

St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church

1820 E. County Rd. 540A

Lakeland, FL 33813

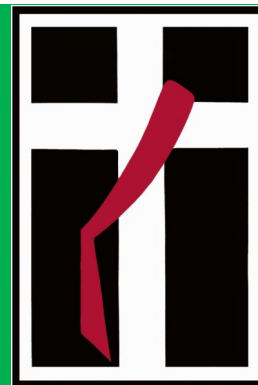
863-646-6115

Office Hrs. M-Th 9am-3pm

# FYI 2026

September 6, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 36

Fourteenth Sunday after  
Pentecost, Proper 18



It is a rare joy to celebrate two beloved members of St. Stephen's turning 98 in the same week. Happy birthday to **Trudi Lithgow** and **Pete Wesley**!

Since joining St. Stephen's in 1981, Trudi has generously supported countless parish projects through her leadership, fundraising, hard work, and especially her love of gardening. Pete and her late husband, John, brought great energy and enthusiasm with them from St. David's. Pete remains a regular communicant at the Sanctuary service and is active in P.E.A.C.E. and the Daughters of the King.

Thank you both for your many years of service to our parish and community.



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



2026-Betty Pratt, 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



## The Caregivers and Grief Group

The Caregivers and Grief Group will meet next month on **September 8th at 2:00 PM** in the Small Groups Room.

If you or someone you know would benefit from speaking with others who are experiencing grief, stress from a loss, or the challenges of caring for a loved one, please keep this group in mind.

A landmark 1999 study published in **JAMA** described caregivers as the "hidden patients." The study found that highly stressed caregivers had a 63% higher risk of death than non-caregivers during the years following the loss of a disabled spouse. Research has also shown that caregivers often experience higher levels of depression, sleep deprivation, social isolation, and financial hardship.

You do not have to carry those burdens alone. We are here to help.

## 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.

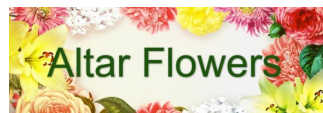
We have plenty of room in the FYI section, but we want to ensure that our Prayer List reflects the most up-to-date information possible.

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

## 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.



## 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.**

As we return to the 11:00 a.m. service in the Worship Center, our need for choir members has doubled! Things have gotten so desperate that Suzy is considering recruiting her "tone-deaf" brother-in-law, Tom to join the choir.

If you enjoy singing—or simply want to save us all from hearing Tom Hiber sing—please talk to Suzy about joining the choir. We really need you!



**Join the Choir...**  
**You'll Be Glad**  
**You Did!**

## 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.



**Return**  
**to**  
**Regular**  
**Worship**  
**Hours**

**09/06/26** *Return to 9:00am in the Sanctuary and 11:00am in the Worship Center.*

**09/07/26** *Labor Day Office Closed*

**09/08/26** *Caregivers Group 2:00pm*

**09/08/26** *Talbot House Chili Night*

*Welcome to our Church*

**August 30, 2026**

|                      |                |           |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| <b>Garden Chapel</b> | <b>9:00am</b>  | <b>35</b> |
| <b>Sanctuary</b>     | <b>10:00am</b> | <b>57</b> |
| <b>Total</b>         |                | <b>92</b> |

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: Matthew 18:20**

**For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.**



*Flowers on the Altar are Given to the Glory of God and  
thanks for all of the blessing we have received.*



### September Birthdays

- 5 Judy Wilder
- 6 Susan Cardman
- 7 Robin Williams Adams  
Alex Trim bath, Gail Baldrige
- 10 Steve Naples, Janell Repsher
- 11 Andrew Thompson
- 12 Janet Bingham
- 14 Sharon Crosdale, Troy DeMan  
Kaitlyn Trim bath
- 21 Stephen Calhoun
- 22 Donna Hunt
- 24 Nelson Rumpel
- 25 Jarrett Sabine,  
David Trim bath
- 29 Julie Petterson

### September Anniversaries

- 2 Doug & Michele Jump
- 6 Gary & Beverly Powell
- 13 Walter & Eleanor Thomas
- 17 Steve & Victoria Naples
- 27 David & Melanie Vadzemnieks

### 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 DiGigiaco, (Michele Giberson's Aunt) Roger Doyle, Laurie Dresser (David Dresser's sister), Lily Dresser (David & Patricia Dresser's granddaughter) Justine (Samantha Dutcher's Daughter), 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 Hernkind (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                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>6</b><br>9:00am in the Sanctuary<br>10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm<br>11:00am Worship Center  | <b>7</b><br>8am Online Morning Prayer<br>Labor Day, Office Closed<br><br>8pm Online Compline | <b>8</b><br>8am Online Morning Prayer<br>2:00pm Caregivers Group<br>3:30pm Talbot House<br>8pm Online Compline | <b>9</b><br>8:00am Online Morning Prayer<br>11:00am Holy Eucharist<br>8pm Online Compline  | <b>10</b><br>8:00am Online Morning Prayer<br>8pm Online Compline | <b>11</b><br>8:00am Online Morning Prayer<br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>8pm Online Compline | <b>12</b><br>Office Closed |
| <b>13</b><br>9:00am in the Sanctuary<br>10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm<br>11:00am Worship Center | <b>14</b><br>8am Online Morning Prayer<br>8pm Online Compline                                                                                                                   | <b>15</b><br>8am Online Morning Prayer<br>8pm Online Compline                                                  | <b>16</b><br>8:00am Online Morning Prayer<br>11:00am Holy Eucharist<br>8pm Online Compline | <b>17</b><br>8:00am Online Morning Prayer<br>8pm Online Compline | <b>18</b><br>8:00am Online Morning Prayer<br>OFFICE CLOSED<br>8pm Online Compline | <b>19</b><br>Office Closed |

Leonard Cohen's song "Anthem": "There is a crack, a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in."