

# The ECC Messenger

Everglades Community Church, Everglades City, FL  
Quarterly Publication, January 2010

VISIT US ONLINE AT [www.evergladescommunitychurch.com](http://www.evergladescommunitychurch.com)

**2009 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** With 70 plus people in attendance, we held our 2009 Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the 2009 Annual Report were distributed and discussed; the new slate of committee members was presented and approved. Further questions can always be referred to our Board of Governors; we offer thanks to all in attendance and as always, to our Governing board and committee members who ceaselessly work behind the scenes to make *our lovely little church on the circle* all it can be.



**Gospel Jam III CD ON SALE TODAY!!!**  
***All proceeds from the sale of these wonderful CD's have been graciously donated to the church in support of God's Work within our church and our community.***

**LADIES AUXILIARY UPDATE:** Ladies Aux will meet the last Sunday of each month after fellowship; ladies, please make every attempt to attend. Fundraisers have been scheduled for our 2009-2010 season as follows: Bar B Q Pork Dinner, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 7:00 pm. Spaghetti Dinner, January 15<sup>th</sup>, Reid's Fish Fry, February 26<sup>th</sup>, and a Bar B Q Chicken Dinner, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact Virginia Kanning, Chris Ammerman, or Lisa Marteeny for tickets and as always, thanks so much for your support!

As we go to press, the Ladies Aux is delighted to report that they cleared \$1100 from the BBQ Pork Dinner; gracious thanks to all who participated in this delightful event. Working with the Floral/Memorial Committee to celebrate birthdays each month, Ladies Aux has voted to provide the fellowship celebration birthday cake each month.

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

Our **Collier County Sheriff's Office** held another **Christmas Packages for the Troops** program this year and collected enough items to be able to send 1508+ packages to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. We offer delighted thanks to all volunteers from Everglades Community Church that sewed & stuffed their way through 761 pillows for this project. The small pillows are included in every package as 'a piece of home.' We'd been asked to make 300, so we're delighted to announce that we definitely went 'above and beyond' for our troops! Community donation boxes netted \$104.81 in cash to help fund the program.

**ADOPT-A-SOLDIER:** Collier County Sheriff Officer Lt Mark Milligan son, Mark Jr., is due home from Afghanistan February, 2010. We have sent Mark Jr. care packages each week throughout his tour and ask for your continued prayers for his safe return.

**ADOPT A CHAPLAIN:**

With Chaplain Captain Lisa Northway's Roughriders safe return to the USA, our Missions Committee elected to continue support of this program through Captain Northway's replacement, Chaplain Captain Paul Hur. Through your continued support of our Missions Program, we send Chaplain Paul's unit three care packages each week. Feel free to send an individual note of thanks or encouragement or holiday greetings at any time throughout the coming year addressed as follows:

CPT HUR, PAUL  
HHC 308<sup>TH</sup> BSB, 17 FIRES BDE  
UNIT 105, COB BASRA, IRAQ  
APO AE 09374

HHC 308<sup>th</sup> BSB, 17 Fires BDE  
Unit #105, COB Basra, Iraq  
APO, AE 09374  
Email: paulheo@yahoo.com  
September 08, 2009

Dear Everglades Community Church,

Greeting in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

We are only thankful to God for this opportunity to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Thank you so much for your Care Packages! They have been a blessing to the soldiers. We can't thank you enough. Thank you. We are so proud of you.

I'm Chaplain Paul Hur, of the 308<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion at Camp Basra, Iraq. Chaplain Northway gave me your address. We'll be staying here a year. The weather here, as you can imagine is scorching hot, but all is well as long as there is soldiers there is ministry.

I have my chaplain assistant. His name is SPC Luis Rivas who came from CA.

We still use the Zero Dollars Store, though we changed the name to the "Heaven Eleven" Store (like 7-11 the convenient store).

My soldiers love to get what they need from the store. It truly is a blessing, but it wouldn't be possible if it weren't for your effort. We received one box (ice pops, candy-August) and 3 boxes (September). It truly is a wonderful gift for us. With your love, I can work with soldiers.

I appreciate everything you do for us. Thank you.

May God bless you all.

From Camp Basra, Iraq.



Chaplain Paul J. Hur

## **LIGHTHOUSE OF HOPE MINISTRIES:**

*Excerpt from November 2009 email:*

*Beloved friends of Everglades Community Church, due to Ruth almost dying several months ago, the doctors have strongly advised her not to return to Africa. We are certain that your devoted prayers are a major reason Ruth recovered and we are able to continue serving the Lord together as seriously needed "missionaries" here in our own nation. For everywhere we go during these profoundly troubled times for America we find unreached people who are in the deepest of distress. Therefore the Father continually asks us to lay down our lives, in faith and obedience, to bring the same desperately needed message of hope and love to the lost, hurting and devastated of our own country that for years we carried to distant and troubled lands in East Africa.. We want you to know that every life we touch with God's hope and love, you touch also because of your support of us and your covering us with the Lord's protection through your precious prayers. We can never thank the Lord enough for each of you. We treasure that He brought you into our lives. Words can't adequately express how much we love you or the depths of how much we daily appreciate you.*

*Excerpt from January 2010 email:*

*Then Christmas Eve 2009 Barry called Pastor Stephen. Our hearts were shattered as we heard him speak. His words were broken by his tears. The heartrending wail in his voice pierced us as he cried out, "Mama Ruth and Papa Barry, the people of the Mountain long for you. When are you coming back to us?" The second that conversation ended, we both knew that somehow we had to return to the Mountain. By the following afternoon the Father showed us that with my health getting stronger we could go back to Mt. Elgon and encourage the people for short periods of time, just as Paul the Apostle did when he went back to the places he had given his life to bring the Gospel. We were stunned and overcome with gratefulness. Never did we imagine our dream of Africa would be given back to us. So as 2010 begins, we are passionately embracing the increased calling to our own country, even as we longingly wait to return to our beloved Africa.*

Ruth & Barry Johnson, lighthouse-of-hope.org/

## **ANDY & SARAH, MIDDLE EAST MISSIONARIES:**

*Excerpt from November 2009 email*

*Hello Everglades! We are excited to visit with you in November. Some of you may be asking what we are hoping to do overseas? The organization we are with focuses on church-planting among unreached people groups. What is an unreached people group? Joshua Project (<http://www.joshuaproject.net/>) defines it as a people group in which less than 2% are followers of Jesus. And what does church planting look like? Two possibilities for us are 1. going to a city that has no native congregation (church) of believers and working to start one, or 2. partnering with an existing congregation to help them evangelize, disciple and grow with a view of them planting new congregations. However our first priority when we, Lord-willing, arrive in country, will be to start language learning, and during the time of learning the heart-language of the people we will be praying and looking for the ministry that God would have us be a part of long-term. We are excited to meet with you and talk with you more about what the Lord is doing.. God has faithfully led us on and provided for us in every way. We are so thankful to him for his glorious care for us. Here are a few points of praise and prayer that we would put before you as we finish our time in the U.S.:*

- *PRAISE God for how he has been continuing to teach us to trust him and draw nearer still.*
- *PRAISE God for you, our support team, and 90% of our monthly need committed.*
- *PRAISE God for 100% of our departure expenses met!*
- *PRAY that our hearts would be right with God and that we would walk in his Spirit during this last month of time in the States.*
- *PRAY that God would bring in the final 10% (\$600/mo) of our monthly need before we leave.*
- *PRAY that God would cause his Gospel to run in "Restoration" through our mouths and others*

January 2010 Note: Our church was blessed with a delightful visit from Andy and Sarah in November; their prayers answered, they left for the Middle East in January 2010 to begin the next segment of their calling.



## FLOWERS/MEMORIALS NEWS

Chairperson Charlotte Ledford offers gracious thanks to everyone who shared their memories and memorials by participating in this year's Poinsettia Holiday Display.

The **Memorial Committee** is asking folks who offer a **PRAYER REQUEST** during the service to be sure to fill out a **Prayer Request Card**; the cards are located behind each pew and are used to send appropriate greeting cards to the persons and families of each prayer request. Simply fill out the card and drop it into the collection plate – and thank you for your support of this lovely ministry.

The new **BIRTHDAY CHART** has been posted in the hallway; please take a moment to fill out the new chart so we can be sure to offer our birthday wishes with a card to all members throughout the coming year.

The **2010 MEMORIAL FLOWER CHART** has been posted in the hallway so be sure to choose a Sunday to remember a loved one or upcoming anniversary with flowers for our worship service. We've added a choice this year: you can order cut flowers or a live plant! Simply sign up on the chart and give your \$35 payment to Jane Wallace. Out of town? No Problem! Feel free to mail your date request, name, and phone number to the church with your \$35 check and we'll be sure to include you in our Memorial Flowers program – with gracious thanks!

## EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH MEMORIAL DEDICATION PROGRAM

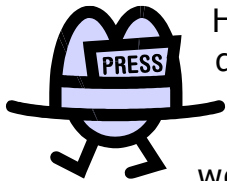


Just a reminder, we do have a Memorial Dedication Program here at Everglades Community Church. If you'd like to make a donation to this program in someone's honor, please note "Memorial Fund" on the memo line of your check. Your memorial gift will be placed in the Endowment Fund unless you designate its use to a specific committee or purpose.

## MUSIC COMMITTEE – HYMNAL MEMORIAL DEDICATION PLAQUE PROGRAM

On Sunday, January 3, 2010, we lovingly dedicated the new hymnals and used them during our morning worship service. Gracious thanks go out to the Choir and our Music Committee for the gift that made the program possible. Memorial Dedication Plaques are still available. See Virginia or Lisa for details.

## NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE BY EMAIL



HEY! As we go to press we're delighted to announce our decision to deliver future editions of *The Messenger* by email. That way, you'll receive our newsletter in a timely fashion and we'll save the cost of printing and mailing your copy. If you're not on our email list but would like to be, please email the church from the **Contact Us Page** at [www.evergladescommunitychurch.com](http://www.evergladescommunitychurch.com) and we'll be sure to add your address to our list. If you've received your newsletter by email but would rather receive your copy through the regular mail, please let us know at your earliest convenience and we'll remove you from the email list.

## SEAFOOD FESTIVAL COMING SOON!

We're busy here at church gearing up for our annual **Seafood Festival**, to be held this year the weekend of 5 thru 7 February. If you haven't signed up already, we're still looking for volunteers for the pancake breakfast and parking. The **Pancake Breakfast** is held from 7 – 11:00 am. While visiting the festival, be sure to stop by the Ladies Aux booth located directly in front of the church for a lapel pin or two, a tee shirt, church note cards or print, and of course, a handful of **Cookies For Christ**.

## CURRENT PRAYER LIST



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Barbara  
Marsha Barnwell  
Bob & Cinda Beardsley  
Brown Family  
Juli Calderone  
Virginia Carlton  
Carmen Carson  
Nathan Cox  
Sandy Davidson  
Mrs. Donev  
Heidi Economou  
Jeanne Elysee

Walter Gorecki  
Glenn Hickman  
Shelia & Tony Hickman  
Jim Johnson  
Randy Loar  
Gloria Leo  
Sandra Loggy  
Lorraine  
Bob McBeath  
Milligan Family  
Steve Oakley  
Josephine Padron

Andrew Potter  
Sherri Poltrock  
Bobby Rayburg  
Faith Reed  
Nick Ribaud  
Rob Rogers  
Billie Schmidt  
Pat Schmidt  
Tim Smith  
Jane Wallace  
Janice Wooten

## MISSIONARIES

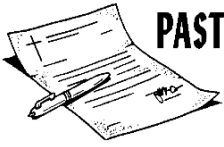
Missionaries Andy & Sarah, Middle East  
Missionaries Barry & Ruth, Washington  
Missionaries Dony & Kathryn, Bulgaria

## MILITARY MEMBERS

LCPL Benjamin Blackwell, Iraq  
LCPL Joel Lee, Iraq  
A1C Thomas O'Donnell, Afghanistan  
Lt. Col. David Pond, Washington, DC  
Sgt. David Sage, Special Forces, Iraq  
Spc. Michael Vernon, Ft Stewart, GA  
E7 Daniel Wilder, Jasper, IN

LCPL W. Ryan Collins, Iraq  
2 Lt. Mark Milligan, Jr., Afghanistan  
Sgt Cody Partridge, Okinawa  
Lt. Mark Reid, Millington, TN  
SrA Jereme VanGundy, Biloxi, Miss.  
Chaplain Thomas Waynick, Washington, DC  
Unit of Chaplain Paul Hur, Iraq

## A Word from the PASTOR



One of the exciting things about being Pastor of a growing church is how fast time seems to pass. It is hard to believe that on March 19th I will begin my fifth year as your Pastor. As I look back, I see so many wonderful things that have come to pass: the renovation of the Narthex and sides of the church and Fellowship Hall, with its new equipment and face-lift, the stained glass windows for the Narthex and Sanctuary, new hymnals, upgrading the bell tower chimes and Sanctuary sound system, to mention a few. We began an adult Sunday School three years ago that has become very popular and well attended. It became necessary to have a second morning worship service beginning the second Sunday in January that will continue in-season as long as it is needed, The music program has grown with the choir loft being filled with wonderful voices leading our worship program weekly and so many talented musicians adding to the joy of before-Sunday-morning worship music. We have had additions to our membership through baptism and letters. We have been designated a Florida State and Everglades City historical site. The year-round Food Pantry program in cooperation with the

area churches is an unquestionable success, as is the Little Gator Free Clinic for children up to 18 years of age. The Blessing of our Fishing Fleet was a highlight of the Summer. Our care package program for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan will soon surpass 500 packages mailed to overseas military bases. The year-round support program of our two missionary families overseas and one Northwest domestic missionary family, as well as seasonal support to missionary endeavors of our members is so heart-warming. All-in-all, I believe I can say that God's Spirit is alive and well in this congregation. It is through your personal prayers and continued year-round financial stewardship that these things have come to pass. Together, we can continue to do great things for God and His church in the years ahead. Faithfully looking forward to another five years.  
Pastor Bob+