

Pastor's e-Newsletter

January 2024, Vol. 14 No.1

Everglades Community Church, 101 South Copeland Avenue

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OUR 97th YEAR

"The friendly little church on the circle in Everglades City, Florida"



Pastor Bob+ & Millie

What a wonderful surprise you had for us Sunday Morning December 24th at the 11:00 am Worship Service. Connie Barker presented for the church to us, four generous gift cards to several area restaurants. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated, especially by Millie. She won't have to cook for quite a while! Seriously, "Thank You" from the bottom of our hearts. We are so blessed to be your Pastor, and Pastor's Wife, for all these wonderful years. May all of you have a Blessed New Year. *Pastor Bob+ & Millie*

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PULLED PORK DINNER
Friday, January 26th
5 – 7 PM



EAT IN or TAKE OUT
\$15 for adults
\$5 for a child under 10 yrs.
Tickets on sale now,
or available for
purchase at the door.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
BEGINNING JANUARY 7th
9:45 every Sunday morning in
Jinkins Hall

The Book of Daniel is a fascinating and instructive book that has all the makings of a remarkable story—memorable characters, cliff-hanger drama, and science-fiction-like visions. It tells the story of Daniel, a Jewish exile in Babylon, and his three friends, who were tested by their faith in God and their loyalty to their own people. The book deals with the rise and fall of various world empires and is seen through the lens of God's sovereign control of things. It consequently serves a pastoral purpose to encourage the Jewish people during a critical time in their history. The main purpose of the book is to reveal to us who God is to the world—His character, His purposes, His way of working in or the good of his people. Plan to be part of this 12-week study of the Book of Daniel.

Thank you for your financial support. Remember, when you are away you can still support your church by MAIL to our address above, or by using the DONATE button on our website. It's easy to designate where your gift goes.

2023 ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The annual church business meeting was held immediately following the morning worship service December 10th. The Treasurer's Report and Pastor's Annual Report were approved and the budget for 2024 was approved. Reports from the Committees were accepted. Nominations of the committees who will lead the church in 2024 were approved and should meet before January 14th to elect chairpersons. If there is an area of service you would be interested in serving, please contact Millie Wallace (615) 559-8560. There's a job for everyone, and if everyone has a job, our church is alive and witnessing for our Lord, Jesus Christ.

MEMORIAL GARDEN RENOVATION

Plans are being made for a complete renewal of the plantings on our church campus. Thanks to Ginger May, these arrangements have been made through Marcus May, Ginger's brother, and Branch Manager for 30 years with BrightView, the nation's leading commercial landscape company, and George Ledesma, Enhancement Manger who has been in the industry 25 years. The project will begin January 2024. This is a complimentary project with all labor, plantings and materials being donated to our church.

SEAFOOD FESTIVAL February 2,3,4 2024

It's not too early to start making plans to be a part of this event. We will need help in our **Cookie Booth** Fri., Sat., and Sun. We will need help utilizing our church campus for **Handicap Parking** all the hours for all the days. This is the time to put it on your calendar and get ready to put your name on a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or see Cecil Barker.

BECKY TUTEN (Ed) passed Dec. 18th. Her memorial service was in Immokalee Dec. 28th.

JOHN TROTSKY (Ruth) passed Dec. 18th. His remains were taken to Michigan. Memorial service plans pending. Ruth is remaining in Naples.



LORI KAY SIMMS born January 29, 1963, passed away November 14, 2023. Lori Loved the Everglade Seafood festival where she soon became a member of The Everglades Community Church known as the Little Church on the Circle.

She was born in Saginaw Michigan to Donna Jean Crandall and Donald J Peters. Lori often told stories of being a tomboy in her early days and could keep up with her older siblings that she loved dearly. In order are Lynn Mathews, Candice Larkin, Barbara Decaire and Donald Peters Jr.

Lori's children Rachel Bennett and Joshua Lentz have produced precious grandchildren: Braden, Rylee, and Rafael. Later blessings include Marquis Pease, Allyson Tays and grandchildren Brayson, Maddox, and Ledger.

She is survived by her loving husband Mark Simms and former spouse Rodney Lentz.

Lori was an avid dog lover and parent to a Jack Russell Terrier and a Cavachon she adored so much she couldn't leave him home alone or in a doggy daycare.

Lori loved to provide care for those she knew, leading her into the health care industry for many years. She worked private duty nursing which kept her on a 24-day work schedule, never turning down a patient's call for health care. Lori will always be remembered for her precious smile that she shared with anyone she met. That smile is missed dearly and will never be forgotten.

A Memorial Service in her honor will be held at Everglades Community Church, January 7th at 1 PM.



Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

was well attended. Christmas carols were sung and the Bible story of the birth of Jesus was read by Louise Rose. Mitch Peters sang, *O, Holy Night* and the Pastor told the story of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow writing *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*. Dr. and Mrs. Barnard portrayed Joseph and Mary by taking the Baby Jesus and placing Him in the Manger in front of the church.