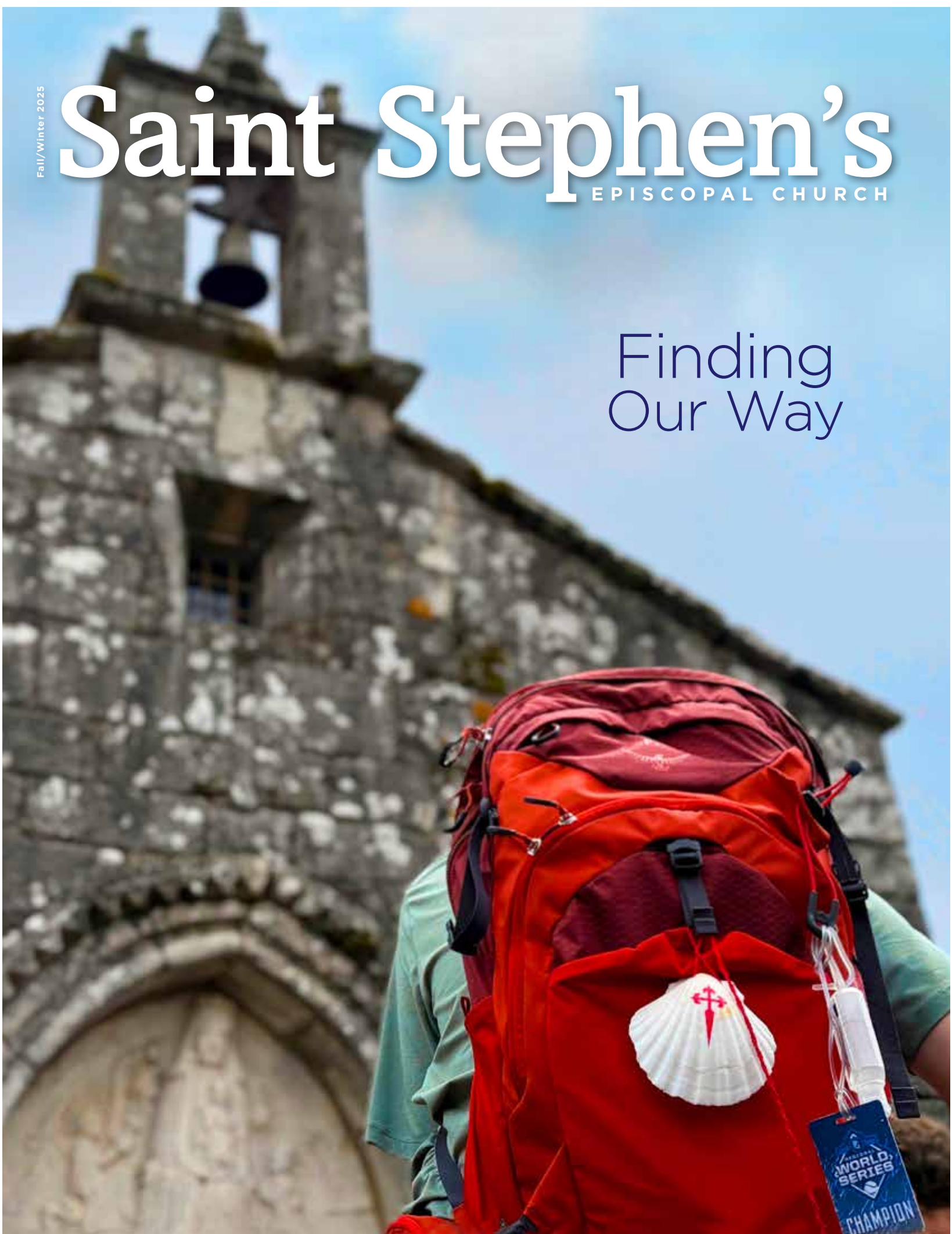


Fall/Winter 2025

Saint Stephen's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Finding
Our Way



CROSS CRAFT: Kathleen Franklin, Saint Stephen's parish life coordinator, shows a parishioner how to make a cross out of palm fronds for Palm Sunday. The traditional activity was a highlight of Prawns & Palms, an April event on the church patio featuring a shrimp boil, live music by Jimmy Gauld, and plenty of family fun and fellowship ahead of Holy Week.





Cherishing our roots

I spent July 4 this year with my Great-Aunt Elizabeth, Uncle Donald, and their family in Sale Creek, Tennessee—a small town nestled between Soddy-Daisy and Dayton. Fewer than 3,000 people live there, and not much seems to have changed in the hundred-plus years the Crawleys and Rays have called Sale Creek home.

We grilled hot dogs and swam in the pool where I first jumped off a diving board more than 40 years ago. This year I watched my niece take her first jump, and my kids ran barefoot through the same grass I once did. The air was thick with nostalgia. We lit fireworks, and my cousin Julie laughed, reminding me how I used to call them “fire cracks” as an excited redheaded toddler. We made ice cream, gave thanks for our family, and broke bread together.

The Ray house and yard look much the same as they did a half century ago. My 91-year-old uncle still tends the garden with tomatoes, squash, and bright marigolds. The only noticeable differences are the cracked diving board (off-limits to the grown-ups now) and the creek that’s shifted a few yards, shaped by storms and time.

This summer I was also fortunate to return to Sewanee for further study. One of my classes was a survey of the sources and development of baptismal

and Eucharistic rites. We explored how these practices have taken shape over the last 2,000 years. And it struck me that when we gather on Sundays, and when we welcome new members into the Body of Christ, we are part of something as steady and rooted as my family’s backyard.

That’s the gift of our faith: in a world of change and uncertainty, we find the steady hand of God. At Saint Stephen’s, our story is always unfolding—whether through pilgrimages to Spain or the creation of the Threshold Center—but the hope of the Gospel remains constant: that God created you and me, and that we encounter the reconciling love of Christ as we gather, again and again, around the table.

This magazine is part of that unfolding story. While the stories you’ll read may shed new light on who we are as a church today, my hope is that each one is firmly rooted in our timeless faith. May these pages reflect not only what is growing and changing at Saint Stephen’s, but also what endures—God’s presence among us, shaping us into the Body of Christ.

The Rev. John Burruss
RECTOR • SAINT STEPHEN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Above) The Rev. Katherine Harper, the Rev. John Burruss, and acolyte Ethan Brasher celebrate the Eucharist.



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The Rev. Sally Herring • Associate Rector for Outreach and Pastoral Care
The Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan • Director of the Threshold Center
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Magazine: **Kristyn Bara**, Creative Director • **Charles Buchanan**, Project Manager • **Karin Fecteau**, Art Director
Kristyn Bara, **Wynter Byrd**, **Karin Fecteau**, Photographers

In June, a group of Saint Stephen's youth walked the final 72 miles of the Camino de Santiago. They embarked upon the ancient religious pilgrimage as "a journey of discernment—an invitation to reflect on how they are growing in their Christian faith and life," says the Rev. John Burruss. This is an account of some of their encounters and epiphanies along the way.



Finding Our Way

WHAT WE DISCOVERED ON THE CAMINO PILGRIMAGE

By **Christina McGovern** Photos by **Leslie Dunlap, Christina McGovern, and Taylor McLemore**

Twenty teenagers, five adults, and a medieval trail. What began as a six-day gallop across the Spanish countryside soon became something deeper, richer, and transformative, because each of us encountered God's presence in many meaningful ways.

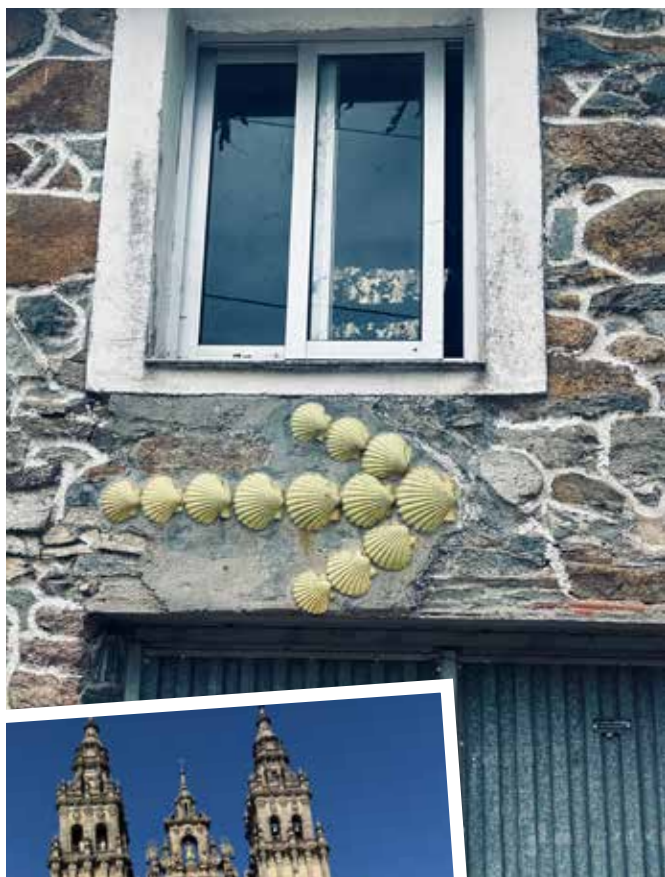
We found God's beauty everywhere.

Years of meticulous preparation led to our first evening in Spain, in the city of Sarria, where our youth scrambled over old ruins to a hilltop with views of the countryside and cotton-candy skies. We gathered under the lights of the local church

to reflect and pray Compline, and this pattern became the fabric of our week: adventure by day followed by contemplation and prayer at night.

The next day, after an early morning prayer, we stowed our phones and set off, with the youth taking off down the path like young colts.

(Above) The youth on the Sarria hilltop: (back row, left to right) Bennett Haynes, Maslan Girouard, Moseley Garrison, Chambers Garrison; (middle row, left to right) Jane Earnhardt, Mary Kelly Allegrezza, Lucy Manary, Tiley Perrine, Belle Perrine, Clara Worley, Charlie Peagler, Ruth Branum, Nona Richardson, Wilson Crane, Watts Yancey, Braxton Quinney, Jack Abenoja, Andrew Crane; (front) Joseph Valencia.



[Youth formation minister] Taylor McLemore reminded us to “enjoy the birds”—to practice being present on the trail. The bucolic countryside provided a feast for the senses

as we walked through enchanted woods, over babbling brooks, and past moss-covered stone walls separating family farms. The youth nuzzled horses, picked wildflowers, and said hello to cows. After 15 miles, we stopped at a delightful rural inn nestled by a river. We were treated to a homemade meal of beef and salad, and we appreciated the fresh tomatoes, the crisp breeze, and the glory of the evening sky.

“I found moments of peace in the quiet and beauty around us,” wrote high school graduate Wilson Crane, reflecting on the day. “It felt like the journey was helping me clear space in my mind from the clutter back home. I’m starting to see how this walk is not just about reaching a destination, but about growing along the way.”

We found a community.

As our journey progressed, our youth forged deeper connections with one another—and with fellow pilgrims, which is one of the biggest pleasures of walking the

Camino. I delighted in hearing our youth speak with Spanish teenagers and residents—and even sing the “Macarena” with them. Several of our youth gave Spanish lessons to help us communicate better.

Our French speakers also conversed with French pilgrims one day at lunch.

The Camino helped us feel part of God’s community. Along the journey, pilgrims leave vestiges of themselves, from inspirational words painted on rocks to pictures of loved ones tucked away in memorials.

“What a privilege to see time slow down and see others enjoy the presence of a peaceful world,” remarked senior Nona Richardson.

We are “a part of other people’s journeys and memories,” wrote graduate Tiley Perrine, adding that it’s the “people around you who bring your gifts to light.”

We found physical and mental strength.

We needed each other more than ever when blisters and soreness set in on days two and three, and when the changing landscape tested our minds and bodies. We had blister care parties, and coach/teacher Michael McGovern became the foot doctor.

On the fourth morning, youth leader Leslie Dunlap shared

(Clockwise from top left) A Camino marker points the way to Santiago; the youth walking the pilgrim path; a mural along the way; crossing a 13th-century bridge; the youth writing reflections in their journals after a long day of walking; several youth and chaperones gather in front of the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. **(Cover photo)** The scallop shell is the traditional Camino pilgrim’s badge. The shell symbolizes baptism, and its ridges represent the many paths that meet at Santiago.

inspirational comments posted online for us by our church community as we paused atop grueling hills, and those words renewed our strength and sense of purpose. We also gained strength from each other's laughter and stories, and when those failed us, music carried us over the hills.

Despite our difficulties, our youth awoke each morning ready for the challenges ahead. As high school graduate Jane Earnhardt noted, "progress is never linear, and neither is the path we walk in life."

We found simple joys.

Even through the aches and pains, we found delight and joy. Our shared vulnerabilities stripped away masks and helped us to enjoy little things again, and we all reclaimed some of the inner child within us. Whether it was marveling at giant slugs, petting village dogs, savoring fresh cheese and fruit from a local stand, or stopping to photograph giant cerulean blue hydrangeas, we encountered many unexpected pleasures. High school junior Watts Yancey reflected, "I really feel like these moments are what the Camino is all about—finding your specific moments of the day where you feel God's presence, whether large or small."

One night the laughter of children in a park felt as sacred as the Eucharist we shared. And playing with a tennis ball and doing handstands was a highlight for senior Bennett Haynes. Some of us discovered new gustatory joys including octopus pizza and squid pasta, and our daily ice cream felt like manna from heaven. One rainy morning, the Rev. Katherine Harper shared a chocolate croissant so precious that we chaperones felt as if we were taking communion.

Most of all, we found joy in being with one another. The little conversations and shared moments with each of our youth became treasures. For me one key memory was listening to our young ladies sing *Hamilton* songs and Roger Day songs at the top of their lungs. When I apologized to some fellow pilgrims for our noise, they responded, "No! Bello, bello" ["beautiful" in Spanish or Italian]. Our youth not only found joy but also brought joy to others.

We found that the journey was the real gift.

Walking into Santiago de Compostela on that sixth sweltering day, we felt the weight of our accomplishment. We were awestruck when we reached the pilgrimage's destination, the looming cathedral housing the shrine of Saint James. The grand cathedral anchored our days in Santiago, where we toured the city and attended the moving pilgrims' mass, marveling at the swinging of the cathedral's Botafumeiro [the world's largest thurible, or incense burner]. We enjoyed a variety of bocadillos [sandwiches] but were thrilled to eat pizza again. We sipped iced coffees and explored shops for souvenirs. As a momentous end to our trip, we traveled to Finisterre [the "end of the earth"] and watched the youth splash in the Atlantic under a clear blue sky.

On our last night, Taylor asked us, "What will you take home?" The responses were profound: prayer walks, giving oneself more grace, applying spirituality to everyday tasks, becoming more active, paying more attention to details. We realized we had found so much on our pilgrimage, including the path to our true selves. ■



(Large photo) A rainy day doesn't slow the group's progress. (Inset photos, from top) Youth and chaperones outside a church in Melide, Spain; the group worships and reflects in the cathedral plaza at the end of the Camino trail.



“

There was something about the rhythm of walking every day—the simplicity of it, the quiet moments, the little towns, the laughter, the blisters—that made everything feel real and grounded. I already miss the routine, the views, and that feeling of purpose every step brought. It wasn't just a walk—it was a whole life in motion, and I wasn't ready to say goodbye.”

—BRAXTON QUINNEY, high school junior



Timeline of Transformation

The Past and Future of Saint John's

By the Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan

Have you ever wondered about the building across the street from the church that resembles a small Saint Stephen's? Learn about the history of the Chapel of Saint John and its exciting transformation into the home of the Threshold Center:

The spirit of community that birthed and nourished Saint John's is alive in the Threshold Center, a place of welcome that nurtures well-being by engaging the heart, body, and imagination. Through its programming, the center seeks to honor diverse perspectives and cultivate a space for sacred, genuine connection, bringing together people who might not typically interact. Praise, laughter, stories, and art will fill Saint John's once again.

Like any 30-year old home, however, the chapel building requires renovation and updates. A significant contribution in honor of Katherine Owens kicked off the project, which also will "honor this little gem which is a unique part of Birmingham history," says the anonymous donor. "The original building was made possible by the hard work and dedication of so many people—most especially [Saint Stephen's founding rector] Doug Carpenter and Katherine. I want the memory of Saint John's and Katherine's vision to be remembered. This is a small way I can do something that might go on after me."

Katherine, the founding chair of the Threshold Center Advisory Board, is collaborating with local architect Joel Blackstock and structural engineer Lowell Christy to reimagine the space. Saint

Stephen's parishioner Chip Barganier, Saint John's original contractor, will oversee the renovation.

"It is an honor to take a space I worked on as a young architect and recreate a space of healing and growth and camaraderie," Katherine says. "These days, I am aware that, as [priest and author] Richard Rohr says, 'disease is so rampant.' It is important that we create spaces of harmony and healing. It is a chance for me to collaborate on making something beautiful and give to an even greater community."

Through the initial donor's generosity, together with parish support through the Vestry and additional donors, the Saint John's renovation will give the Threshold Center a multipurpose gathering space and update the atrium, wood flooring, paint, light fixtures, and technology. A new security system also will link with the Saint Stephen's campus security network. Landscape architect Molly Hendry is creating a plan for the grounds to be implemented as funds become available, and new signage and sidewalks will create welcoming thresholds into the building.

In our lives, our outer appearance usually reflects our inner spirit. For the Threshold Center, the revitalized space will mirror the generous and welcoming spirit of the Saint Stephen's community.

1930s

In Birmingham's Elyton neighborhood, the Rev. Dr. Robert Fletcher initiated Saint John's as a small church for people with deafness. Inspired by this charismatic and faithful leader, who was deaf himself, the congregation grew rapidly.



1990s

The Rev. Fletcher relocated Saint John's Episcopal Church for the Deaf to Cahaba Heights. (Its groundbreaking is pictured below). The Rev. Doug Carpenter, Saint Stephen's founding rector, led the parish to help build the Saint John's facility. Architect Katherine Owens, a Saint Stephen's parishioner, designed the structure and helped raise construction funds.



2010s

PEOPLE WITH DEAFNESS and their families worshiped God and loved one another in the sweet space until the Saint John's congregation disbanded in the 2010s.



2018

CARES, a memory care respite program sponsored by Collatt Jewish Family Services, began meeting in the former parish hall. Soon afterward, River of Life, a Church of God in Christ congregation, started worshiping in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons.



2023

THE THRESHOLD CENTER was born in the year following the tragic 2022 shooting at Saint Stephen's that took the lives of Bart Rainey, Jane Pounds, and Sharon Yeager. It was founded as a way to give back to the broader community that sustained the congregation through unimaginable heartbreak—and to address the epidemics of loneliness and polarization that culminate in addiction, suffering, and violence.



Threshold Center



(Photos) Construction is under way to transform Saint John's into an inviting, multipurpose home for Threshold Center programs.

A CREATIVE LEGACY:

The Billie James Fund for the Arts

Last winter, longtime parishioner Billie James and her lay Eucharistic visitor, Cathy Buhring, met with me to learn about our hopes and dreams for the Threshold Center. Billie, a retired English and creative writing teacher at Mountain Brook High School and cofounder of Red Mountain School, asked insightful questions that helped refine the center's vision. She also offered excellent advice about seeking resources and support. Just months before her death, Billie's creative spirit and hospitable heart shone brightly.

Billie, who had served on the Saint Luke's staff in a creative capacity, and on the diocesan Commission on Spirituality, had a strong affinity for the Threshold Center's evolving mission. I was deeply moved as Billie talked about her life. I especially remember her describing how listening to the stories of people dying from HIV/AIDS in the 1990s and helping them compose letters to loved ones gave her a profound sense of meaning and purpose.

After Billie's death earlier this year, her daughter, Tracy James, informed me that Billie had requested donations to the Threshold Center in her memory. Those funds, including a substantial gift made by a dear friend, led to the creation of the Billie James Fund for

the Arts, dedicated to developing and offering programs that support creation and exploration of the arts. We define "the arts" broadly to encompass a wide range of creative expression, imagination, and interpretation.

This fall the Threshold Center offers its inaugural arts series in Billie's memory. On Tuesday nights and Thursday mornings, creatives Mollie Erickson, Salaam Green, and Elizabeth Vander



Billie James

Kamp will each lead unique three-week series. All of these programs will honor Billie's passion for creative expression through art, writing, storytelling, and spiritual connection. Our goal for 2026 is to host a one-day event highlighting the arts and spirituality, and to establish an artist-in-residence program.

Learn more about the Billie James Fund for the Arts and fall arts programming at thethresholdcenter.org/programs-list/billiejames.

Joy Comes in the Morning

By the Rev. Dr. Malcolm Marler



Show love and serve our neighbors in need by joining the Avondale Breakfast Ministry. Help serve breakfast and lunch bags on Monday mornings from 8:15 to 9:15, or assist in assembling lunch bags. Connect with Lisa Schroeder through Realm or call the church office to join or get more details.

The Avondale Breakfast Ministry is sponsored by Saint Stephen's and four other local Episcopal churches. As a volunteer on Monday mornings, I show up at 8:15 for about an hour with a few other volunteers to hand out a hot breakfast prepared by the Saint Stephen's kitchen, coffee, hot chocolate, and orange juice to our guests in the parking lot of Avondale's Beloved Community Church. They can also receive a lunch bag if desired.

Most of these men and women do not have homes and live on the street. I've been impressed with the other volunteers who know most of the guests by first name and vice versa. We greet one another with a "good morning" along with handshakes and smiles as people show up. Some guests share their personal stories with us as we serve them.

On one Monday morning this spring, it was pouring rain with thunder and lightning. As a fairly new volunteer, I didn't know that when there is lightning, we don't give out meals because we are in an open space with no protection from storms. Most of our regular 45 to 50 recipients must have known about the "lightning rule" because we had a smaller group than usual, maybe a half dozen, to show up for food.

Our guests who waited were not bothered by the inclement weather, so I thought that if they were going to ignore the pouring rain with loud thunder and crackling lightning, then I would stand out there with them. My raincoat and umbrella were at home.

As we waited and got completely soaked, some of the guests asked if the meals were going to come that day. I told them I was sure the meals would be there in a few minutes, but when no one showed up 20 to 30 minutes later, I could see the disappointment in their faces as they knew they would be missing both breakfast and lunch.

I looked across the street and saw a coffee shop. I turned to our guests and announced, "OK everybody, coffee and bagels are on me. Let's go!" We walked into the shop and asked the young man behind the cash register to give us a round of coffee and bagels for our small group. We sat down at a nearby table and enjoyed laughing, eating, and talking together.

It was a holy moment on that stormy Monday, and I felt I was the one most blessed.

Come volunteer with us at the Avondale Breakfast Ministry. You'll be blessed, too. Thanks be to God for the five churches in our diocese who provide coffee, breakfast, and lunch bags every single week. Even when it's raining. Amen. ■



(Photos) Every Monday morning, Saint Stephen's parishioners serve a hot breakfast and provide lunch bags to neighbors in Avondale.



COSTUME PARTY

Behind the Scenes of Trunk or Treat

By Kristyn Bara

As the October sun sets and patio lights begin to twinkle, the Saint Stephen's campus comes alive with costumes, laughter, and the joy of community. Car trunks in the parking lot behind the Parish Hall are decked out in creative themes, bowls of candy await eager hands, and families gather for a special evening—the annual Trunk or Treat, which has become a beloved fall tradition.

“This is one of my favorite nights of the year at Saint Stephen’s,” says Jennifer Jones, director of children’s ministries, dressed in her signature referee costume. Jennifer leads the planning and coordination of the event and loves how it brings everyone together. “Everyone has a way to participate in making Trunk or Treat the wonderful night that it is,” she explains. “Whether you drop off a bag of candy, bake treats for the cake walk, decorate a trunk, run a game, or just bring your kids to enjoy the evening, there’s something for everyone. It really is a whole-community effort.”

Trunk or Treat creates an opportunity for parishioners of all ages—who may attend different Sunday services—to cross paths and connect. It also serves as an outreach event that provides a welcoming, safe space for hundreds

of children and families from the neighborhood and surrounding areas to have fun together.

Trunk or Treat’s success has inspired the development of other all-ages events and formation opportunities throughout the year.

Jess Garrison, a mom of four, leads the decorating team that transforms the campus for Trunk or Treat. “Children’s ministry is what first brought us to Saint Stephen’s 18 years ago, and I love the chance to give back,” she shares. “It’s such a joyful night. You see families you might not run into on a regular Sunday, and there’s a real sense of welcome and fun. Everyone just shows up as they are.”

The lower parking lot turns into a candy-filled wonderland, lined with 15 to 20 creatively



Trunk or Treat

OCTOBER 29, 5:30 P.M.

Rain or shine

Learn more about the event and how to participate:
ssechurch.org/sse-events/2025/trunk-or-treat

(Photos) Clergy, church staff, and parishioners join in the fun to create an event that welcomes children and families from throughout the community.

themed trunks. Longtime parishioner Martha Noble began hosting a trunk in 2015 when her grandchildren were small. "It is such a fun night," she says. "Every year we pick a theme, plan our costumes and decorations months in advance, and really go all in. One of my favorites was Mary Poppins. We made a London skyline backdrop and had such a great time with it. The children always enjoy the trick-or-treating, and we love interacting with them."

And it's not just about the trunks. Under the porte cochère, families can enjoy hot-dog dinners. On the Labyrinth, the cake walk offers a chance to win homemade goodies. And out on the patio, a variety of simple games keeps the fun going for kids of all ages. Chuck Jones, a longtime member of the Men of Saint Stephen's group, built the mini golf and Plinko games that have become annual favorites. "Trunk or Treat is one of our biggest outreach events," Chuck says. "I enjoy serving and meeting new people each year. The games aren't really about the prizes—everyone is a winner. It's more about giving kids a chance to play and try something new. It's a wonderful opportunity to make people feel welcome at Saint Stephen's." ■

(Photos) Games, decorated trunks, colorful costumed characters (including the Rev. John Burruss as a donkey, at right), and plenty of candy set the stage for an evening of fun.



Sacred moments in the story of Saint Stephen's

MARCH 2025 - AUGUST 2025

BAPTISMS

William George Daigle Millar

APRIL 19, 2025

Charles Michael Millar

APRIL 19, 2025

Penelope Jane Millar

APRIL 19, 2025

Bodie Hoyt Robert Millar

APRIL 19, 2025

Justyn Elizabeth Millar

APRIL 19, 2025

Josephine Marie Kalousek

APRIL 19, 2025

Isabel Rosa Kalousek

APRIL 19, 2025

Russell James Smith

MAY 11, 2025

Kalen Edward Massey

MAY 11, 2025

Nathan Daniel Bartlett

JUNE 8, 2025

Alice Irene Duncan

JUNE 8, 2025

Molly Elizabeth Duncan

JUNE 8, 2025

Matthew Woodson Butler King

AUGUST 17, 2025

Grady Lee Arnold

AUGUST 17, 2025

Poppy Wilkinson Hines

AUGUST 17, 2025

Marshall Moody Hassell

AUGUST 17, 2025

MARRIAGES

**Sophia Jane Knott and
George Patterson Phillips Jr.**

JULY 26, 2025

MEMBER DEATHS

Billie James

MARCH 9, 2025

Barbara Cook

MAY 4, 2025

William Bryant Frye

MAY 8, 2025

Jane Maupin

JUNE 22, 2025

Squire Gwin

JULY 19, 2025



(Left) Jake and Hannah Smith celebrate the baptism of Russell James Smith. (Below) Crystal and Tobias Massey welcome Kalen Edward Massey into the Christian faith. The Rev. John Burruss performed both baptisms.



House Proud

Saint Stephen's members helped welcome LaCheryl and Messiah Carlisle to their new home on May 29—the culmination of a three-month partnership between the congregation and Habitat for Humanity to build the house alongside the Carlisle family. Clergy invited everyone to join in prayer to bless the Bessemer residence, named the BA Beckett-Gaines Legacy Home in memory of the parishioner whose gift to the church helped fund the project, and to give thanks for all that God has provided. Around 80 Saint Stephen's members participated in the build, organized by Parish Life Coordinator Kathleen Franklin. The Saint Stephen's knitting ministry even got involved by creating beautiful handmade gifts for the Carlises to enjoy inside their new home.

Growing Children's Ministry Welcomes New Staff

Searcy Sledge, Saint Stephen's new children's ministries assistant and nursery director, helps to oversee a thriving program that includes nearly 300 children. In her part-time role, the mother of two works alongside Jennifer Jones, minister for children's formation, on Sundays and Wednesdays. She also supports Jennifer throughout the week in putting together a variety of engaging events and experiences for children and families. Searcy's "creative and enthusiastic spirit will bring great energy to our children's ministry program," Jennifer says.



**"Between stimulus and response there is a space.
In that space is our power to choose our response.
In our response lies our growth and our freedom."**

—VIKTOR FRANKL, AUTHOR AND HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR



Mindful Living

Every Thursday,
6:30-7:30 p.m.

September 18-
November 20

THIS FALL, the Threshold Center invites you to enter that space through Mindful Living—a drop-in, 10-week series designed to help you explore and deepen mindfulness practices within a supportive community. Here are the details:

- The goal of Mindful Living is to foster connection and enhance overall well-being. A growing body of neuroscience research supports mindfulness and contemplative practices as effective tools for managing our response to challenging situations. A greater sense of inner and outer awareness can help us react without overreacting, in other words. Ultimately these practices help reduce stress and cultivate a greater capacity for compassion.
- Each one-hour session is led by a rotating team of experienced facilitators: Mollie Erickson, the Rev. Dr. Jose Fernandez, Miriam Rose Lee, the Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan, and Elizabeth Vander Kamp.
- Each session follows a consistent rhythm, beginning with a guided mindfulness practice (such as mindful breathing, walking meditation, body scan, or mindful eating), followed by a teaching, group discussion, and a closing mindfulness practice.

- This series welcomes folks who are part of a faith community as well as individuals who feel a longing for spiritual connection and yet may be disinclined to attend traditional worship services. The drop-in format accommodates busy, unpredictable schedules and encourages participants to engage at their own pace.
- No registration is required. Suggested donation is \$15 per session.



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Vestavia Hills, AL 35223

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WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD? “Every day I walk into the preschool and am greeted by little voices, laughter, questions, and sometimes tears. In the middle of that joyful noise, I see God in the children’s wide, wondering eyes. I see him in the way they reach out for a hand to hold, in their hugs, and in the way they get excited about the simplest things. Of course, not every moment is calm or easy . . . but even in the chaos, I feel God’s presence. He reminds me to slow down, to listen, to love more deeply, and to just be present.”
—Leslie Dunlap, *Saint Stephen’s preschool director and wedding coordinator (pictured above)*