

# PASTOR'S e-NEWSLETTER

March 2024 Vol. 14 No. 3

Everglades Community Church, 101 S. Copeland Avenue

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

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

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

Our 98<sup>th</sup> Year

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



## 1926-2024



Pastor Bob & Millie

*AS I SEE IT* . . . Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> was a special day at ECC. It was *Pastor Appreciation Day*, and boy do Millie and I feel appreciated! Thank you for your generous monetary gift. And enough can't be said for the beautiful luncheon after church. Fried chicken and a wonderful chocolate cake with strawberry filling and yummy white icing! It has been wonderful celebrating the last 18 years of my ministry as your Pastor. And I look forward to beginning my 19<sup>th</sup> year on March 6<sup>th</sup>. What a wonderful day it will be in 2026 when we celebrate my 20<sup>th</sup> year as Pastor of this wonderful *Friendly Little Church on the Circle in Everglades City, Florida*. Millie and I feel so blessed to be a part of your lives in this family of God.

*AND* our Missions Committee is once again asking for your support for the wonderful Christ-centered mission in Baja. We were led to this mission project by Mike and Wanda Collins which has been a blessing both for them, and for us. We have helped provide a lot of needed projects over the years. Please help us this year to provide this on-going and worthwhile ministry. Use the offering envelopes provided and place one in the offering plate. *Pastor Bob +*

## The Oasis After School Program

Oasis is an educational after-school program for kids in Vicente Guerrero, Baja California Mexico that began in August 2011. They provide a safe place for kids after classes to receive help with their homework, learn about the Bible, eat a hot meal, have an English class, and enjoy free time to play. They encourage kids to excel in school and they equip them with the resources to succeed. There are three locations in the Valley with 250 students ages 6-18 enrolled in the program. There is a growing wait list. The program is co-sponsored by various families and churches in the U.S., local Mexican businesses and the U.S. non-profit organization Oasis in Baja Inc. Everglades Community Church has been helping with this continuing project of providing needs, feeding the children, and helping them with their studies and counseling. We were blessed to have Monte Collins, Mike, and Wanda's son, come to our church last year and give us an update on the efforts being made to continue with the missions at Oasis. Our church has been blessed to have the Collins family give us the opportunity to be a small part of this mission over the years. And as we have been blessed, we pass our blessing on to Oasis to be put into action with our gifts. Our Missions Committee is again leading the effort to continue this wonderful program. Special Offering Envelopes are being placed in the Bulletin for your use.



# EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 2024

Revised 2-11-2024

## ELDERS

GB Barnard 386-956-3455  
Kathy Barnard 389-785-3469  
Nick Creveling 616-696-2597  
Jeff Heflebower VC 410-829-2181  
Steve Lee- C 734-516-5443  
Mark Simms 239-289-3405  
Ken Turner 706-835-6172  
Sue Turner 706-835-6172

## TRUSTEES

Cecil Barker - C 419-350-7117  
Nick Creveling 616-696-2597  
Jeff Heflebower 410-829-2181  
Steve Lee - VC 734-516-5443  
Frank Peabody 239-695-2422  
John Whitcomb 239-777-2002  
Elaine Middelstaedt 305-962-8136  
Treasurer

## DEACONS

Connie Barker - C 419-350-6650  
Gwen Baxter 231-883-8587  
Stevie Burke 239-695-3205  
Donna Kostens 239-223-9424  
Sharie Lee 231-563-3003  
Ginger May - VC 678-818-9250  
Sue Turner 706-835-6172  
Kevin Bell - VC 239-404-4868

## MISSIONS / CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Connie Barker - VC 419-350-6650  
Kathy Barnard - C 386-785-3469  
GB Barnard 386-956-3455  
Mike Collins 812-746-7264  
Wanda Collins 812-858-5261  
Jackie Creveling 616-696-2597  
Nick Creveling 616-696-2597  
Sherry Geiger 239-398-0371  
Jeff Heflebower 410-829-2181  
Sally Heflebower 410-829-2181  
Millie Wallace 615-889-8560

## MEMORIAL GARDEN/GROUNDS

Cecil Barker 419-350-7117  
Kathy Barnard - VC 386-785-3469  
Stevie Burke - C 239-695-3205  
Debbie Moshier 954-520-8297  
Tim Moshier 954-520-5429

## FINANCE

GB Barnard - VC 386-956-3455  
Jeff Heflebower 410-829-2181  
Steve Lee 734-516-5443  
John Whitcomb - C 239-777-2002  
Elaine Middlestadt 305-962-8136  
Treasurer

## COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA

Doug Rossman 239 544-2242  
Cecil Barker 419-350-7117  
Patty Huff 239-719-0020  
Steve Lee- C 734-516-5443  
Sharie Lee 231-563-3003  
Mark Simms 239-289-3405  
Millie Wallace VC 615-889-8560

## MEMORIAL / CORRESPONDENCE

Stevie Burke C 239-588-0272  
Millie Wallace VC 615-889-8560

## HISTORICAL

Gwen Baxter 231-883-8587  
Sherry Geiger - VC 239-398-0371  
Joyce Hatton - C 317-446-5312  
Patty Huff 239-719-0020  
Wilma Peabody 239-695-2422

## MUSIC

Pastor Bob Wallace 239 784-7318

## PRE-SERVICE Co-coordinator

Pastor Bob Wallace 239- 784-7318

## ALTAR FLOWERS / SANCTUARY DECORATION

Stevie Burke C 239-588-0272  
Sally Heflebower VC 410-829-2181

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY / FELLOWSHIP

Connie Barker 419-350-6650  
Stevie Burke 239-588-0272  
Cornie Jacquier VC 413-530-3112  
Sharie Lee 231-563-3003  
Wilma Peabody 239-695-2422  
Sue Reid - C 239-249-4554

## SECRETARY

Millie Wallace - C 615-889-8560  
Connie Barker - VC 419-350-6650

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Sherry Geiger - C 239-398-0371  
GB Barnard 386-956-3455  
Kathy Barnard - VC 386-785-3469  
Jimmy Reid 239-249-4554

## NOMINATING COMM.

Connie Barker VC 419-350-6650  
Millie Wallace C 615-889-8560

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Jeff Heflebower 410-829-2181

All Church Women

## TREASURER

Elaine Middelstaedt 305-962-8136

**PASTOR BOB IS A MEMBER  
OF ALL COMMITTEES.**

C = Chairperson

VC = Vice-Chairperson



**CHARLES "Bub" McDONALD**

Bub passed away at age 96 in West Virginia. A memorial service was held for him there February 16<sup>th</sup>. You may remember him playing the mandolin with the group in our church Sunday mornings. His wife, Jeffie, will be moving to be near her three children in Northeast Florida.



**Andy and Katreen Gray**, whose wedding Pastor Bob conducted in this church 10 years ago, chose to return from England so Pastor Bob could perform a ceremony for the renewal of their marriage vows Sunday Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. The Pastor asked those married in the congregation to stand and hold hands to renew their vows, as well. A luncheon in the Gray's honor followed with a wedding cake.

**EASTER SCHEDULE**

***PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>***

Adult Sunday School 9:45 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship – 11 A.M.  
Lunch following church

***EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>***

Sunday Morning Worship – 11 A.M.  
There will be no Sunrise Service here.  
No lunch following church

**GIVING WHEN YOU'RE AWAY**

It's now possible to support your church when you are not with us. We have made it possible for you to send your gifts by using our website. Go to our website, click on Donate Now and follow the instructions. You can use our mailing address above to mail your contribution. We have a very active program in several areas of our church life, and we need your regular support to achieve our goals.

***BAR B-QUE CHICKEN DINNER***

***MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>***

***5 to 7 P.M.***

***Everglades Community Church  
Fellowship Hall***

We're fixin' a mouthwatering meal that combines smoky, tangy, and downright delicious flavors right here at Everglades Community Church! Our BBQ Chicken Dinner is a culinary masterpiece that'll please your taste buds and comfort your heart.

***Our BBQ Chicken Dinner:***

Tender, juicy chicken marinated to perfection to make certain every bite is an explosion of flavor.

***BBQ Sauce:***

Our sauce strikes the ideal balance between sweet, savory, and smoky. It clings to the chicken, creating a heavenly glaze.

***Grilled to Perfection:***

Chef Cecil grills the chicken just right—barely charred edges, juicy, tender, and with that irresistible grill mark.

***Sides That Delight:***

Creamy Coleslaw, a refreshing contrast to the chicken's richness.  
Baked Beans, hearty, with a hint of sweetness, and a Dessert.  
Iced tea and hot coffee.

***Family-Style Fun:***

Gather your loved ones around our table. This dinner is meant for sharing laughter, stories, and good fellowship!

***Takeouts available.***

Tickets \$15 per person on sale now

***KEEP IT CLEAN***

This a new endeavor by the Missions Committee to supplement our Food Distribution Program by providing additional personal care items and cleaning supplies. Two grocery carts have been placed in the hallway to receive your contributions. Above them is a list of items you are encouraged to bring from home, or purchase on your next trip to the store. Examples of what we need: bar soap, shampoo, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste. By providing items such as these we are helping create a healthier and more pleasant environment for ourselves and others. Your donations are appreciated.

**WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LENT?**

Lent is a 40-day season in the Christian calendar, observed by various denominations. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. Lent is a period of preparation leading up to Easter, celebrating the Lord's Resurrection. It's a time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The 40 days symbolize Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness. The Practices of Lent are Prayer - devoting yourself to seeking the Lord through prayer and reading Scripture. Fasting - abstaining from luxuries and practice self-control. Almsgiving - sharing God's gifts through acts of charity and service. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. Remember, Lent invites you to wait, reflect, and prepare your heart for the miracle of Christ's resurrection. The color for the altar paraments during Lent is Purple.

***LET'S FILL THE CHURCH BY EASTER***

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.evergladescommunity.church](http://www.evergladescommunity.church)**

**to see and hear the Pastor preaching the sermon. You can also, read the sermon there. Or you can go directly to the YouTube link provided to those on the Sermon email list. Request to be included on the sermon list by emailing Millie at [miwall@centurylink.net](mailto:miwall@centurylink.net)**