

# PASTOR'S e-NEWSLETTER

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Everglades Community Church, 101 S. Copeland Avenue

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

Telephone (239) 784-7318 Text (615) 889-8560

Website: [evergladescommunity.church](http://evergladescommunity.church)

Our 97<sup>th</sup> Year

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



**1926-2023**



Pastor Bob and  
Millie

Pastor Bob & Millie



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

2-Chris Ammerman

19-Gary Kostens

27-Joe Stem

29-Michael DeJesus

## YOU CAN APPLY FOR A PART- TIME CHURCH OPPORTUNITY

Treasurer

Secretary

Finance Committee

Deacon

Greeters at the door

Memorial Garden

**AS I SEE IT** . . . Almost every church has an "All Are Welcome" sign out front. Ours does. But, does anybody take it seriously. Think about it. If you didn't go to church, would you take that as much of an invitation? Next time you drive by a church, ask yourself "What would it take to convince me that I can walk in, uninvited, and participate in what they're doing?" Unchurched people may think about walking into a church the way you might think about walking into a wedding to which you weren't invited. It would be uncomfortable, to say the least. About the only way non-Christians, or the un-churched, will show up at a church is by being given a *personal invitation*. Regardless of what a sign might say out front, the real welcome comes from church members. And that's where we are as a church right now. Our Sunday attendance has never been lower. Our offerings have never been lower. Our enthusiasm has never been lower. Why? We are losing people because they are dying, moving away, or have just stopped coming and giving to the church. This isn't good for the church. And it isn't good for the individual church member. Looking ahead to next Season, we have fewer people in leadership roles right now than we ever have. And will have even fewer by this Fall. It's wonderful when our Seasonal folks return for four to six months. They are tremendous help! *However, our church is a twelve-month church!* What can we do? What **MUST** we do to change this? We need folks who are *year-rounders* willing to *step up to the plate*, right now, and say, "Here I am! You can count on me to assume a leadership role. I don't care what it is. I can be trained." Our Nominating Committee will soon be tasked with filling a lot of vacant places in our church for the coming year. We need to hear from everyone who will help us take this church *forward*. All you have to do is let me know by phone (239) 784-7318, or text the same number or email [revbobwallace@centurylink.net](mailto:revbobwallace@centurylink.net) where you are willing to serve. Or you can let some of our leaders know: Virginia Kanning, (954) 684-2997, Connie Barker, (419) 350-6650, or Millie Wallace, (615) 889-8560. They will be more than happy to take your name and identify your interest and see that you have a place in our church activities. I remember the recruiting posters we used to see during World War 2 with a servicemember pointing a finger saying, "Your Country Needs YOU!" I'm writing this and letting you know, "**Your Church Needs YOU!**" The only way for us to go *is upwards and onward* – **TOGETHER!**

*Pastor Bob +*

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## THE ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN EVERGLADES CITY

This year's celebration took place on Saturday, July 1st. The schedule of events was: 10:00 am: Opening Ceremony. Invocation was by Pastor Bob; 10:30 am: "Hats off to America" Parade. 11:00: Art and vendor booths were open at McLeod Park for Art-in-the-Park. 11:30: Parade winners were announced. Contests for the kids; 12:30 pm. Raffle winners were announced. 9:00 pm: Amazing fireworks! Everyone was invited to attend all of the events. In addition to the amazing fireworks that evening, the day was filled with fun things to do for the entire family.

Free Hot dogs and refreshments were available.