

St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church

FYI 2026

1820 E. County Rd. 540A

Lakeland, FL 33813

863-646-6115

Office Hrs. M-Th10am-3pm

January 11 2026 Vol 26 Issue 2
1st Sunday after the Epiphany



Life Line Screening will be at **St. Stephen's** on **Friday, January 16, 2026.**

We've offered this important health service for the past several years, and each time the response has been overwhelming—so Life Line Screening is back again by popular demand!

To register, please call **877-792-8479.**

I also have **three certificates for a FREE screening** available. If you're interested, please call me at **863-646-6115.**



Feast of Epiphany is January 6th

On January 6th western Christians celebrate the feast of Epiphany, which takes its name from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning disclosure, manifestation, unveiling or appearance. At the simplest level, on Epiphany Christians commemorate the "appearance" of the *magi* from the east.

The wise men, whose visit to Jesus is recorded in Matthew, were most likely three members of the priestly caste of Zoroastrianism, noted for their study of the stars as part of their religion. The Western Christian Church has assigned them the names Melchior (Babylonian scholar), Caspar (Persian scholar), and Balthazar (an Arab scholar). Their gifts are ordinary gifts one would offer to a king: gold has great value; frankincense is a perfume; and myrrh is a common anointing oil. The gifts have symbolic significance in light of the identity of the baby to whom they are given. Gold is a symbol of kingship on earth, frankincense (used for incense) is a symbol of deity, and myrrh (an embalming oil) is a symbol of death.

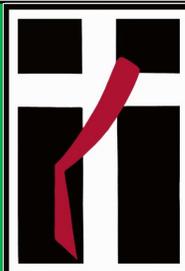


VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Our annual meeting is just a little over a month away on **February 8th** and we need to

be considering our new vestry members for the next three years. If you are interested in being part of the decision making body of St. Stephen's please let Father David or Karen Spiller know and they can explain the duties to you. God Bless.

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



2025-Nancy Wenham, Major Kight, Liz Barham
2026-Betty Pratt, Juliana Walker, Karen Spiller-Sr. Warden
2027-Joyce Brock, Stephen Gaydosh-Jr. Warden, Jack Vonesh
Bookkeeper: Cathy Zielinski Secretary: Karen Beasley

Save Your REAL Christmas Trees for Our Bonfire!



When you take down your Christmas decorations, please bring your **real Christmas trees** to the **field behind the Worship Center** for our upcoming bonfire.



Important Update:

Due to the **Polk County Burn Ban**, the bonfire will be **rescheduled for a later date**.
The dinner and celebration are still on as planned.

Need Help Transporting Your Tree?

Gonzalo has graciously offered to pick up trees and bring them to the church.
Please **call the church office** to make arrangements.



12th Night Celebration & Potluck Dinner

Begins at 5:00 PM



As we have done in years past, we will enjoy:



- A **potluck dinner**
- **King Cake**, with a surprise for the person who finds the baby Jesus
- **Chicken and rolls** will be provided

What to Bring (Based on Last Name):

- **A-I:** Starch
- **J-R:** Vegetable or salad
- **S-Z:** Dessert

Volunteers Needed

The hospitality team can always use extra helping hands for this event.

Please speak with a member of the hospitality team if you are able to help.

The Caregivers and Grief Group meets this month on January 13th at 2:00pm in the small groups room. If you or someone you know would benefit from speaking with other people who have or are currently handling grief or stress due to a loss or giving a loved one care, please keep this group in mind.

They meet at least once a month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm.



Dog Treats

The Dog Treat Crew is getting together again to bake homemade treats for our furry friends at the Bully Project! If you're able to help, please bring your donations to church and place them in the collection bins. We're so grateful for your continued support.

Needed items:

- Old-fashioned oats
- Unsweetened applesauce
- Unsalted peanuts
- Pumpkin purée



01/11/26	Epiphany Covered Dish Dinner	
01/03/26	Caregiver & Grief Group 2:00pm Sm Group Rm	
01/15/26	Lunch Bunch 11:30am at Cheddars	
01/18/26	Vestry Nominations into Father David or Karen Spiller	
01/20/26	Vestry Meeting 6:00pm	
01/23/26	57th Diocesan Convention	
02/08/26	Annual Meeting and World famous <i>Soup Competition</i> where we award the <i>Golden Ladle!</i>	

This is also the Sunday designated by the NFL as Super Bowl Sunday

Welcome to our Church

January 4th

Sanctuary	9:00am	46
Worship Center	11:00am	39
Total		85

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

If you are new to St. Stephen's or if you would like to have Fr. David contact you, please fill out a Newcomer Card and place it in the plate and we will see that you are contacted. God Bless.

Verse of the Week: Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you: The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

**Flowers on th Altar were Given by Tom
Hiber in Loving Memory of Ginny Hiber**

January Birthdays

3 Erin Wenham
8 Ernest Palmer
Betty Pratt
10 Barbara Anderson
11 Judy Elam
18 Bonnie Rowbotham
20 Lou Alers
23 Mary Lankford
25 Steve Meyer
Yolanda Howes,
28 Katherine Leahy

January Anniversaries

10 Charles & Debbie Bradford

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

Prayer Needs: Amy (Fr. Scott's Daughter), Lou Alers, Kim Birmingham (from **Scout Troop 106**), Charlie Bibb (**Season Barham Hodges** Father in Law) Shannon Black (from **Kathy Leahy**), **Louis Bloodworth**, 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) **Jim Cross, Pat Dayton**, Annie Delling, **Roger Doyle**, Laurie Dresser (**David Dresser's** sister), Lily Dresser (**David & Patricia Dresser's** granddaughter, **Stacy Englert**, Laurens Flanagan (**Sally Flanagan's Daughter in Law**), **Morgan Goers**, Ricky Morrison, Becky Sue Morrison (**Stacy & Michael Englert's** Friends), Jeremy Gagne (**Pat Dupont's nephew**) Angela Grilli (**Althea Nye's** friend), **Jim Heal**, Bob & Kay Henry (friends of **Betty Calhoun**) Nicole Herhnkind (**Karen Spiller's** sister), **Kevin Jackimowicz**, Ken & Clair Jones (**Roger Doyle's** friends), Kay Jordan (**Judy Elam's** friend), Father Robert Keller, (**Kathy Leahy's** friend) Karen Kent (**David Dresser's** Relative) David Kight (**Major Kight's** brother) Cynthia Krempel (**Janice Olson's** sister) , **Trudi Lithgow**, Mary & Adrian McAleer (**Liz Barham's** sister & Brother in Law), **Donna McLemore**, Raelyn (daughter of **Sue DeMan's** friend Stephanie), Al & Lucille Pfund, (**Lula Peoples'** co-worker), **Janell & Walter Repsher, Roy Reynolds , Glen Richardi**, Donna Roberts (**David Dresser's** sister) **Art & Bonnie Rowbotham, Shirley Rumpel, Carla Sauve**, Sheryl Short (Tropical Doll Club), Ed Silveira (**David Dresser's** Cousin), **Karen Spiller**, Lynn Staffier (from **Kathy Leahy**), **Carol Starling, Marion Stewart, Gloria Thomason, Helen Vogt, Dailia Walker, Meg & Rhys Wallace, Lindsay Zielinski.**

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00am Sanctuary 11:00am Worship Center 5:00pm Pot Luck Dinner Epiphany Bonfire postponed for now	8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Book Study in the Parish Hall 8pm Online Compline	8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	Office Closed 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	Office Closed
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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