

St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church

1820 E. County Rd. 540A

Lakeland, FL 33813

863-646-6115

Office Hrs. M-Th 9am-3pm

FYI 2026

August 23, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 34

Thirteenth Sunday after
Pentecost, Proper 16



Summer in the Garden Finale & Cookout

Sunday, August 30

Sunday, August 30, will be our final **Summer in the Garden** worship service. Following the **10:00 a.m.** service, we'll celebrate the end of summer with a church cookout featuring **hamburgers and hot dogs**.

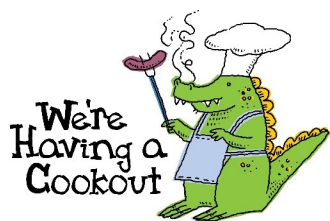
If you're able to help, we'd appreciate donations of side dishes such as **baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw**, or any other favorite picnic dish that would complement our meal.

We hope you'll join us for a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and celebration!

Beginning Sunday, September 6, we will return to our regular Sunday worship schedule:

- **9:00 a.m.** – Sanctuary
- **11:00 a.m.** – Worship Center

We look forward to celebrating with you on August 30 and seeing everyone back on our regular schedule in September!



Summer is Vacation Time...but the bills keep coming here at St. Stephen's.

When you leave, be sure your pledge is up to date. It will help us make it through the summer doldrums when the electricity is at its highest.

If you have any questions please call the office , or email Cathy Zielinski at ststtreasurer@gmail.com.

We count on your giving, even during our time apart. Thank you.

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.



**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 2026 Christmas Bazaar Meeting

There will be a meeting to discuss the **2026 St. Stephen's Christmas Bazaar this Sunday, August 23, following the 10:00 a.m. service.** The meeting will be held in the **Small Group Room.**

As most of you know, the Christmas Bazaar has been a wonderful event for St. Stephen's and our local community. Each year, we normally welcome dozens of vendors selling their crafts and wares, along with many other activities and attractions. In past years, these have included the ASPCA or Bully Project offering pets for fostering or adoption, Santa Claus, baked goods, gift basket raffles, and hamburgers and hot dogs for sale.

For many years, **Michele Giberson has almost single-handedly organized and directed the Christmas Bazaar.** Her responsibilities have included advertising the event, collecting vendor registration fees, laying out and organizing booth spaces, coordinating the many activities, arranging for the Salvation Army to pick up leftover items, and, of course, helping with the cleanup afterward.

This year, Michele's health will not allow her to carry this responsibility alone. Michele has generously offered to share her experience, knowledge, and assistance, but **we need others to step forward and help carry the ball.**

The Christmas Bazaar has been successful because of the people who give their time and talents to make it happen. **No one person should have to do it all.** With enough people willing to take on a piece of the work, we can continue this special event for our church and community.

If the Christmas Bazaar is important to you, or if you would be willing to help in any capacity, please plan to attend.

I hope to see you there and that, together, we can keep this wonderful St. Stephen's tradition going. **God Bless**



Are you Called? The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK)

No special spiritual attributes are needed to become a Daughter – only a sincere desire to draw nearer to God and to help others do the same. We are a group of Christian women who adopt a Rule of Life based on the promises of our Baptismal Covenant:

To continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers.

To persevere in resisting evil, and when we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

To proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.

To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself.

To strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

We are women living a Rule of Prayer and Service to our neighbors. Parishioners can look to us for love and help in time of need or loneliness. We seek to walk with God as our guide and try to draw those with whom we come in contact into the church. We are women who work to spread Christ's Kingdom here on earth. We can never forget that prayer is the foundation from which our service grows.

Discernment classes begin Sunday September 13, 2026. Please let any member wearing this cross know that you are interested.



Our new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has arrived and is now mounted on the wall in the Parish Hall, just outside the kitchen. It is clearly marked and readily accessible should an emergency ever arise.

Fortunately, we have never needed an AED at our parish, and we sincerely hope that we never will. However, these lifesaving devices have become commonplace in churches, schools, businesses, and other public buildings because sudden cardiac emergencies can happen anywhere and without warning. When used promptly, an AED can make a critical difference while emergency medical help is on the way.

Although AEDs are designed to provide simple, step-by-step voice instructions, it is helpful to become familiar with the device before an emergency occurs. Once our one-winged superhero, Fr. David, has recovered from shoulder surgery, we will hold a training session to demonstrate how the AED works and what to do in the event of a cardiac emergency.

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 The 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.



- 8/23/26** *Christmas Bazaar Meeting following 10:00 Service*
- 08/30/26** *Last Sunday for 9:00 in the Garden, final Cookout of the Summer after the 10:00am*
- 09/01/26** *VBS Spaghetti Dinner 5-7pm*
- 09/06/26** *Return to 9:00am in the Sanctuary and 11:00am in the Worship Center.*
- 09/07/26** *Labor Day Office Closed*



Welcome to our Church

August 16, 2026

Garden Chapel	9:00am	32
Sanctuary	10:00am	45
Total		77

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: Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.



Flowers on the Altar are Given by Kathy Leahy in Loving Memory of Dave Leahy



August Birthdays

5 Roger Doyle
 6 Jan Benware
 8 Bruce Nelson
 10 Mary Ann Corbin
 13 Joyce Brock
 14 Rita Yenney
 18 Inga Rutledge
 Derek Stevens
 19 Jim Beasley
 Ray Spiller
 20 Art Rowbotham
 21 Helen Vogt
 22 Pete Wesley
 25 Bill Baggett
 26 Jonathan Robertson
 28 Christopher Trimbath
 Cathy Zielinski
 29 Trudi Lithgow
 31 Deacon Doug Jump



August Anniversaries

3 Fr. David & Lula Peoples
 9 John & Susan MacGillvray
 11 Italo & Janet Casini

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), Janet Bingham, Shannon Black, Lynn Staffier (from Kathy Leahy), Rebecca Bloodworth (Louis Bloodworth's Daughter in Law), 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), Kim & 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, Carol Starling, Marion Stewart, Dailia Walker, Meg & Rhys Wallace, Lynn Whitt, Lindsay Zielinski.
Homebound or Skilled Nursing Facility: Tony Barfield, Susan Cardman, Rick Rahn, Jo Willey, Sandra Mewborn

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 9:00am in the Garden Chapel 10:00am Sanctuary Christmas Bazaar Meeting Small Group Room	24 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	25 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	26 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 8pm Online Compline	27 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	28 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	29 Office Closed
30 9:00am in the Garden Chapel 10:00am Sanctuary Cook our	31 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	1 8am Online Morning Prayer 5-7 VBS Spaghetti Dinner 8pm Online Compline	2 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 8pm Online Compline	3 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	4 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	5 Office Closed