

# PASTOR'S e-NEWSLETTER

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Everglades Community Church, 101 S. Copeland Avenue

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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



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 6 – Peggy Sue Hall
- 16 – Betty Heansler
- 19 – Connie Butler
- 25 – Helen Bryan
- 29 – Millie Wallace
- 31 – Diane Hershberger

## PASSAGES

LENA RESHA

DARREL HICKS

ED TUTEN

*AS I SEE IT . . . Summer doldrums.* Ever heard of it? In the early-19th century the word was reserved for a feeling of despondency. It came to be applied to certain tropical regions of the ocean marked by the absence of strong winds. The *doldrums*, is near the Equator and marked by the absence of strong winds. Sailing vessels dependent on wind propulsion struggle to make headway in these regions. It makes a long, arduous journey. The *doldrums* experienced by sailors are of a different variety than *doldrums* which may be experienced by individuals or churches. Especially in the Summer! This is the first time in 80 years that church membership in the U.S. has dropped below 50%. Statistics show each generation is becoming less religious than the previous one. Society is becoming more secularized. Traditional Christianity is having a smaller cultural impact. Religious organizations are quickly losing social authority. Organized Christianity is definitely in decline! Many Americans say they believe in God. But growing numbers have lost all interest in organized religion. Two years ago, a 2021 Gallup poll found that membership in religious organizations in the United States had tumbled to just 47%, down from 50% in 2018 and 70% in 1999. This is the lowest percentage of church membership reported since first asking the question more than 80 years ago. The drop in church membership compares with the upsurge in “*nones*,” those religiously unaffiliated people who make up 20 to 25 percent of U.S. adults. Although, some believe in a “higher power” or seek “spirituality,” there are those who are simply agnostic or atheist. Talk about *doldrums*! People who say they attend religious services at least once or twice a month has dropped by 7% over the last decade. Although many people are exiting any form of Christianity today, it’s important to understand that Jesus Christ said He would build His Church. And it would prevail! (Matthew 16:18) In the largest study ever conducted about Americans’ religious involvement, researchers at San Diego State University found in 2021, that millennials (those born from 1981–1997, ages 24-40) are the *least religious* generation of the last six decades, and possibly in the nation’s history. So, Everglades Community Church, our work is cut out for us! We are being challenged. This church needs you to be faithful in your attendance and gifts so we can head off this decline that’s happening in our community. It is affecting us! Yes, we are in the *doldrums*. But we don’t have to stay there. Be faithful in your weekly attendance. Be faithful in your giving. We are having far too many empty pews. We used to fill them. Let’s fill them up again! And if you can’t be here, please put your offerings in the mail, or use **stripe** and make your regular offerings to the church. God’s blessings on all of you! *Pastor Bob*

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

**stripe**

You can support ECC by placing your offering in the Offering Plate when it is passed on Sunday morning. You can send your offering by mailing it to our post office box listed above. Or you can go to our website, click on the *Menu* on the Home Page, and then click on *Giving* which will take you to our *Donation Page*. Click on *Donate Now*. Then type your name, select what your offering is designated for, the amount, your credit card info and click *Donate Now*! It’s simple and easy. **stripe** is our online payment processing company we use to make it easier for you to support the church when you are away. Try it!