

**St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church**

1820 County Road 540-A
Lakeland, Florida, 33813
Office: 863-646-6115
ststoffice@gmail.com
centralfloridachurch.com

FYI 2020

March 22nd, 2020 Volume 18 Issue 12
The Fourth Sunday in Lent



My Dear Parish Family,

March 18, 2020

Earlier this evening, the bishop asked that all churches throughout the diocese cancel all in person services and events through Easter morning. This is effective immediately.

While my heart is heavy, I still firmly believe what I wrote to you the end of last week: This is the Lord's House, we are His People, and St. Stephen's ought to continue to be a place of Salt and Light for the sake of the Gospel, a haven of Blessing and Peace to people in need, and an oasis of faith in a turbulent world.

None of that has changed. But in these unprecedented times, we are being asked to bear one another's burdens in a very specific way. In order to care for the vulnerable in our community and within our congregation, we will refrain from meeting together on campus for the next few weeks.

St. Stephen's is not closed and worship hasn't ceased. But we will need to find some creative ways to continue a Holy Lent together and prepare for the joy of the Resurrection, even if we ring our bells and shout our Alleluias at home.

We know that a church is not just a building. But gathering together for worship, fellowship, and unity in Christ is important. I'd even argue that it's essential. We were created to worship God and built to honor and serve Him together. But just as we purposefully hold back our praises of Alleluia during Lent, we will hold back from praying, singing, and sharing the Sacraments together on our campus for a little while. And this too shall pass. Because the Alleluias will be back, just like we will.

Until then, the clergy and staff will be working to maintain our connections as a parish family. We are reaching out to everyone that we can, first through email, and then with phone calls to those who haven't or couldn't respond. Please let us know if you have any needs, from prayer requests to help with errands, and we'll do our best to keep us all connected.

Even if we can't meet together, we can still care for one another, pray for one another, and continue to be the Body of Christ together. That means worshipping together too—just remotely.

A 9:00am Sunday morning service will be recorded and broadcast live both on the church Facebook page and at our YouTube channel. Service material and bulletins will be emailed so that you can not only watch the service, but participate from home. As we approach Holy Week and Easter, other special services will be broadcast as well. Keep checking your email and the church Facebook page for times and details.

Read your Bibles. Bless and serve other as best you can. Continue our Daily Office devotions or any other disciplines you started during Lent. Check out some of our extra online offerings, like Morning Prayer with Fr. Rob, a video class on our YouTube channel, or a book study podcast on our website. Pray for our church, our nation, and our world.

Easter is coming. No virus can stop that. Christ is Risen. No quarantine can stand in His way. This too shall pass. And we will do this together as a family.

Fr. David

**St. Stephen's ...
To Love and Serve
God and Neighbor**



**OUR
VESTRY**

2020-Mike Whitt, Bill Baggett, Carol Reynolds
2021- David Dresser, Liz Barham, Debbie Powell
2022- Charles Bradford, Steve Meyer, Missy Sabine
Treasurer: Bruce Goers
Book keeper: Cathy Zielinski

A Note From The Church Staff

During this crazy time please know that the Church staff, Fr David, Fr. Rob, Deacon Doug, Priscilla, Linda, Cathy, Sharon and Tom are still working. Our regular working hours have changed but we are all still working hard for our Parish.

Fr David, Linda, Priscilla and Cathy are in and out of the office and of course on our computers and phones. The office phone is being checked for messages and the email accounts are being monitored. Deacon Doug is still making trips here from Haines City to help keep things running. Fr. Rob is working from home to protect his health. He is doing Morning Prayer each weekday and working on Bible studies. Sharon is very busy cleaning, closing down rooms and checking on people. Tom patrols the grounds and checks the buildings. Several parish members have offered to run errands for folks. If this is something you might need please let us know.

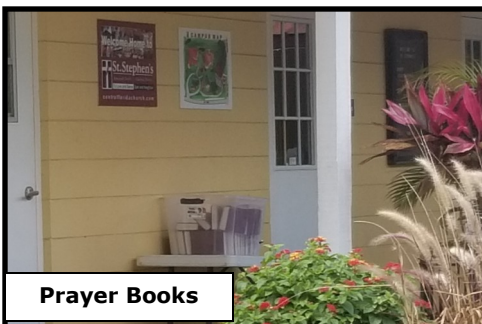
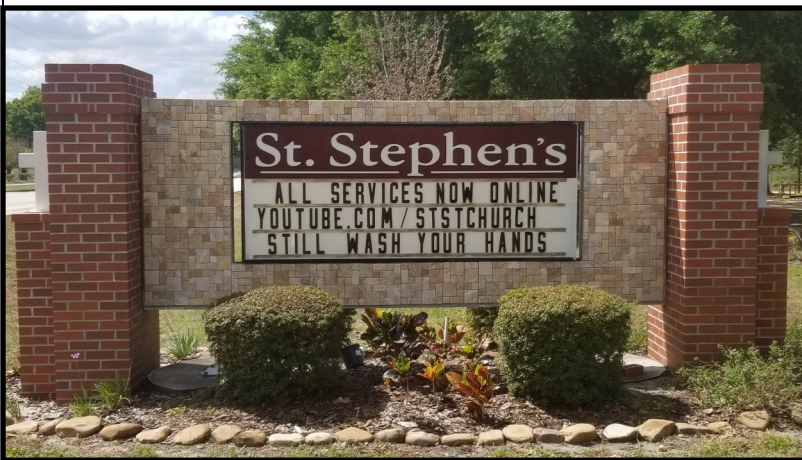


Remember Your Offerings

Inquiring minds want to know how to continue to make their pledge offerings during this time.

- Mail your check to the church. We check the mail box everyday.
 - Through your bank set up a bill pay account.
 - Coming soon a Pay Pal Account.
- Even though we are not having services we still count on your giving.

Thank You



Prayer Books

Stay Connected!



Announcements, Links, Weekly Posts

facebook.com/ststchurch



Sunday Sermons and Other Videos

youtube.com/user/ststchurch



Downloadable Audio for Adult Ed, Book Studies, and Sermons

centralfloridachurch.com/podcasthome/



Parish-Wide Email Prayer Chain

Contact office: ststoffice@gmail.com

If you have a working email account and have not received any emails from us please email ststlinda@gmail.com so we can add you to our contact list.

Verse of the Week Psalm 23:4

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me.



Kitty O'Meara's prose poem inspired by the events we are living through today.

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.



Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

**March 15th, 2020
Attendance: 123
Income: \$2990.23
Bucks for Our Buildings: \$36.00**

Upcoming Events

DOK has been postponed

VBS Spaghetti Dinner is cancelled For April

Choir Rehearsal has been cancelled

Talbot House has been cancelled for April

Lunch Bunch has been cancelled

Congratulations Kai Richardi



Our own Kai Richardi was on the winning team last week for the "A" Team Academic County wide completion. Kai attends Lawton Chiles Middle Academy. This is the third year in a row he has been on this winning team.

BEACH WEEKEND 2020

IN GOD WE TRUST! In this time of rapidly changing guidelines, we are working with Perry's and will keep you updated.

Please advise Liz Barham (lbarham@tampabay.rr.com or 863-661-7813) if you have decided to cancel and would like a refund.

Church Office Hours ????

Office phone number is 863-646-6115

Office email is ststoffice@gmail.com and ststlinda@gmail.com

Please do not hesitate to communicate with the us.



During the Season of Lent moderation should be observed in decorating the Altar area. The tradition at St. Stephen's is to use greenery only during Lent.

March Birthdays

- 1 Celeste Cooper, Sam Jerome
- 2 Scott Sauve
- 3 Glenn Brown, Jessica Peoples
- 8 Marylou Taylor
- 10 Samantha Denstedt, Evalyn Duncan, Gloria Thomason
- 11 Mary Lou Garland
- 12 Christopher Steadman-Jones
- 14 Dennis Flynn
- 15 Luna Denstedt
- 16 Cameron Abbey, Bill Heath
- 20 Deb Brock
- 22 Fran Auclair, Richard Eijo Shirley Rumpel
- 23 Jerry Jerome
- 25 Joe Adams Schuyler Denstedt
- 29 Mary Trimbath
- 30 Adyline Rae Dillon
- 31 Deborah Cole



March Anniversaries

- 6 Richard & Melissa Eijo
- 9 Steve & Beverly Meyer
- 10 Ed & Dianne Knox
- 15 Phil & Gail Wortman
- 19 Ken & Anna Butler
- 21 Major & Priscilla Kight
- 25 Rick & Rita Yenney
- 27 Dan & Michele Giberson

St. Stephen's Prayer List

(Parish Members are in Bold)

Prayer Needs: Steve Meyer (Surgery), Celeste Cooper (Respiratory issues) Alicia Weber (Broken Pelvis), Mel Conrad (Carol Reynolds sister) Megan Stoddard (Health Issues), Susan Epan (Heath Issues), Lung Cancer), Anna Butler (Cancer), Russ Smith (stroke and Heart attack), Evie McCormick, Stephen Calhoun, Laurie Dresser, stroke, (David Dresser's sister) Jackie Monts de Oca (Knee Surgery), Richard Welch, (Marge Stockwell's brother, lung cancer), Evalyn Duncan (various health issues), Bill Warneke, Richard and Bonnie Morrison (cancer), Michael & Stacy Englert's Aunt & Uncle, (Lung Cancer) Jessica Sherotski, breast cancer, Shannon Black, Scott Barham, Bryan Stockwell, chronic lymphatic leukemia, (Marge Stockwell's son), Karen Stockwell, stroke, Peggy Taylor, cancer (Fr. Jim Taylor's mother), Rick Roach, stroke, Regina Victoria, Ernie Palmer, prostate cancer, David Dresser, severe back issues, Pat Martin, multiple health issues. Scott Johnson, (Judy Horne's brother, recovery from stem cell transplant), Rick Rahn (prostate cancer)Janell Repsher, Trudi Lithgow, Roy Reynolds, heart problems, Michele Giberson, autoimmune disorder, Carol Kahlenberg, mental illness (Evie McCormick's friend), Sandy Gibson, Salena and her family (Janet Casini's family), Kevin Jackimowicz, back and hip (Kim's husband), Isabel Clayton, RA (Evie McCormick's friend), Gene Dumaresq, bladder cancer, Lindsay Zielinski, autoimmune disorder, Mavis Walker, multiple health issues, Dailia Walker, multiple health issues, Humphrey Walker, stroke, Whitney Hand, multiple illnesses, Mr. Havlett, Cindy and Family, Mike Bower, Michael Pierce, lung cancer, Nancy Misiasek, Christy O'Steen, breast cancer

Pregnant: Amanda and Joseph Nolette (Ed & Diane Knox's grand daughter), Matt and Autumn Gulley (Tom & Marion Stewart's granddaughter) Kevin and Samantha Leahy (David and Katherine Leahy's son and daughter in law)

Homebound or Skilled Nursing Facility: Dawn Flynn, Tom Haney, Carmen Kight, Susan Cardman, Tom Crawford , Alicia Weber

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>22</p> <p>9:00am Holy Eucharist via YouTube & Facebook</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8am Morning Prayer via Facebook</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8am Morning Prayer via Facebook</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8am Morning Prayer via Facebook</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8am Morning Prayer via Facebook</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8am Morning Prayer via Facebook</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00am Holy Eucharist via YouTube & Facebook</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8am Morning Prayer via Facebook</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8am Morning Prayer via Facebook</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8am Morning Prayer via Facebook</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8am Morning Prayer via Facebook</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8am Morning Prayer via Facebook</p>	<p>4</p>