

PASTOR'S e-NEWSLETTER

April 2024 Vol. 14 No. 4

Everglades Community Church, 101 S. Copeland Avenue

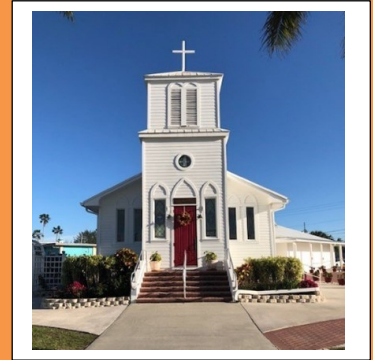
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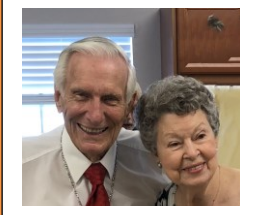
Website: evergladescommunity.church

Our 98th Year

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



1926-2023



Pastor Bob and Millie



AS I SEE IT: I'm having a birthday Wednesday, April 3rd. The congregation sang "Happy Birthday" to me last Sunday morning, March 31st. It's a wonderful thing to celebrate one's birthday. Birthdays are a joyful celebration of the day you entered this world. Birthdays mark the anniversary of your birth. It's a time to reflect on the journey you've taken. The lessons you've learned. And the memories you have created. Birthdays bring people together. Friends, family, and loved ones gather to honor you, share laughter, and create new memories. It's a chance to strengthen bonds, express love, and show appreciation for one another. Birthday wishes are whispered, or written on birthday cards which carry hope, dreams, and blessings for you for the year ahead. You blow out candles on your cake and secretly make a wish which is a tradition that links the ordinary and the magical. Birthdays mark your passage through time. Each birthday adds a chapter to your life story. Milestone birthdays like 16 (driver license), 18 (register for the military), 25 (get married), 65 (retire). All hold special significance—a blend of nostalgia, anticipation, and reflection. Birthdays carry a whisper of the future—a promise of more adventures, love, and growth. So, next time your birthday arrives, embrace it fully. Celebrate your gift of life. Cherish the people around you. And make a wish—it might just come true! Birthdays are a beautiful blend of tradition, sentiment, and joy. Whether you're young or old, they remind you that life is a precious gift. Guard it carefully. It's yours to celebrate. Pastor Bob+

DID YOU KNOW EASTER DOESN'T END AFTER EASTER?

Easter is even more significant than Christmas which celebrates Christ's birth, because Easter celebrates Christ's Resurrection! The Easter season stretches from Easter Sunday, which was the last Sunday in March this year, to Pentecost Sunday May 19th. Every day is now in the season of Easter and is so important it's treated as a continuation of Easter Sunday itself. During these seven full weeks, you should focus fully on the new life brought by Christ's resurrection. But how many days are between Easter and Pentecost? If Pentecost Sunday is the seventh Sunday after Easter Sunday, shouldn't that mean that the Easter season is only 49 days long. 7 X 7. But you must count both Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday in the 50 days of the Easter season. So, even after Easter Sunday has passed, you're to keep on celebrating and wishing your friends a "Happy Easter." Christ has destroyed death. So, what reminds you of Easter in our Sanctuary, our *safe place*? The empty cross over the altar! But we also have the tall white Paschal Candle to remind you of Easter. The word *Paschal* refers to anything associated with the Christian holiday of Easter. In another sense, Paschal is connected to the Jewish holiday of Passover and can describe everything related to the Passover celebration. So, "Paschal" encompasses both the celebration of Easter in Christianity and the historical significance of Passover in Judaism. And white is the color of the Easter Season. So, when you see white paraments on the Altar, Pulpit, and Lectern during Easter, remember the purity, resurrection, and the promise of everlasting life. Have a Happy Easter!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.evergladescommunity.church

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



3 - Pastor Bob
9 - G.B. Barnard
14 - Jim Reid
15 - Dana Rice
16 - Susan Reid
17 - Cornelia Jacquier
21 - Denise Hicks

Scan this QR Code with your cellphone QR Reader and it will take you quickly to our church website. See the sermon videos and other church news. Try it! You'll like it!



THE FOUR AREAS OF OUR MISSION

The Mission Committee's focus for this budget season will be divided into an all-inclusive approach covering the following four areas :

- 1-International- Baja Missions and Shoebox mission
- 2-National- Our Troops
- 3-Local - Local Drug rehab programs and other community needs to be considered as requested.
- 4-A Missions discretionary fund will be included and available for unbudgeted items as well.

Special collection dates:

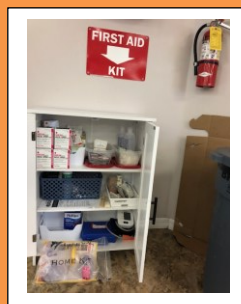
January- Rehab programs
February- Troops
March- Baja Missions
July- Abused Women and Children
October/ November- Shoebox
Kathy Barnard, Chairperson

KEEPING IT CLEAN

This is 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 AN AED

An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is a sophisticated yet easy-to-use medical device designed to assist individuals experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. We have signs showing the way to ours in Fellowship Hall.



Our First Aid Kit

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mission Statement: To advance healthier lives and a safe environment. Education is the key.

Committee Members: G.B. Barnard, retired pediatrician; Kathy Barnard, retired RN with multiple areas of practice; Sherry Geiger, Chairperson, Nurse Practitioner, especially anesthesia.

Focus: [1] Monthly check and documentation for AED (Automated External Defibrillator), fire extinguishers, and First Aid cabinet; [2] Annual check in October by Collier Medical services for AED; [3] Annual check in October by ABC Fire Extinguisher; [4] First Aid Cabinet: documented list of all items available in folder, plus what questions that need to be asked prior to dispensing those items: example, "Are you allergic to anything?"; [5] Potential Training for: a) CPR and AED, b) How to operate the fire extinguisher, c) Potential safety issues inside of church/home, d) Educate about items in first aid cabinet and how to use them. e) Administration of nasal Narcan spray – how to assess the response at a victim. f) Crime prevention. g) Crowd control. h) *Lifevac* demonstration. Collier County has many active organizations that will provide educational information: example, Greater Naples Fire Department, Step Smart Collier, and Collier County Sheriff. We are now investigating two others adds to the First Aid cabinet: 1) Fire blanket. 2) New updated tourniquet. Any suggestions. Please let us know. Potential to include the entire community, not just members of ECC.