

# ***PASTOR'S e-NEWSLETTER***

***March 2025 Vol. 15 No. 3***

**Everglades Community Church, 101 S. Copeland Avenue**

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

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

**Our 99<sup>th</sup> Year**

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



**1926-2025**



Pastor Bob & Millie



## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 - Richard Kearney
- 3 - Barbara Kearney
- 4 - Elaine Middelstaedt
- 11 - Ray Galbraith
- 11 - Sally Heflebower
- 12 - Kent Johnson

**AS I SEE IT . . .** This month marks the beginning of my 19<sup>th</sup> year as Pastor of Everglades Community Church. I accepted your Call and became your Pastor Sunday, March 19, 2006. What a day that was! We have been through a lot over those years, and I have truly appreciated your prayers and support through it all. And Sunday February 23 you honored Millie and me by celebrating Pastor Appreciation Day. This is a special day churches set aside to recognize and honor the contributions and service of pastors, priests, reverends, ministers, and all other clergy members. The tradition can be traced back to St. Paul, who advised early Christian congregations to give "double honor" to the elders of the church who managed its affairs well, especially those whose work involved preaching and teaching. (1 Timothy 5:17) Pastor Appreciation Day provides an opportunity for congregations to show their gratitude and appreciation for the hard work, dedication, and spiritual guidance provided by their pastors. And you really did, with Connie Barker presenting a beautiful bouquet to Millie, and a very generous check presented to me. Following the morning worship a wonderful fried chicken lunch was served with mashed potatoes and green beans followed by a delicious chocolate cake! Thank you for everything! *Pastor Bob +*



Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sunday, March 9, 2025**. At 2:00 AM, the clocks will "spring forward" to 3:00 AM, meaning you'll lose an hour of sleep. Don't be late for church at 11:00. AM.

### **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

Plans are underway to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the founding of Everglades Community Church in 1926. The Historical Committee chaired by Joyce Hatton, vice-chair Sherry Geiger, and members Gwen Baxter, Patty Huff and Wilma Peabody has met and plans are being made for this event. Files are being located and researched. Some pictures and files were lost or damaged from the hurricanes and flood waters over the years, but several years ago David Gates obtained many pictures from many folks and loaded them onto a USB thumb drive. There are copies of past celebrations still around in various places. If you have pictures or letters, or whatever, you think would be helpful to the committee, please contact Joyce Hatton at (317)-446-5312 and make arrangements for her to review what you have.

**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)**

**2025 SEAFOOD FESTIVAL REPORT  
HANDICAPPED PARKING**



**\$3,631.00**

**COOKIE BOOTH**



**\$1,260.00**

**2025 EASTER SCHEDULE**

***PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>***

Adult Sunday School 9:45 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship – 11 A.M.

Lunch following church

***EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>***

Sunday Morning Worship – 11 A.M.

There will be no Sunrise Service here.

No lunch following church

**MISSIONS WE SUPPORT  
2025**

- Abused Women and Children
- Baja, Mexico Mission After School Program
- Holly's Hope, local Drug Rehabilitation
- Samaritan's Purse Shoebox and Disaster Relief
- Community Thanksgiving turkeys
- Community Christmas Baskets
- Community Toy Drive
- Youth Activities at McLeod

**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, [www.evergladescommunity.church](http://www.evergladescommunity.church) 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 14<sup>th</sup>***

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

***Adults \$15 Children \$10***

***Everglades Community Church Jinkins 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.***

Including a church in your will is a great way to make a lasting impact on a cause that's important to you. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to do it:

1. **Consult with an Attorney.** It's always wise to work with an estate planning attorney to ensure your will is legally valid and that your wishes will be carried out as you intend. They can help you navigate the legal language and requirements in your area.
2. **Decide on the Gift.** Determine what kind of gift you want to leave to the church. Common types include:
  - Monetary donation:** A specific amount of money or a percentage of your estate.
  - Property or assets:** This could include real estate, stocks, or personal property.
  - Designated funds:** You can specify that the church use the gift for a particular purpose, such as a building fund, mission work, or general ministry.
3. **Include Specific Language in Your Will.** In your will, include a section that explicitly mentions the church, the amount or property you wish to leave, and any stipulations about how the gift should be used. Here's an example of how that could be phrased:  
"I give and bequeath [specific dollar amount or description of property] to [Full Name of the Church], located at [address of the church], to be used for [specific purpose, if any]."
4. **Ensure the Church Can Accept the Gift.** Some churches may have policies regarding how they accept gifts through wills. It's a good idea to contact the church in advance and discuss your plans. They may need certain legal or tax documentation to properly receive and manage your gift.
5. **Tax Considerations.** In many countries, charitable gifts (like donations to a church) are tax-deductible, which can reduce the overall estate taxes your estate may owe. It's helpful to discuss this with your attorney or a tax advisor to make sure you're maximizing any available tax benefits.
6. **Review and Update Your Will Regularly**  
If your circumstances change (for example, you acquire new assets or the church's needs change), make sure to update your will accordingly.

Leaving a gift to a church in your will is a meaningful way to support its mission and legacy.