St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

FYI 2026

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26 Weeks after Pentecost Sunday , Proper 27

Time, Talents, and Treasure

We never know when a kind word, a helping hand, or a simple act of service will make a difference in someone's life. What seems small or ordinary to us may leave a lasting impression on someone else. Through our everyday actions, we have opportunities to share God's love in ways we may never fully realize.

At St. Stephen's, more happens at a Scout meeting, choir practice, or craft fair than tying knots, learning hymns, or selling handmade items. These gatherings bring people together as part of the community of Jesus Christ. Friendships grow, people find encouragement, and visitors discover a place where they are welcomed and valued.

As you prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year, think about all the ways your gifts can support and strengthen this ministry.

Your time can make a difference. Whether you help with an event, serve during worship, care for our grounds, or lend a hand behind the scenes, your presence helps St. Stephen's carry out God's work.

Your talents are gifts worth sharing. You may have skills in music, teaching, cooking, organizing, building, or simply listening. Whatever your abilities, there is a place for them in the life of our church.

Your treasure provides the financial support that keeps our ministries moving forward. Your giving helps maintain our church, support worship, and make possible the programs and outreach that serve our congregation and neighbors.

Together, our time, talents, and treasure accomplish more than any one gift alone. Their impact reaches beyond our buildings—to our families, our friends, our neighbors, and people we have yet to meet.

We have been blessed with a church community where we can grow in faith and share the grace of God and the love of Jesus Christ. Stewardship is our opportunity to give thanks for those blessings by helping extend them to others.

Please pick up your pledge card from your church mailbox. Additional pledge cards and red envelopes are available in the narthex of the Sanctuary and at the entrance to the Worship Center. Thank you for the many ways you support St. Stephen's!

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

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!



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!

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, November 14th.

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 remaining dead plants, weeding and trimming and thinning out the pots and pans in the kitchen. Also, planning future "work day" projects.

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!

Christmas Flower Dedications

Advent is sneaking up on us this year, so we're getting an early start on Christmas flower dedications!

If you would like to give Christmas flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, dedication forms are now available at the entrance to each worship service. This is a beautiful way to remember someone dear to you or celebrate someone who continues to bless your life.

There are also six more Sundays between now and Christmas. If you would like to dedicate flowers for one of those Sundays, the standard flower dedication forms will be available as well.

Thank you for helping make St. Stephen's beautiful as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ!



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!

11/08/26	**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**
11/16/26	**Vestry Meeting 6:00pm**
11/19/26	**Lunch Bunch @ Metro Diner 11:30am**
11/22/26	**Christ the King Sunday**
11/29/26	**1st Sunday in Advent**
12/6/26	**Advent Quiet Service 6:00pm**

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

November 1, 2026

Sanctuary	**9:00am**	**63**
Worship Center	**10:00am**	**68**
Total		**131**

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: Joshua 24:15

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

The flowers on the altar were given by Joyce Brock in thanksgiving for her special mother, Pearl Toth. "From childhood, my mother shared with me the teachings of the Bible and showed me what it means to live a Christian life. I thank God every day for the blessing of her love, faith, and guidance."

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 & family,** 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**, **The Oxner family**, 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,

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 9:00am in the Sanctuary 2nd Sunday Brunch Christmas Bazaar Meeting Youth Room 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 Veterans Day Office Closed 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 
15 9:00am in the Sanctuary 11:00am Worship Center	**16** 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	**17** 8am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	**18** 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 8pm Online Compline	**19** 8:00am Online Morning Prayer 10:30am Holy Eucharist 11:30am Book Study Sm Grp Rm 8pm Online Compline	**20** 8:00am Online Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSED 8pm Online Compline	**21** Office Closed 9:00am