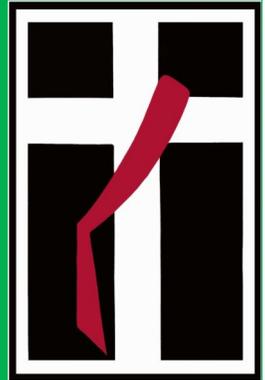


St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church

1820 E. County Rd. 540A
Lakeland, FL 33813
863-646-6115
Office Hrs. M-Th 9am-3pm

FYI 2026

January 18, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 3
2nd Sunday after the Epiphany



As one year comes to an end and we begin 2026, it is a time to look back on the past year—to count our blessings and to recognize our losses.

This past year, we said goodbye to ten cherished family members:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| • Sandy Gibson | January 2, 1934 | - | January 9, 2025 |
| • Carol Reynolds | January 12, 1945 | - | January 22, 2025 |
| • Barbara Yeaple | April 28, 1939 | - | February 17, 2025 |
| • John Starling | December 8, 1942 | - | March 10, 2025 |
| • Arthur Hooper | October 13, 1942 | - | March 12, 2025 |
| • Robert Wesley | February 9, 1953 | - | March 27, 2025 |
| • Robert Cucchi | August 31, 1966 | - | April 30, 2025 |
| • Mary Lou Garland | March 11, 1934 | - | June 7, 2025 |
| • Bruce Goers | May 23, 1939 | - | October 22, 2025 |
| • Dugan Wilder | November 27, 1938 | - | December 15, 2025 |

Many of us shared personal connections with these loved ones, each relationship unique and meaningful. Though our bonds with them may have differed, they will be deeply missed by all of us. Their memories live on in our hearts, and their presence remains part of who we are.

Sunday February 8th

Annual Meeting & Soup Cookoff

Following a Combined Worship Service at 10am

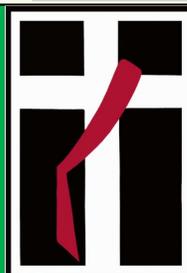
Please let one of the clergy know if you are interested in being a **candidate for one of the three vestry slots** we have to fill in 2026. We can give or send you details about this important work of the church.

Please consider bringing a **potful of your favorite homemade soup** for our Soup Cookoff. Find those old recipes or make up something new. You could be this year's soup cookoff prize winner! (If you're not making soup, we also need some bread & desserts to go with the soup.)

**ONE SERVICE
AT 10:00AM**



*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

According to a study published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, the risk of dementia was 28% higher when older adults were socially isolated.

At St. Stephens's Church we offer; Grief and Caregivers group, Lunch Bunch, Wednesday Eurichrist service and Book Study and many other opportunities listed below to join in and socialize. Don't sit home alone, Join in and stay sharper!



Join the Choir..

**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**

looking for in the Choir. Please contact Susie Stewart or Charlie in the office for information about joining. The main talent that we need is interest!

Are you looking for a way to give back to St. Stephen's Church? Do you sound good singing in the shower or in your car? You are who we are

Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Opportunities at St. Stephen's

The following is a list of opportunities where your help is needed at St. Stephen's.

For each of these activities, we are looking for someone willing to serve as a **Director** to help coordinate and lead the effort. In addition, we need volunteers to assist with the work itself.

One ongoing challenge is cleanup after events involving food. Too often, once an event ends, cleanup is left to just a few people. We truly need everyone's help to ensure these events are successful from start to finish.

If you are willing to help in any capacity—either as a Director or as a volunteer—please let the office know. We will coordinate meetings as needed to keep everyone informed and involved in upcoming activities.

Thank you for supporting St. Stephen's and helping our community thrive.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Lunch Bunch planning and calling | 14. Daughters of the King |
| 2. Greeters for each service | 15. Youth Group |
| 3. Ushers for each service | 16. Archive and History |
| 4. Lay Eucharistic Ministers | 17. Choir |
| 5. Lay Readers | 18. Sunday School |
| 6. Cursillo and Kiaros ministries | 19. Nursery |
| 7. Landscaping | 20. Entertainment Event attendance |
| 8. Hospitality | 21. Building Maintance |
| 9. Visitation (shut-in and hospital) | 22. Altar Guild |
| 10. Newcomers | 23. Flower Guild |
| 11. VBS (vacation bible school) | 24. Stewardship |
| 12. VBS Spaghetti Dinners | 25. Seasonal Decorating |
| 13. Talbot House Chili Night | 26. Vestry |

State of Florida

Notary Public

This is to advise the St. Stephen's congregation that we once again have a Notary Public in the office for our parishioners. Documents and oaths will be administered at no cost to St. Stephen's parishioners. I hope that we can help you out in your needs for a Notary.



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



Mark Your Calendar

- 01/18/26** Vestry Nominations into Father David or Karen Spiller
- 01/19/26** Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr
- 01/20/26** Vestry Meeting 6:00pm
- 01/23/26** 57th Diocesan Convention
- 02/03/26** VBS Spaghetti Dinner 5-7pm
- 02/08/26** Annual Meeting and World famous *Soup Competition* where we award the *Golden Ladle!*
- This is also the Sunday designated by the NFL as Super Bowl Sunday*
- 02/17/26** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5-7pm
- 02/18/26** Ash Wednesday, Distribution of Ashes Noon & 7:00pm

Welcome to our Church

January 11th

Sanctuary	9:00am	68
Worship Center	11:00am	43
Total		111

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: Psalm 40:3

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.



Flowers on the Altar were Given by Phil & Gail Wortman in Sympathy for the Family of Charlie Kirk



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
18 9:00am Sanctuary 11:00am Worship Center	19 MLK Jr Day Office Closed 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	20 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	21 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Book Study in the Parish Hall 8pm Online Compline	22 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	23 Office Closed 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	24 Office Closed
25 9:00am Sanctuary 11:00am Worship Center	26 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	27 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	28 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Book Study in the Parish Hall 8pm Online Compline	29 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	30 Office Closed 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	31 Office Closed