

St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church

1820 E. County Rd. 540A

Lakeland, FL 33813

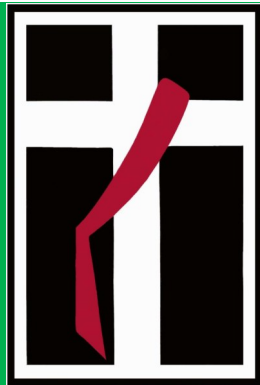
863-646-6115

Office Hrs. M-Th 9am-3pm

FYI 2026

July 5, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 27

Proper 9 Sunday



Through—August 12th



After the VBS Extravaganza, **Father David** will be taking some time away with his family and to recover from shoulder surgery. During this period, he will be away primarily on weekdays.

We are grateful that **Father Frank St. Amour** has graciously offered to celebrate the Wednesday morning Eucharist service while Father David is away. Please note that the book study that normally follows the service will be on hiatus and will resume in September.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Father Frank** for his continual willingness to serve St. Stephen's whenever there is a need. I know I join the entire congregation in feeling truly blessed that **Frank and Sue** have chosen St. Stephen's as their church home.



HUG



2026 Altar Flower Dedications

We invite you to honor loved ones or commemorate special occasions in 2026 by dedicating altar flowers. To reserve your date, simply pick up a dedication form and select from the available Sunday dates, which are clearly listed on a wall poster near your worship entrance.

Dedication forms can be found in both the Sanctuary and the Worship Center for your convenience. Please use these forms to reserve your preferred date and ensure your dedication is included in our worship services.

WHERE BROKEN LIVES
FIND HOPE TALBOT HOUSE MINISTRIES

The ladies responsible for preparing and serving clients at Talbot House wish to express their sincere appreciation for the contributions of Brownies last month. The 200 residents served were thankful for your generosity.

However, the demand remains high, and if you are able, continued support in making Brownies would be greatly valued.



*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

St. Stephen's Outreach

As I am sure you know, we are called by our Creator to serve others as we would have Him serve us. One of the primary ways churches live out that calling is through outreach. At St. Stephen's, we are blessed to have many ministries that share God's love with our community, and I believe it is time we recognize them.

First, we support the outreach and ministries of our Diocese through the monthly funds we contribute. Those dollars extend our mission far beyond our own parish.

Second is our Vacation Bible School program. Each year, our parish comes together to host spaghetti dinners that feed well over a thousand people while raising the funds needed to make Vacation Bible School possible. Through this program, we touch the lives of scores of children with the message of God's faithfulness and love—lessons they can carry throughout their lives. Like so many of our ministries, this effort requires not only financial support for supplies and materials, but also countless volunteer hours from dedicated parishioners.

Next, in my opinion, is Talbot House Ministries. Begun more than thirty years ago as a way to share both food and Christ's love with those less fortunate in Lakeland, this ministry continues to thrive today. While the way it is delivered has changed over the years, its mission remains the same: Christians serving others with homemade chili, fresh bread, brownies, and juice. In recent years, this ministry has continued through the generous donations of our parish and the faithful work of Sharon, Thomas, Joanne, and Liz. Each month they transport this movable feast to the Kentucky Avenue residence, where they serve more than one hundred people a lovingly prepared, protein-packed meal.

Since 2018, St. Stephen's has also supported the Polk Ecumenical Action Council for Empowerment (PEACE) through financial contributions, volunteer time, participation, and a voice at community rallies. More recently, the Vestry voted to dedicate the proceeds from our St. Pauly's clothing shed toward our annual membership dues, strengthening our commitment to this important community organization.

In addition to these ministries, we support several other organizations and programs. We provide meeting space in our Community Building for Twelve-Step groups, support the Polk County Bully Project through the sale of dog treats and donations of needed supplies, welcome the Living Stones Homeschool community, and proudly sponsor our Scouting America programs.

These are just some of the ways the people of St. Stephen's demonstrate God's love in our community throughout the year. This is certainly not an exhaustive list. I know many well-meaning folks will be quick to remind me of ministries I have unintentionally overlooked—and for that, bless your hearts in advance! But I hope this serves as a reminder that, together, we are making a difference. Every act of service, every volunteer hour, every donation, and every prayer is another way we share Christ's love with the world around us.

Thank you to everyone who makes these ministries possible. May God continue to bless the work of St. Stephen's as we seek to serve Him by serving others.



Welcome to our Church

June 28, 2026

Sanctuary	9:00am	37
Worship Center	10:00am	66
Total		103

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.

Prayer LIST

Please help us keep our Prayer List current and accurate. If there have been any changes to names or prayer requests, please let the church office know.

We have plenty of room in the FYI section, but we want to ensure that our Prayer List reflects the most up-to-date information possible.

Thank you for helping us care for and pray for one another.



Mark Your Calendar

- 07/07/26 NO SPAGHETTI DINNER IN JULY BECAUSE OF VBS**
- 07/16/26 Lunch Bunch at the Broadway Diner in Bartow 11:30am**
- 07/21/26 Vestry Meeting is Canceled for July**
- 08/04/26 Fr. David Shoulder Surgery**
- 08/09/26 Back to School Sunday**



Dog Treats for Bully Project

The Dog Treat Crew will meet again this month to bake homemade treats for our furry friends! If you're able to help, please bring your donations to church and place them in the collection bins. **PLEASE HELP**

CUPBOARD IS BARE

Needed items:

- Pumpkin purée
- Unsweetened Applesauce
- Old-fashioned Oats
- Unsalted Peanuts

Most of the Dog Treats we make go to the puppies at the Polk County Bully Project to show them that we care and the remainder of the treats we sell and give the money in St. Stephen's name to the PCBP.

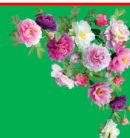


Verse of the Week: Matthew 11:28

**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.**



**Flowers on the Altar are Given by Robin & Joe Adams in Memory of
Patricia Starnes Williams & Susan Kostadinova.**



<u>July Birthdays</u>		<u>St. Stephen's Prayer List</u> <u>(Parish Members are in Bold)</u>
1	Mary Roach	<u>Prayer Needs:</u> 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), 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, Cory Davis, Annie Delling, Cathi DiGigiacomo, (Michele Giberson's Aunt) 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), Angela Grilli (Althea Nye's friend), Jim Heal, Bob & Kay Henry (friends of Betty Calhoun) Nicole Hernnkind (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) 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), Mary Peoples, 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, Dailia Walker, Meg & Rhys Wallace, Lynn Whitt, Lindsay Zielinski. <u>Homebound or Skilled Nursing Facility:</u> Tony Barfield, Susan Cardman, Rick Rahn, Jo Willey, Sandra Mewborn
2	Francis Smalling	
5	Larry Schuster	
6	Juanita Spence	
8	Susan Barham	
11	Tim Trimbath	
16	Erica DeMan, Judy Horne	
19	Sue DeMan Stacy Englert Jennifer Williams	
22	Tony Barfield Gary Westberry	
23	Sue St Amour	
24	Jameson Ausmus	
25	Fr. David Peoples	
28	Debbie Bradford	
30	Ken Horne, Glen Richardi	
<u>July Anniversaries</u>		
2	David & Patricia Dresser	
6	Francis & Loreto Smalling	
23	Glen & Cathy Zielinski	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9:00am in the Garden Chapel 10:00am Worship Center	6 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	7 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	8 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 8pm Online Compline	9 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	10 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	11 Office Closed
12 9:00am in the Garden Chapel 10:00am Worship Center	13 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	14 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	15 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 8pm Online Compline	16 8:00am Online Morning Prayer Lunch Bunch at Broadway Diner in Bartow 8pm Online Compline	17 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	18 Office Closed