St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

FYI 2026

November 1, 2026 Vol 26 Issue 44
All Saints Sunday , Proper 26

Strength through Pledging

Completing a pledge card is a simple and practical way to support God's work at St. Stephen's. It helps us thoughtfully plan our giving while providing the church with the information needed to plan for the coming year.

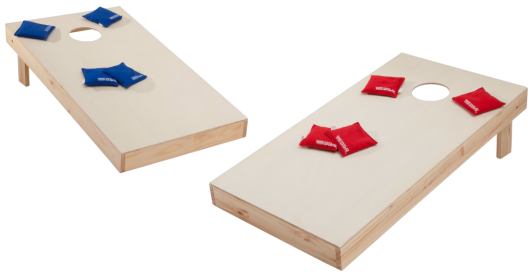
Pledging begins with gratitude. It offers an opportunity to reflect on the blessings God has entrusted to us and prayerfully consider how we will use them to care for our families, meet our daily needs, and support the ministries of our church.

A pledge card is a statement of your intention to give during the coming year. It is not a legally binding agreement. We understand that circumstances change. Financial difficulties may require you to reduce or discontinue your pledge, while unexpected blessings may allow you to increase it. Your pledge can be adjusted as needed by contacting the church office.

Returning a pledge card helps the vestry develop a responsible annual budget and make thoughtful decisions about worship, ministries, outreach, and the care of our campus. Reliable financial commitments also allow Father David and our parish leadership to devote more attention to sharing the Gospel and serving our congregation and community.

If you have never pledged before, please consider taking that step this year. Pledge cards and red envelopes are available in the narthex of the Sanctuary and at the entrance to the Worship Center.

We have been richly blessed. As we thank God for His goodness, let us also consider how we can faithfully care for and share what He has given us. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge to St. Stephen's for the coming year. Together, our gifts strengthen our church and help carry its mission forward..



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



Support Cursillo Weekend #139

In addition to seeking candidates, the Cursillo Commission is asking for monetary gifts to help cover the cost of the weekend and the supplies needed.

Since the weekend was moved to the San Pedro Center, costs have increased significantly, and your support would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help, please make a donation by check payable to **Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida** and write **"Co-Ed Weekend #139"** on the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity and support of the Cursillo community.

metro diner®

Where the Locals Eat

November Lunch Bunch

Please join us for the November Lunch Bunch on **Thursday, November 19, at 11:30 a.m.** at Metro Diner, located at **5293 S. Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33813**.

Lunch Bunch is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a good meal, catch up with friends, and spend some time getting to know other members of our church family. Everyone is welcome, so please come and join us for food, fellowship, and conversation!

As anyone who has dined at Metro Diner can tell you, it is a popular and busy place. With that in mind, we have asked to be seated outside, where we hope to enjoy some pleasant November weather together.

Because the restaurant is so busy, **it is especially important that we have an accurate count** of everyone who plans to attend. If you would like to join us, please let Debbie Bradford know at **305-304-2548** or call Charlie at the church office at **863-646-6115**.

Thank you for letting us know, and we hope to see you there!

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 Susie, 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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**
11/19/26	**Lunch Bunch @ Metro Diner 11:30am**

Now that St. Stephen's has a relationship with All Saints Academy, I would like to add a section to the FYI highlighting upcoming events at the academy that members of our church family might enjoy attending.

I plan to include mostly sporting events, giving us an opportunity to cheer on the students and show our support for their hard work. If you would also be interested in other activities, such as concerts, plays, or special programs, please let me know.

I believe attending these events is a wonderful opportunity to introduce St. Stephen's to the families at All Saints Academy and to build new friendships. By showing up, sharing in their activities, and getting to know one another, we can show them the love and welcoming spirit of our church family.

I hope you will consider attending an event and joining us as we continue to grow this relationship.

Welcome to our Church

October 25, 2026

Sanctuary	**9:00am**	**53**
Worship Center	**10:00am**	**35**
Total		**88**

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: Revelation 7:17

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

November Birthdays

4 Susan Montgrain
Mike Whitt, Emily Flynn
Eddy Rivers
5 Ann Morris
6 Penny Schmidt
7 Timmy Peoples
9 Rhys Wallace
13 Debbie Rattray
14 Gary Powell
16 Susan Eapen,
Lola Walker
Victoria Smalling
19 David Dresser
21 Jim Bosetti
22 Karen Beasley,
Janet Casini
Eleanor Thomas
23 Jack Vonesh
24 Marshall Dickie
27 Ginny Martin,
28 Helen Jump



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
 **9:00am in the Sanctuary** **End of Day Light Savings Brunch** **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**
8 **9:00am in the Sanctuary** **2nd Sunday Brunch** **Christmas Bazaar Meeting Sm Group Rm** **11:00am Worship Center**	**9** **8am Online Morning Prayer** **8pm Online Compline**	**10** **8am Online Morning Prayer** **8pm Online Compline**	**11** **8:00am Online Morning Prayer** **8pm Online Compline**	**12** **8:00am Online Morning Prayer** **10:30am Holy Eucharist** **11:30am Book Study Sm Grp Rm** **8pm Online Compline**	**13** **8:00am Online Morning Prayer** **OFFICE CLOSED** **8pm Online Compline**	**14** **Office Closed** **9:00am** **Work Day at the Church** 