

June 20, 2025

Greetings on this first day of summer!

This Sunday, we will give thanks for the choir's leadership in worship and bless them on their summer break. We will also **celebrate and bless the college graduations of two choir members -- Charlie Dawson and Jackie Smith.**

You'll notice that our liturgical color changes to green, symbolizing **growth, life, and hope** -- well-suited for summer. This season after Pentecost is also called "ordinary time" -- not because it's unimportant, but because "ordinary" comes from the Latin *ordinalis*, meaning numbered. Each Sunday is named by the number of weeks following Pentecost.



After church, we will welcome summer with a **festive BBQ and potluck**. Please contribute: **Last names ending in A-G, dessert or fruit, H-O, side dish or salad and P-Z, a beverage.** It will be a feast!

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#653 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

#655 O Jesus, I have promised

#704 O Thou Who Camest From Above

#473 Lift High the Cross

Dennis Harris to Receive Episcopal Church's St. George Award

Sunday, July 6 at 10:00 am Eucharist

The St. George Award is given to adults for outstanding service to the spiritual development of Episcopal youth in national youth serving agency programs. Dennis Harris has served for many years as a Sea Scout Mate, training youth in sailing and scouting ethics and practices. On Sunday, July 6, **Bishop Phil Labelle will present the St. George Award to Dennis** at our 10 am Eucharist. Please come congratulate Dennis and celebrate with the parish!



Parish Conversations this Summer -- Sundays after Church



11:30 in the Parish Hall

This summer, the Vestry and Rev. Jennifer will host a number of casual post-church conversations to guide parish planning for the next year. Mark your calendars and come share your thoughts on:
June 29 Programming for the Women's Retreat

(Rev. Jennifer)

July 20 Discerning Calling a Rector (Chris Dorling, Monty McGovern)

July 27 Branding for the Church and Preschool (Anne Adams, Rev. Jennifer)

Parish Forum on Housing Insecurity

Sunday, July 13, 11:30-12:30, Parish Hall

After church on July 13, we welcome representatives from Solid Ground Housing and Wellspring Family Services to present information regarding their missions in housing families and individuals. There will be time for a Q&A about how our parish can support our neighbors. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Cogan at bethbenbear@gmail.com.



Spotted Towhees Seek Nesting Spot

Earlier this week, the narthex hosted a **one-night sleepover for a mating pair of spotted towhees**. Apparently, when the doors were open to welcome attendees at a piano recital on Monday night, the two observed the benefits of the space from the patio and slipped in when no one was looking. They spent the night testing out the suitability of the potted plants and dried hydrangeas on the narthex table, and were initially reluctant to leave on Tuesday. Eventually, after much

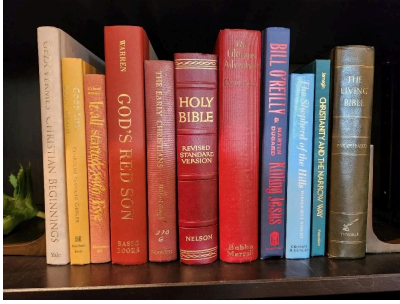
chirping consultation, they decided to return outdoors. Perhaps they'll bring their fledglings by later this summer for a blessing!

Preschool Construction Is Underway

This week was occupied with necessary demolition in the preschool classrooms along with asbestos abatement in the parish hall and other locations. After one more week of demo, the crew will begin rough-in for plumbing and electric. The parish hall will be off-limits during the week, but we hope to have it available every Sunday.



Book Giveaway, June 8 - June 30
Parish Hall Library



St. Stephen's is curating and consolidating the books in the Parish Hall library to make room for new publications and free up the lower shelves for children's books. This will create a welcoming space for the parish community as well as families of the new preschool.

Come choose from the books that are laid out on the window sill and tables in the library area. There are a wide variety of topics: different Bible translations, theology, spirituality, grief, youth ministry and much more. All are free! Books remaining on June 30 will be donated. See Rev. Jennifer for information.

Women's Retreat: October 9-11, 2025 The Sacred Waters Center, Hood Canal

The annual Women's Retreat is scheduled for October 9-11, 2024 at The Sacred Waters Center for Restoration and Retreat, a new synthesis of the existing diocesan ministries of St. Andrew's House, Harmony Hill, MultiCultural Ministries and Creation Care. The retreat begins Thursday at 5 pm and concluding Saturday at noon. Rev. Jennifer will be our leader.



All are invited to gather after church on June 29 (note the date change) to share ideas and desires for the retreat. You can also share your thoughts with **Rev. Jennifer** or **Kathy Graunke**. Learn more about The Sacred Waters Center [here](#).

Coming Up at St. Stephen's

Sundays 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Coffee Hour (Nave and Parish Hall)
Sundays 3:00 pm. Youth Group Food Program (Narthex)
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall)

June 22 11:30 am Parish Summer Kick-Off BBQ Celebration (Parish Hall)
June 28 10:00 am Funeral for Skipper Skelly (Epiphany Parish)
June 29 11:30 am Women's Retreat Planning (Parish Hall)
July 6 10:00 am Bishop Labelle will present St. George Award to Dennis Harris (Nave)
July 13 11:30 am Forum on Housing Insecurity (Parish Hall)
July 20 11:30 am Parish Conversation about Calling a Rector (Parish Hall)
July 27 11:30 am Parish Conversation about Church and Preschool Branding (Parish Hall)

The Rev. Jennifer King Daugherty
(206) 331-2364
[**RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org**](mailto:RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org)



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