, and meat, as well as shelf-stable foods—people who never thought they'd need this help, and who are treated with kindness and respect by staff and volunteers.
- You sustain life-giving partnerships with numerous community organizations that multiply our gifts of time, talent, and funds to address human need in many forms: hunger, homelessness, poverty, unemployment or underemployment, addiction, loneliness.



- You support dedicated staff who provide pastoral care; sacramental rites such as Holy Baptism, Confirmation, marriage, reconciliation, and burial; spiritual formation; small groups, classes, and Bible study; training, administrative support, and coordination for outreach, volunteer, and worship ministries.
- You make possible varied forms of worship and music, from daily Morning Prayer to a range of Sunday liturgies to livestreaming and video services.
- You help maintain the beautiful church we cherish which serves not only as a spiritual home for its members, but as a beacon for the community.

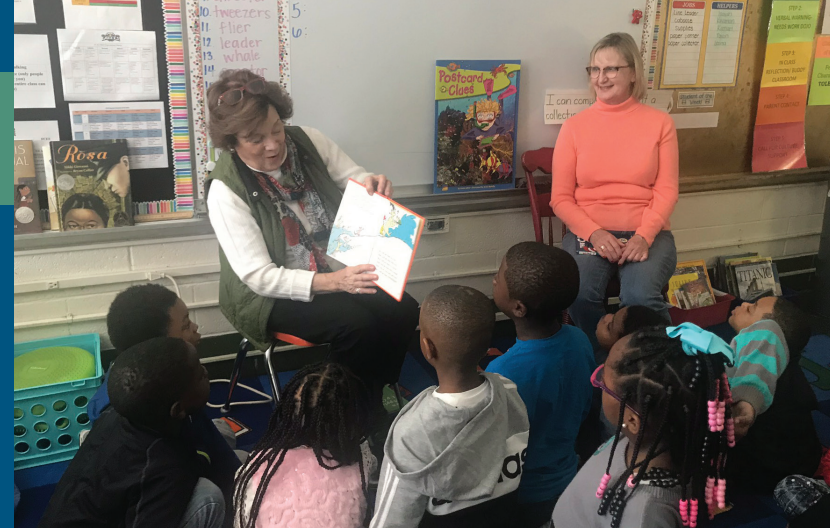


## WHAT SHOULD YOU GIVE?

That is entirely up to you. We encourage you to give in proportion to what you have, and to consider prayerfully whether God may be calling you to give sacrificially or to increase the portion of your income that you commit to your church. The Bible is consistent in calling for a tithe (ten percent). Whether you are in a position to make a tithe, or you wish to move toward it over time, we encourage you to give this decision careful thought and prayer.

Whatever you decide, the leaders of St. Stephen's Church hope that you will make a **commitment**—an intention for what you will give over the course of the year—because that information is so important as we make decisions about what we can do together in the coming year. Every gift is important and appreciated; pledges are especially so. (A pledge is a commitment made in faith. If your circumstances change after you make your pledge, you may always adjust it by letting the parish finance office know.)

A **pledge card** was enclosed in the packet mailed to everyone on the parish mailing list, along with this brochure. If you do not have a card, though, you may pick one up at the church, call the parish office to have one mailed to you (804.288.2867), or you may pledge online, [ststephensRVA.org/grateful-hearts](http://ststephensRVA.org/grateful-hearts).



## PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

St. Stephen's Church supports outreach with financial support (from your pledges and proceeds from the May Fair House), with about 200 volunteers from the parish who use their time and talents on behalf of others, and by working with a broad range of community partners. Through these relationships, St. Stephen's is able to multiply resources to expand our reach in communities who need our help. This is a partial list of these partners.

- Fairfield Court Elementary School (East End public school)
- ReWork Richmond (sustainable employment support)
- Peter Paul RVA (community organization providing services to all ages)
- Anna Julia Cooper School (tuition-free independent school)
- Rebuilding Together Richmond (home repairs for elderly or low-income homeowners)
- Shalom Farms (fresh produce for those in need)
- FeedMore (food bank)
- CARITAS (assisting people to find long-term, affordable housing)
- CrossOver Ministry (health care for the working poor and uninsured)
- Episcopal Migration Ministries (helping refugees find safety in their new country)
- Virginia Supportive Housing





ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6000 Grove Avenue | Richmond, Virginia 23226 | 804.288.2867 | [ststephensRVA.org](http://ststephensRVA.org)