

The Summer Messenger

Everglades Community Church, Everglades City, FL
July 2007

THE SUMMER MESSENGER is going to reach many of you at your Summer locations since you have left our area. Please know that we do miss you each Sunday. It just does not seem right with so many empty seats. Please keep ECC in your thoughts and prayers through the summer months and pray for no hurricanes. And by all means, hurry back soon!



ADOPT A CHAPLAIN PROGRAM GOING STRONG. ECC entered the Adopt-A-Chaplain program a little over three months ago. We were assigned Army Chaplain Erik Spicer who is presently in Iraq. To date we have mailed over 50 boxes of food, treats and clothing items to him to distribute among his unit. He has informed Chris Ammerman, our Missions Chairman, how much this has meant to him and his soldiers. If you would like to help, our greatest need is affording the postage. Please send a check marked "Adopt-A-Chaplain postage" to the church, or place it in the offering plate. You can also obtain a list of items to put in the boxes by contacting Chris Ammerman, church office or on the table in the fellowship hall.



Our second monthly mission is Lighthouse of Hope Ministries. Barry and Ruth Johnson are on mission in Africa and OUR mission is to help them in the best way we can. (Barry and Ruth's son John lives here in Chokoloskee and works as a park ranger.) First we will ask you to keep them and their efforts in your prayers, but that is the easy part. The second part is to support them financially to allow them to continue to reach the unreachable. The Johnson's have given up their home and personal possessions and gone to Africa to live among the people there who have never heard the Good News of our Jesus. They are quite often in the position of walking into a village where they are not really welcomed and being in grave danger. God's Blessings have been with them and just by their loving, caring nature they have won over many souls for Christ. You can read about their journeys at www.lighthouse-of-hope.org.

This year we are also highlighting a different mission each month. Last month we helped Cup & Cross ministries which as many of you will remember is the mission of Kathryn and Dony Donev. Kathryn is the daughter of Don and Judy Barton in Everglades City. This young couple has also put their lives on hold and are in Bulgaria at this time working with the local people there. They are spreading God's word as they go, helping to establish churches and teaching new Christians how to teach the others when they are gone to another group. They spend countless hours holding revivals and praying with the new Christians. They also need our prayers and financial support.

During the month of June we are raising up the Shelter for Abused Women and Children here in Collier County. If you have never had anyone in your family that has used or needed to use this wonderful organization you are truly blessed. This is a very needed service and has saved many endangered women and children. As with all worthy missions they CAN NOT happen without YOUR support.

Our missions team is asking you to search your hearts and donate the price of one dinner out this month. Pick the mission that touches your heart or just put missions on your check. We can not all go into the mission field personally but we CAN all help those who can. God has so blessed us that we forget there is another world out there that does not enjoy even the smallest comfort we have. We can at least put their souls in the right place. May the Lord continue to bless you and yours.

IN MEMORIAM. We have had an unusual number of deaths in Everglades area recently. The most recent are KIM LAMP, DELORES GRIMES, LOUIS DANIELS, CLIFF GOFF, ELEANOR McMILLIN, GEORGIA BROWN, ASA OGLESBY, and MIRIAM SIEDENSTUCKER. May God bless their families.



THE FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN EVERGLADES CITY is one of the best! This year it will be on Sunday, July 1 starting with the Opening Ceremony at 1:00. The Parade "Celebrating Our History" will be at 2:00. There will be food and cold drinks, music and games, raffle and arts and crafts sale. The Lion's club invites everyone to eat Sunday lunch, in the Park with them. They will start serving hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. at 12:30 pm. Also, Reach Out Everglades will be serving their wonderful "Chocolate Key lime pies on a stick" for the most wonderful dessert you'll ever put in your mouth!! Come join the fun and excitement. Huge fireworks display begins at 9:00 p.m.

HISTORICAL DESIGNATION. A resolution is being prepared to designate Everglades Community Church as a Historical Site in the city of Everglades City. Also the application process is being started to have the church classified as a Florida Historical Site. This application form is quite extensive and we are starting this process this summer.

ALTAR FLOWERS. We need people to sign up for Altar Flowers during the summer months. If you would like to have the flowers on the altar, please sign up on the Flower Chart outside the church office, or drop a note to Virginia Kanning at the church address and enclose a check or money order for \$30 and let her know who the flowers are to be given for.

LADIES AUXILIARY. The ladies are working toward painting and cleaning up the fellowship hall and purchasing new kitchen appliances to meet our current needs. The trustees have volunteered to help the ladies in this big summer time project.



STAINED GLASS WINDOWS. The first 6 stained glass windows were installed and dedicated in January. The next 4 stained glass windows are currently being created by the artist, Chris Schnalzer, and expected to be completed in August. The 4 plate glass protective windows have been installed and await the soon-to-be completed stained glass windows. These 4 windows will represent the 4 apostles, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and will be just as magnificent as the first 6 windows are.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUATE. Kate Slaybaugh, who sings in our church choir and helps maintain our church building during the week graduated from Everglades High School Friday, May 25th. Kate was Class Valedictorian giving the Valedictorian address. She was also 2007 Senior Class Secretary. Kate received the DeVoe auto dealership full four-year scholarship to Gulf Coast University and FGCU Valedictorian Scholarship and Better Men's Association Scholarship.



Congratulations, Kate!

BLESSINGS. Returning service people, such as Daniel Wilder just came home for a year's rotation. If you have blessings to share, please let us know.



OUR CURRENT PRAYER LIST starts with all of our military as they proudly serve and protect 'One Nation Under God'. Our current additions include: Elaine Middelstaedt & Ed Dalzell, Travis Goff, Dewey Sheets, Gus Gustafson, Patty Cushing, Louis Drudi, Arlene

Daniels, Joanne Hawkins, Louis Ciancio, Carol Schlimgen, Jackie Roehm, Jo Ludford, and Steve Bianchi.



MITCH PETERS RETURNS AS OUR PIANIST FOR THE SUMMER. We look forward to having Mitch and his music with us again this summer.

Welcome back, Mitch.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS has been put on hold for the summer to give us all a break, especially Pastor Bob. He does a great job and you really miss a learning experience if you do not attend. Please join us in September.

BIRTHDAYS for summer months listed on our Birthday chart:

July 1 – Chris Hubert

August 8 – Betty Holbert

July 2 – Chris Ammerman

August 15 – Myrna Baier

July 8 – Bev Hartman

August 18 – Greg Hubert

July 9 – Connie Cambronne

August 23 – Reba Neville

July 9 – Roy Valkema

August 23 – Diana Curry

July 27 – Lou Ann Tankersley

August 25 – Helen Bryan

July 27 – Joe Stern

(**Note:** if we do not have your birthday listed, please let us know so we can add it to our

July 30 - Walter Burke

Birthday Chart.)

A Word from the PASTOR



HELP US KEEP THE GOSPEL STORY GOING throughout the Summer months. When Summer comes and so many of our faithful go away for the Summer, it puts a crimp into our financial program. During the Winter season when we have 140 to 150 in attendance each Sunday, our offerings are good and average \$1500 per week. When Summer comes and our attendance drops to 25 to 30 in attendance each week our offering drop down to \$200 some weeks. Our overall budget is \$59,850 this year which averages out to about \$1150 per week. It is obvious we need to level out our giving. We do not have a Pledge Sunday or Every Member Canvas. We operate strictly on a faith Budget hoping and praying the needs of the church will be met by those who faithfully attend and give to this church. If you are away for the Summer, it would be wonderful if you could continue your support. Those who remain locally during the Summer could help by increasing your gift amounts during this time. If you are away, please mail your gifts to Everglades Community Church, PO Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139.

God's peace to all,
Pastor Bob