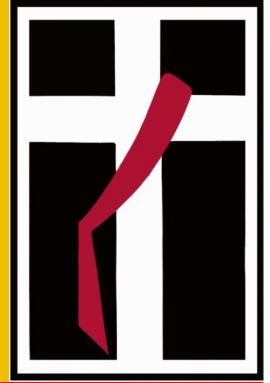


St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church

FYI 2026



1820 E. County Rd. 540A

Lakeland, FL 33813

863-646-6115

Office Hrs. M-Th 9am-3pm

April 12, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 15

2nd Sunday of Easter

Easter at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



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



2026-Betty Pratt, Juliana Walker, Karen Spiller

2027-Joyce Brock, Stephen Gaydosh, Jack Vonesh-Treasurer.

2028-Mary Roach, Helen Vogt, Mike Whitt, Jr Warden

Bookkeeper: Cathy Zielinski, Treasurer: Jack Vonesh,
Secretary: Karen Beasley

Office Secretary: Charlie Bradford

I Love Lent

An Anonymous Reflection

The individual joy of...

confession, repentance, forgiveness, forgiving, self-examination, self-awareness, growth through pain, prayer, fasting from food, drink, media, noise, arguing, and being right; admitting when we are wrong; 90-second sermons; and 40 days of daily Scripture and prayer cards.

The corporate beauty of...

St. Stephen's worship, hymns, praise songs, hearing and listening to God's Word recited, taught, and preached, the Prayers of the People, corporate confession, communion with God and family, thanksgiving, processional hymn singing, God's departing encouragement to "Go forth into the world!", and St. Stephen's family resounding response: "Thanks be to God!"

The powerful Lenten impact of...

the Passover Seder, a quiet hour of meditation, chanting the Psalms, the Stations of the Cross, Maundy Thursday, the Good Friday Cross Walk, and Saturday's watching and waiting for...

RESURRECTION SUNDAY!

More thoughts on that next week...

April Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will gather this Thursday, April 16th at 11:30 AM at **Ruby Tuesday** in **Bartow**.

This is typically a well-attended luncheon, so please be sure to make your reservation with the church office at **863-646-6115** so you can be counted.

Last month, we met at Dena's on South Florida and had a wonderful time with 24 people attending!

The Lunch Bunch is open to everyone and meets at a different restaurant each month. We gather on the **third Thursday of every month**.



St. Stephen's T-Shirts

We are preparing to place another order for **St. Stephen's T-shirts** and would like to get an idea of the level of interest.

A couple of things to keep in mind:

- Many people feel the shirts **run a bit small**, so you may want to consider **ordering one size up**.
- Some have expressed interest in **long-sleeve shirts**.
- Others have asked about the possibility of a **collared shirt option**.
- Fr. David is getting a few samples so that you can see the material and style of the shirts.

Please let me know **if you are interested**, along with:

- The **type of shirt** (short sleeve, long sleeve, or collared), and
The **size** you would prefer.

Once we see how many people are interested, we will move forward with the order. Thank you!



Welcome to our Church

April 5,

2026

EASTER

Garden Chapel	6:30am	52
Sanctuary	9:00am	96
Sanctuary	11:00am	82
Total		230

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.



Mark Your Calendar

- 04/14/26 Talbot House Chili 3:30pm
- 04/16/26 Lunch Bunch at Ruby Tuesdays 11:30
- 04/21/26 Vestry Meeting 6:00pm
- 05/05/26 VBS Spaghetti Dinner 5-7pm
- 05/06/26 Morgan Goers Funeral 11:00am
- 05/08/26 Life Line Screening 8-4pm
- 05/10/26 Mother's Day Brunch Between each service

PEACE Nehemiah Action

Please attend the Polk Ecumenical Action Council for Empowerment's annual **Nehemiah Action** at **6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20**, at **First United Methodist Church, 72 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland.**

This is a different location than usual, but our purpose remains the same: to seek solutions to local problems and urge local officials to address them.

PEACE is working to persuade Polk County government to do more for low-income senior citizens. More than **2,000 seniors** are on a waiting list for basic services such as help with chores and other daily living activities. The goal is to help them remain in their homes longer, but existing programs cannot meet the need.

PEACE is also asking local agencies to work with us to improve awareness of and access to mental health care for children.

A large turnout at the Nehemiah Action is vital to convince officials to address these problems more effectively.

For questions, please contact:

- **Karen Beasley** — 863-838-3028
- **Robin Williams Adams** — 863-640-5240
- **Joanne Gunner** — 863-670-3991



PEACE
POLK ECUMENICAL ACTION
COUNCIL FOR EMPOWERMENT

Calling all Prayer Warriors

We are looking for a few praying parishioners. Contact Lee at 915-584-2074.



Verse of the Week: John 20:31

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



**Flowers on the Altar are Given by Gonzalo Morrell in Memory
of his Brother, Ed Morrell**



April Birthdays

- 1 Erica Long**
- 2 Marilyn Kempinski**
- 4 Jackie Monts de Oca**
- 6 Margaret Wallace**
- 13 Jami Beasley, Sally Flanagan**
- 16 Gail Green**
- 17 Maria Peoples**
- 18 Gail Wortman**
- 19 David Vadzemnieks**
- 22 Roger Statzer & Carl Lowry**
- 23 Juliana Walker**
- 24 Loreto Smalling**
- 25 Jenna Walker**
- 26 Carol Clark**
- 27 Lee Carter**
- 29 Bill Thompson**

April Anniversaries

- 4 Jim & Karen Beasley
Michael & Stacy Englert**
- 6 Ernest & Melissa Palmer**
- 25 Larry & Becky Schuster**

**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, 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), 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 Hernnkind (Karen Spiller's sister), Wendell & Donna Hunt, 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) Cynthia Krempel (Janice Olson's sister), Minnie Lewis (Sally Flanagan's Sister in Law) 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 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, Helen Vogt, Dailia Walker, Meg & Rhys Wallace, Lindsay Zielinski.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 9:00am Sanctuary 10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm 11:00am Worship Center	13 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	14 8am Online Morning Prayer Talbot House Chili 8pm Online Compline	15 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Communion Book Study at 12:00pm 8pm Online Compline	16 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	17 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	18 Office Closed
19 9:00am Sanctuary 10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm 11:00am Worship Center	20 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	21 8am Online Morning Prayer Vestry Meeting 8pm Online Compline	22 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Communion Book Study at 12:00pm 8pm Online Compline	23 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	24 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	25 Office Closed