St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

FYI 2026

October 25, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 43

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 25

What Is Stewardship?

God has given us both a wonderful blessing and an important responsibility. St. Stephen's has been entrusted to our care. Now it is our turn to nurture this church, support its ministries, and help ensure that it will be here for others in the years to come.

Stewardship means caring faithfully for what God has entrusted to us. His gifts include our time, our abilities, our financial resources, and the relationships we share. We are called to use these blessings wisely, gratefully, and in ways that honor God and serve others.

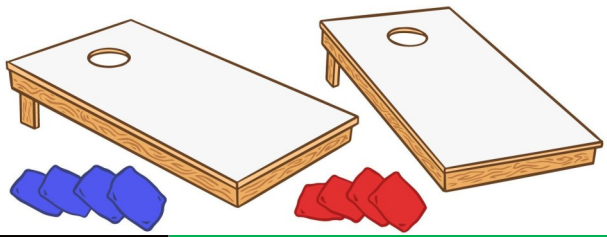
Being a steward means recognizing that we have a responsibility for how we use those gifts. Through our choices, we can share God's love, care for our neighbors, and strengthen the work of His church.

Our financial giving is one expression of that responsibility. As we provide for ourselves and our families, we are also invited to prayerfully consider what we can give to support St. Stephen's. **Giving is an act of faith, gratitude, and participation in God's work.**

The biblical practice of **tithing—giving a tenth—**has long provided a model for faithful giving. As we consider our own commitments, each of us can reflect on the blessings we have received and how we can respond with generosity, according to our circumstances and abilities.

Our pledges help St. Stephen's plan for the coming year, sustain its ministries, maintain its buildings and grounds, and respond to the needs of our congregation and community. Together, our gifts make that work possible.

As we have been blessed, may we be a blessing to others. Through our gifts of time, talent, and treasure—and through our love, care, and prayers—we help build and sustain St. Stephen's as a place where people can experience God's grace and the love of Jesus Christ.



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

Flowers on the Altar are Given in memory of Nicky Turner by The Casini and Turner Families.

New Day & Time for Our Midweek Service

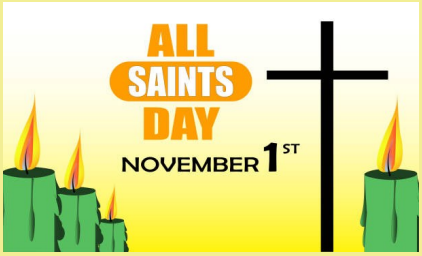
Our midweek service is moving from Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. to **Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.** A book study will follow the service each week, except on the third Thursday of the month, when Lunch Bunch meets.

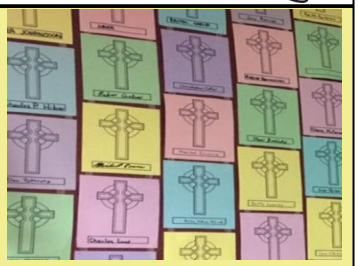
Everyone is welcome to join us for worship, learning, and fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at **863-646-6115**.



Fr. David at All Saints Academy's Wednesday Chapel, looks like he is having fun and in his element.







Give Us a Name for our All Saints' Wall of Remembrance

As in prior years, St. Stephen's has a special way of remembering our loved ones who have gone before us. Multicolored sheets of paper with crosses printed on them are available in each of our worship areas. Please write the names of those you would like to remember on these sheets, which will be displayed on **All Saints' Sunday, November 1st**.

Please submit your loved ones' names by this Sunday **October 25th** so they can be included in this year's remembrance.





Come Make a Joyful Noise!

With the return of our fall worship schedule, we need additional choir members for both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, we would love to have full choirs helping lead our worship and filling St. Stephen's with the joyful music of these special seasons. You do not need to be a professional singer—just someone who enjoys music, fellowship, and serving God through song.

If you feel called to share your voice with St. Stephen's, please speak with **Ms. Stewart**, our Choir Director, for more information. We would be delighted to have you join us!



It's time to start planning for our Christmas Bazaar. Once again there will be raffle drawings. All vendors donate an item from their table to be included in a raffle basket. I am in need of twenty baskets. If you have any old baskets laying around and would be willing to donate them, I would greatly appreciate it. You can bring them to the office and I will pick them up there or contact me and I would be happy to come and get them.

Thank you.

Mary Roach

The Order of the Daughters of the King

The DOK Meeting will be this Sunday after the 9:00am service at 10:10am. The meeting will be held in the Scout Room.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

10/25/26	**Last day for All Saints Crosses to be turned in**
11/01/26	**All Saints Sunday & Day Light Savings time ends! Brunch between services**
11/03/26	**VBS Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 and Election Day**
11/08/26	**2nd Sunday Brunch & Christmas Bazaar meeting 10:15am**
11/11/26	**Veterans Day, Office Closed**
11/14/26	**Campus Work Day 9:00am-11:00am**

Welcome to our Church

October 17, 2026

Trudi's Funeral	**11:00am**	**131**

October 18, 2026

Sanctuary	**9:00am**	**58**
Worship Center	**10:00am**	**35**
Total		**93**

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 22:37

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

October Birthdays



1 Alice Clark
3 Lynn Whitt
6 Tom Hiber
7 Louis Bloodworth
8 Anderson Zielinski,
Joanie Mullin
9 Phil Wortman
11 Deven DeMan
15 Ava Naples
16 Nancy Hurley
17 Scott Dickie
Lyla Peddycoart
25 Mary Statzer
27 Jim Cross
28 Michele Jump
30 Major Kight
Dee Schaal
31 Kai Richardi



October Anniversaries

1 Nelson & Shirley Rumpel
8 Ray & Karen Spiller
17 Mike & Lynn Whitt

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**), **Janet Bingham**, Bryan Biery (**Judy Elam's** friend), Shannon Black, Sarah Leahy DePatie, 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,Uncle Pat (**Michele Giberson's** Aunt) **Roger Doyle,** Laurie Dresser (**David Dresser's** sister), Lily Dresser (**David & Patricia Dresser**'s granddaughter) Justine (**Samantha Dutcher's** Daughter & baby Amari), **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), Karen Kent (**David Dresser's** Relative) Cynthia Krempel (**Janice Olson's** sister)**,** Minnie Lewis **(Sally Flanagan's** Sister in Law**)** 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, Carla Sauve,** 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
25 9:00am in the Sanctuary 10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm 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 8pm Online Compline	**29** 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 10:30am Holy Eucharist 11:30am Book Study Sm Grp Rm 8pm Online Compline	**30** 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	**31** Office Closed
1 9:00am in the Sanctuary End of Day Light Savings Brunch 10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm 11:00am Worship Center	**2** 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	**3** 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline VBS Spaghetti Dinner 5-7pm	**4** 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	**5** 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 10:30am Holy Eucharist 11:30am Book Study Sm Grp Rm 8pm Online Compline	**6** 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	**7** Office Closed