

PASTOR'S e-NEWSLETTER

December 2022 Vol. 12 No. 12

Everglades Community Church, 101 S. Copeland Avenue

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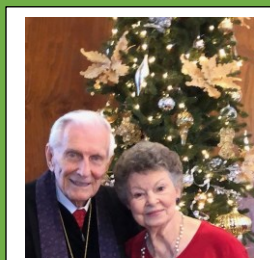
Website: evergladescommunity.church

Our 96th Year

"The friendly little church on the Circle in Everglades City"



2022



Pastor Bob & Millie

**THERE WILL BE NO
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
ON SATURDAY EVENING
THIS YEAR. WE WILL
CELEBRATE CHRIST'S
BIRTH ON CHRISTMAS
DAY AT OUR REGULAR
SUNDAY SERVICE
AT 11:00 A.M.**



EVERGLADES
COMMUNITY CHURCH
CHRISTMAS TREE
2022

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHURCH

2022

This was another year of difficulties due to COVID-19. We didn't have to close church, but we still had social distance seating the first part of this year. And we finally took our masks off! We stopped having Sunday lunch following Morning Worship until November 20th when we began them again. And I'm happy to report, we've held together as a church and as a family of believers. As of this Report, we are back to normal! Fellowship Lunches are popular once again, and we are looking forward to the coming new church year.

Someone asked how our stewardship has been holding up. I am pleased to inform you that our regular Sunday offerings have been strengthened by offerings being mailed directly to the church at: P.O. Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139; Stripe-On-line Giving through our website <http://evergladescommunity.church>, individuals participating in *Amazon Smile* and the Regular Offering plate each Sunday. Your continued regular support of this ministry is vital!

Our ministry by video through our website and direct email is strong. We are reaching a good many who no longer live in our community, are sick or shut-in, or away for the Season. This has proved to be a valuable asset to our outreach ministry.

Our Mission Program has not been affected. We are serving between 120-130 families each week through our Food Distribution Program. At Thanksgiving we distributed 150 frozen turkeys donated by the Miccosukee Indian Community. We have continued supporting our Baja Mission, Copeland Baptist Church, Shelter for Women, Holly's Hope, and Our Troops and Christmas Shoebox Ministry and local emergency needs.

Our church Fellowship Hall is being used by Everglades City Lions Club meetings and Chokoloskee Church of God for a Wednesday Bible Study and community meetings when needed.

I believe it would be accurate to say that the *Friendly Little Church on the Circle in Everglades City* is alive and well and looking forward to increasing its ministry in 2023.

Faithfully submitted,

The Reverend Dr. Bob N. Wallace
Pastor

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

evergladescommunity.church

SUNDAY LUNCHES BEGAN AGAIN NOVEMBER 20th



Please text or e-mail Millie at miwall@centurylink.net or call her (615)889-8560 with any news, information, sickness, hospitalizations, or prayer requests. She has no way of knowing unless you tell her. Her "crystal ball" doesn't always let her know all things!

ANNUAL MEETING OF OUR CHURCH SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

Immediately following the 11:00 Worship Service
Reports from all committees
Annual budget to be presented and voted
Nominating Committee Report

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 – Bill Baxter
4 – Frank Peabody
5 – Ed Tuten
11 – Bob Chipman
12 – Louise Rose
21 – Mimi Brackett
22 – Jackie Creveling
22 – Patty Huff
26 – Jeff Heflebower
28 – Gwen Baxter
29 – Glennis Murray
31 – Peggy Burkett



BEAUTIFUL RED PLANTS

are now seen along the church drive/walkway and they had a little higher pricetag. (New pots, new dirt, and new plants.) Any help you can provide to lower this expense would be appreciated. Mark your check *For Red Pots* and make payable to ECC. Thank you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2023 *EZEKIEL*

Some of you are going to ask, "Pastor, why are we studying Ezekiel?" Well, the prophets Daniel and Ezekiel were both prisoners of war and taken to Babylon. That's where there's a difference – Daniel was a celebrated Jewish scholar and master interpreter of dreams who was exiled to Babylon after the destruction of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. He lived in the King's palace. He successfully interpreted the proverbial "writing on the wall". He miraculously survived the lions' den. Ezekiel, however, lived in a refugee camp along a river. When he was 30 years old, he should have become a priest in Jerusalem. His early prophecies there were pronouncements of violence and destruction. Later, in Babylonian exile, he addressed the hopes of the Israelites return. The faith of Ezekiel in the ultimate establishment of a New Covenant between God and the people of Israel had great influence on the reconstruction and reorganization of Judaism after the Exile. Ezekiel received a word from the Lord causing him to do the most peculiar things. He hoped to get God's people to pay attention and turn back to God in repentance. For that reason, it is hoped that by this study God's people will begin to pay attention to what's going on in the world and begin to repent. You, and your friends, are invited to this study every Sunday morning in Jenkins Hall at 9:45 A.M.



SUPPORT ECC COMMUNITY CHURCH

During the months you are away, some of you may have a church "up North" which needs support. But please remember to help ECC. You can by *mailing your check* to:

**P.O. Box 177,
Everglades City, FL 34139**

or by clicking the [DONATE NOW](#) button on evergladescommunity.church

Just remember, YOU may be on vacation, but this church is not! Please help!

WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TO YOU?

- Christmas means different things to different people.
- For some, it's the promise that family will be together, around one table.
(Or multiple tables in the same room, and hopefully you're not still at the kids table.)
- For others, it is the promise of presents under a tree, and maybe that one special present you've been waiting for.
- Still for others, Christmas is the promise of the break and end to a very busy year.

While Christmas can mean many different things, Christmas is ultimately a promise. A promise God made a long time ago in a manger in Bethlehem. *"An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!"* (Luke 2:9-11)