

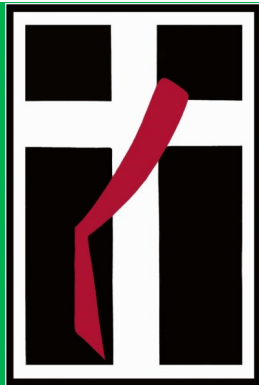
**St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church**

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

FYI 2026

October 4, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 40

**Nineteenth Sunday after
Pentecost, Proper 22**



Drive-Thru Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

This year's Blessing of the Animals will be a drive-thru event. Bring your beloved pets for a special blessing from the comfort of your vehicle.

As always, every animal will receive a certificate and a medal to help them remain awesome for another year! All animals—and their people—are welcome!

Monthly Church Work Day

In an effort to better maintain and care for our church campus, our Junior Warden, Mike Whitt, has asked that we schedule a monthly work day. We have chosen the second Saturday of each month, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Our next work day will be Saturday, October 10.

Everyone is invited to participate! There is always plenty to do, including washing windows, pulling weeds, pruning bushes, raking and bagging leaves, painting, and completing other projects around the church campus.

This month we will focus on the sign, the pergola, the windows in the Sanctuary and thinning out the pots and pans in the kitchen. Also, planning future "work day" projects.

Please bring any tools you may need, since the church usually has only one of each type available. And don't forget your work gloves!

Whether you can stay for an hour or for the entire morning, your help will be greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work, and together we can keep St. Stephen's looking beautiful and welcoming. We hope to see you there!

CAMPUS WORK DAYS



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

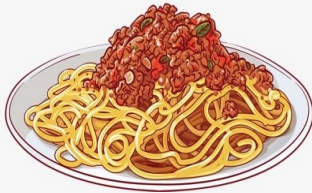


2026-Betty Pratt, Karen Spiller

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**



VBS Spaghetti Dinner October 6th 5-7pm

Spaghetti lovers, our monthly VBS Spaghetti Dinner is this Tuesday **5-7pm!**

For **\$7** you get a generous helping of spaghetti with meat sauce, a tossed salad, homemade garlic bread, and a cookie. Takeout available.

Please let us know if you can help with packing or distributing meals. Come out and support this fundraiser for our summer VBS program so it can continue to be free to all participants.

Directory Update Verify & Update Your Information

Help Us Update Our Parish Directory

With all the comings and goings during the past year, it is time to update our parish directory and make sure the information we have for everyone is correct.

Copies of the current directory will be available as you enter the church. Please take a few moments to review your information, even if you do not think anything has changed. Check that we have the correct names, mailing address, phone numbers, email addresses, birthdays, and anniversaries for everyone in your household. If any information is incorrect or missing, please make the necessary corrections. If your name is not included in the directory, please add your information so we can include you in the updated edition.

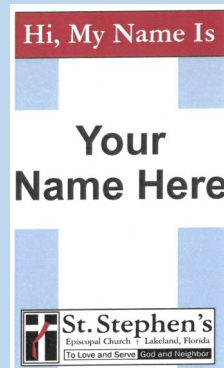
An accurate directory helps us stay connected, celebrate important occasions, and keep everyone informed about parish news and activities. Thank you for taking the time to help us keep our parish records complete and up to date!

Mailboxes and Name Tags

As we prepare for a cool and wonderful fall and winter, we are cleaning up the parish mailboxes and hope to begin using them more regularly. We would also like to encourage everyone to wear their name tags—it is a simple way to help us get to know one another and warmly welcome visitors.

If you have lost your name tag or never received one, please let Charlie know on Sunday, email ststoffice@gmail.com, or call the church office at 863-646-6115. We will do our best to have your new name tag ready the following Sunday.

Thank you!



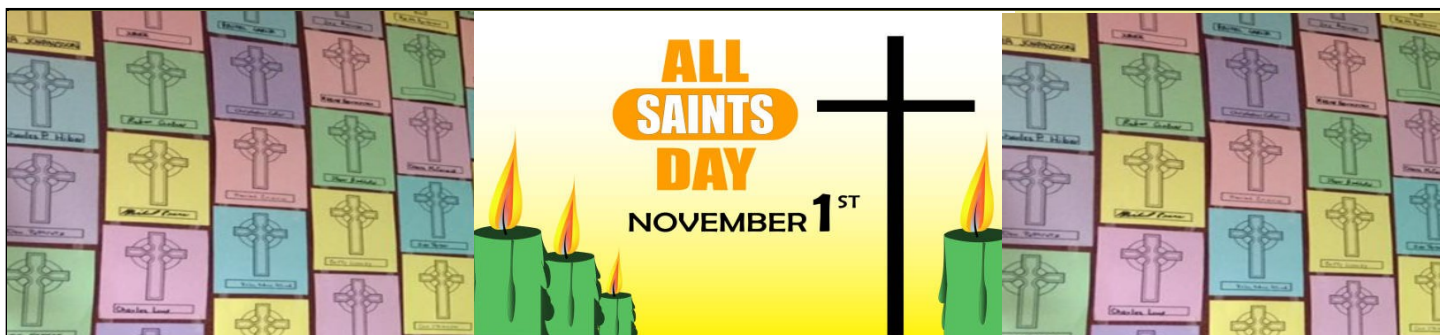
Come Make a Joyful Noise!

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 Suzy, our Choir Director, for more information. We would be delighted to have you join us!





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 **October 25th** so they can be included in this year's remembrance.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- 10/04/26** **Blessing of the Animals
Drive Thru 1:00pm**
- 10/06/26** **Blessing of the Animals at
the SPCA & Bully Project**
- 10/06/26** **VBS Spaghetti Dinner
5:00-7:00pm**
- 10/10/26** **Campus Work Day 9am**
- 10/11/26** **2nd Sunday Brunch**
- 10/12/26** **Columbus Day Office
Closed**
- 10/15/26** **Lunch Bunch, Abuellos**
- 10/20/26** **Vestry Meeting 6:00pm**
- 10/25/26** **Last day for All Saints
Crosses to be turned in**

Welcome to our Church

September 27, 2026

Sanctuary	9:00am	49
Worship Center	10:00am	41
Total		90

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: Philippians 3:14
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward
call of God in Christ Jesus.**

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, (**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 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
4 9:00am in the Sanctuary 10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm 11:00am Worship Center 1:00pm Blessing of the Animals 	5 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	6 8am Online Morning Prayer PCBP & SPCA Blessing of the Animals 10-12am VBS Spaghetti Dinner 5-7pm 8pm Online Compline	7 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 12:00pm Book Study Sm Grp Rm 8pm Online Compline	8 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	9 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	10 Office Closed
11 9:00am in the Sanctuary 10:15am Rector's Class, Sm Group Rm 2nd Sunday Brunch 11:00am Worship Center	12 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline Columbus Day, Office Closed	13 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	14 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 11:00am Holy Eucharist 12:00pm Book Study Sm Grp Rm 8pm Online Compline	15 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	16 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	17 Office Closed