

St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church

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FYI 2024

December 1st, 2024 Vol 22 Issue 47

First Sunday of Advent



Advent Quiet Service

**Tonight at 7pm in the Worship
Center**

Slow down for a few minutes of candlelight, uplifting music, and solemn prayer to prepare your heart for Christmas and the coming King. This service will also be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Did you know that **Silent** and **Listen** are an anagram? (different words that contain the same letters).

Come to the Advent **Silent** Service and **Listen** and enjoy the beauty of the season.



VBS Spaghetti Dinner
December 3rd
5-7pm
(\$7/each)

Spaghetti lovers, our monthly VBS Spaghetti Dinner returns this week **5-7pm!**

For **\$7** you get a generous helping of spaghetti with meat sauce, a tossed salad, homemade garlic bread, and a cookie. Takeout available.

Please let us know if you can help with packing or distributing meals. Come out and support this fundraiser for our summer VBS program so it can continue to be free to all participants.

Gift Cards Needed

If you are able, please purchase Publix or Walmart gift cards and we can collect them at each service or anytime at the office. The cards will be given to parishioners in need and women and children at Peace River, for a happier Christmas Season.



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



2024-Bill Baggett-Jr. Warden, Louis Bloodworth, Bruce Goers

2025-Nancy Wenham, Major Kight, Liz Barham

2026-Betty Pratt, Juliana Walker, Karen Spiller-Sr. Warden

Treasurer: Bruce Goers—Bookkeeper: Cathy Zielinski

Secretary: Karen Beasley

Pictures Please

The 50th Anniversary committee of St. Stephen's Church is up and running and has already had a few meetings. In order to help put together a presentation of St. Stephen's through the years, they are asking that each of us look through our photos and see if there are any, with dates, that we could use. If you have some, either move them to a flash drive or bring them into the office and I can scan them for you. Thanks.



This picture is from Phil and Gail Wortman from their son's wedding on June 29, 1984. A lot has changed in the sanctuary but it is still recognizable. The priest would have been Father Stevens.

Don't get tied up in knots!

The **bowline knot** is a very useful and secure knot ... it ties a loop at the end of the rope that can be placed around an object to securely fasten the rope to the object. It doesn't slip or bind. The more load that is placed on the knot, the tighter it becomes. However, without being loaded, the knot can become loosened and fall apart.

The **bowline** illustrates the importance of tying the church's operations to the strength of pledging, wherein the stronger the load of financial support carried by pledging, the stronger the church operations becomes. A weak Stewardship program and not securing a strong pledge base places the church at financial risk.

We'd like to close with a reminder of the five important points we shared with you four Sundays ago:

- We are called to be good stewards of all the gifts and blessings we've received.
- Being good stewards means giving back and sharing with God that which he has given us ... our time, which is our life ... our talents, which is who we are ... our treasures, which is our financial capacity for pledging and giving.
- We know that each of you may support St. Stephen's in different ways; however, each of us on the vestry would hope that you would choose to make an annual pledge and prayerfully complete a pledge card when they are distributed.
- Pledging is so very important because it enables the vestry to properly budget for next year.

4 Ways To Give This Christmas

Valley View

Elementary School

Valley View is asking for 16 oz or larger refillable water bottles, various sized socks and underwear, adult sized navy or teal polo shirts, shoes (little kid sizes 9-13), and winter gloves. You may also donate cash/check to St. Stephen's with "Elementary" in the notation.

Scott Lake

Elementary School

Scott Lake is asking for kids' drawstring shorts in sizes 5, 6, and 7 and a husky ones in sizes 16, 18, and 20. Shorts can be khaki, Navy, or jeans. Light jackets and all sizes of boys and girls underwear. You may also donate cash/check to St. Stephen's with "Elementary" in the notation.

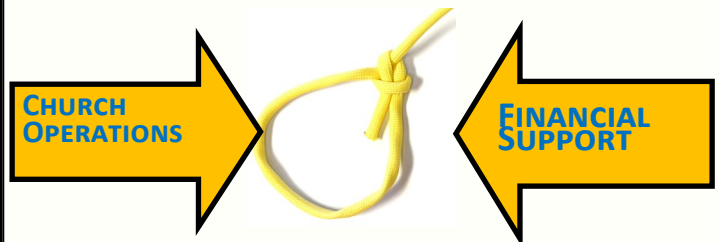
Peace River Domestic Violence Services

Gift Cards for Teens/Youth, including: Movies, Restaurants, cards to Walmart or Target for their personal shopping. Also cash/check to St. Stephen's with "Peace River" in the notation.

VISTE

Volunteers in Service to the Elderly: personal care or cleaning items easy for the elderly to use, hair care products, lotions, skin care, etc. Also cash/check to St. Stephen's with "VISTE" in the notation.

Collecting Until December 15



Welcome to our Church

November 24, 2024
Attendance

Sanctuary	9:00am	50
Worship Center	11:00am	54
Total		104

Look for the bright yellow BUCK\$ 4 BUILDING or the olive Landscaping Appeal envelopes to donate toward our out of budget building and grounds maintenance expenses.



St. Stephen's Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale

On December 7th, we will once again hold a Bake Sale at our Annual Christmas Bazaar. Last year was a great success, and we need your help once again this year.

Please consider lending a hand to contribute to the success of this year's effort.

We're getting into the Holiday Season so now is the time to be on the lookout for baking supplies to go on sale.

So—**We need your help!** Please plan to help us make this year's Bake Sale a resounding success, with no hungry shoppers turned away!!

Questions or Comments? Call or text Debbie Bradford at 305-304-2548

UPCOMING EVENTS



- 12/1/24 1st Sunday in Advent
- 12/1/24 Advent Quiet Service 7:00pm
- 12/3/24 VBS Spaghetti Dinner 5:00-7:00pm
- 12/7/24 Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale
- 12/8/24 2nd Sunday Brunch
- 12/15/24 Taste of Christmas 7:00pm
- 12/22/24 Christmas Cookie Exchange between the services
- 12/24/24 Family Service 7:00pm in the Worship Center
- 12/24/24 Holy Eucharist and Carols 10:30pm in the Sanctuary
- 12/25/24 Christmas Day in the Garden 10:00am



Verse of the Week: 1 Thessalonians 3:13

May the Lord strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

**Flowers on the Altar are Given by Carol Nicholas in
Thanksgiving for her Birthday December 1st**

December Birthdays

- 1** Kim Jackimowicz, Carol Nicholas
- 2** Fr. Rob Moses
- 3** Carol Harris, Rick Yenney
- 7** Linda France, Ian Millican
Nancy March
- 10** John MacGilvray
- 12** Mariela Brink
- 13** Victoria Naples
- 17** Missy Sabine
- 19** Enid Alers
- 21** Suzanne Rosenberger,
Nathan Peoples
- 24** Michele Giberson
- 29** Susan MacGilvray
Nancy Wenham
- 31** Walter Thomas

December Anniversaries

- 8** Kevin & Kim Jackimowicz
- 11** Scott & Carla Sauve
- 15** Lou & Enid Alers
- 31** Judy Elam & Jim Cook

**St. Stephen's Prayer List
(Parish Members are in Bold)**

Prayer Needs: **Robin Adams, Lou Alers**, Kim Birmingham (from **Scout Troop 106**), Charlie Bibb (**Season Barham Hodges** Father in Law) Shannon Black (from **Kathy Leahy**), Elizabeth Bradford (**Charlie Bradford's** sister), Bryan Biery (**Judy Elam's** Friend), Rachel Blackwell (**Karen Spiller's** daughter-in-law), **Jim Bowen, Betty Calhoun, Stephen Calhoun, Italo & Janet Casini**, Roz Coleman (**Althea Nye's** friend), Julie Cornish & Kathy Otto (**Michael & Stacy Englert** friends) **Jim Cross**, Annie Delling, **Roger Doyle**, Laurie Dresser (**David Dresser's** sister), Lily Dresser (**David & Patricia Dresser's** granddaughter), Joe Elam & Lillian Elam (**Judy Elam's** Brother & Mother) **Sandy Gibson, Morgan Goers**, Angela Grilli (**Althea Nye's** friend), Pam Grimes (**Sam Rosenberger's** daughter) Beverly Gull (Matthew Gull's Mother) , **Jim Heal**, Bob & Kay Henry (friends fo Betty Calhoun) Nicole Herhnkind (**Karen Spiller's** sister), **Kevin Jackimowicz**, Ken & Clair Jones (**Roger Doyle's** friends), Karen Kent (**David Dresser's** Relative) David Kight (**Major Kight's** brother) Cynthia Krempel (**Janice Olson's** sister) **David Leahy, Trudi Lithgow**, Mary & Adrian McAleer (**Liz Barham's** sister & Brother in Law), **Beverly Meyer**, Barbara McMahan (**Judy Elam's** Cousin) Raelyn (daughter of **Sue DeMan's** friend Stephanie), **Justin Pennington, Janell & Walter Repsher, Roy Reynolds**, Melody Richardi (**Kai Richardi's** mother), Donna Roberts (**David Dresser's** sister), Mike & Tracey Robinson (**Kai Richardi's** grandfather, **Art & Bonnie Rowbotham, Carla Sauve**, Sheryl Short (Tropical Doll Club), Ed Silveira (**David Dresser's** Cousin), Lynn Staffier (from **Kathy Leahy**), **John & Carol Starling, Marion Stewart, Glenda Taylor (Fr Jim Taylor's Wife)** Gloria Thomason, **Bill Thompson, Dailia Walker, Dennis Vollmer**Lindsay Zielinski.

Homebound or Skilled Nursing Facility: Tony Barfield, Brouck Boyd, Susan Cardman, Rick Rahn, Jo Willey, Sandra Mewborn, Pat Dayton

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Sanctuary 11:00am Worship Center	2 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	3 8am Online Morning Prayer 5-7pm VBS Spaghetti Dinner 8pm Online Compline	4 8am Online Morning Prayer 9:00am Holy Eucharist, Sanctuary & Bible Study, Sanctuary Noon Book Study in the Parish Hall 5:00pm Soup & The Chosen 8pm Online Compline	5 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	6 Office Closed 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	7 Office Closed Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale 9am-2pm
8 9:00am Sanctuary 10:00am 2nd Sunday Brunch 11:00am Worship Center	9 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	10 8am Online Morning Prayer 4pm Talbot House Chili Night 8pm Online Compline	11 8am Online Morning Prayer 9:00am Holy Eucharist, Sanctuary & Bible Study, Sanctuary Noon Book Study in the Parish Hall 8pm Online Compline	12 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	13 Office Closed 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	14 Office Closed

"Worrying is like paying a debt you don't owe" Mark Twain