

Murphy Church of Christ
P. O. Box 511
Murphy, NC. 28906

TIME OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class
Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

stamp
here

“ May the God of hope fill you with all
joy and peace in believing, so that by the
power of the Holy Spirit you may abound
in hope. Romans 15:13

BULLETIN



**MURPHY CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST ROAD**
(Located above King Ford on Highway 64 West)

**P. O. BOX 511
MURPHY, NC 28906**

Website: murphychurchofchrist.com

Minister/Counselor
Roy Stephenson

Cell Phone: 828-557-8882

E-mail: MurphyNCchurchofchrist@gmail.com

DECEMBER 22, 2024

WELCOME

We welcome you to the Murphy Church of Christ where every visitor is our special guest, and we want to make sure you always remember that. If you are looking for a "family" that will offer you the most important things in life, then why not give us a chance to be part of your family?

Please fill out a visitor's form and drop it in the collection box.

Please do not hesitate to ask any of our members for assistance.

Please join us for the first Sunday evening prayer time at 6:00 PM. Any changes will be announced.

Wednesday Bible devotional and regular Sunday evening service is temporarily on hold.

On the 5th Sunday of each month, we get together for potluck fellowship meal but **this month we will not have a fellowship potluck,**

Website: murphychurchofchrist.com

The bulletin is posted on the website and hard copies are in the foyer for members and visitors. **Be sure to check out the website for articles by Roy Goodlet.**



The bulletin hardcopy cover is designed so you can mail a copy to a shut-in, friend, or family member. If you have any suggestions for the website or see an error or want to make a change, please contact Lula Williams.

Greeters
Stacy Packer
Theresa Brehm

Welcome/Song Leader
Jerry Queen

Opening Prayer
Roy Goodlet

Lord's Supper Thoughts
Bruce Corcoran

Scripture:
1 John 4: 7-12
Read by Dean Wray

Sunday Sermon:
"God's Greatest Gift"
By Roy Stephenson

Announcements
Roy Goodlet

Closing Prayer
Jerry Queen

December 25th is Christmas Day

For Christians, believing that God came into the world in the form of man to atone for the sins of humanity rather than knowing Jesus's exact birth date is the primary purpose of celebrating Christmas.

Many of us will be celebrating the joys of the season with family and friends.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Sandy Parmer asked that we keep her family and friends in our prayers. Her daughter, April, who lives in Mobile, Alabama had a seizure and a single car crash as a result. Now, she cannot drive for a month and is to wear a heart monitor for a month.
- Mindy Scaffa continues to have multiple health problems. She remains positive with a cheerful attitude. Many of you follow her on Facebook and she enjoys reading your comments!
- Darlene Queen is adjusting to her new pacemaker. As her husband Jerry likes to say, "she has her good bad days".
- Roy Stephenson had successful right knee replacement surgery on November 20th at Northside Cherokee Hospital in Canton, Georgia. He and DJ thank and appreciate all the prayers offered on his behalf.
- Buddy Fitton and Vaughn Day, friends of Roy Stephenson going through second round of chemotherapy.
- Sheri's friend Debbie and Cayle have cancer. Debbie has received her final chemotherapy, and plans are being made for potential surgery in January 2025. Sheri's sister, Lori, had a pacemaker inserted and is breathing better.
- Lloyd and Lee Durham, friends of Roy and DJ Stephenson, had a one-car accident in which they both sustained broken bones.
- **You or family member or friend may not be on this list but, we are all in need of prayer.** The pandemic and flu season continues to take its toll on

many. Depression, homicides, suicides, gun violence and wars and civil unrest are increasing as well as the impact of climate changes. Take time to check on your neighbors and keep our country in your prayers!

Directory Updates

Contact Nell Ard if you need a picture taken for our picture directory located in the foyer or need changes made to the directory printout provided for your reference. Complete the form provided on the back table and give it to Nell upon completion.

Please note that because the bulletin is uploaded to the website, we do not include details regarding home address and phone information for privacy reasons.



Just Christians

Come grow with us. If you have any questions or want to start a home study, contact our minister, Roy Stephenson.

Soon some of us will be thinking about New Year's resolutions So take this time to plan what you can do to get closer to God and share your talents to help others.



REACH of Cherokee and Graham County, Inc. is an outreach program for victims of domestic violence. List of programs the organization supports are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

As the staff travel to the schools to discuss domestic violence, they have identified a need for children's shoes, underwear, and socks of varying sizes. If you have items of clothing (clean and in good condition), children's books, etc. to donate please place them in the blue bin located in the pantry. Check out the clearance section at Walmart and other stores next time you go shopping.

Stacy can always use some **small tote bags** and small travel size items to fill them with, e.g. travel size shampoo and conditioner, toothbrushes, tooth paste, travel size deodorant, hand sanitizer, etc. **Place items on the table located in the pantry on your left as you enter.**

Please contact the REACH office staff if you have furniture you want to donate to arrange pickup by the Thrift Store volunteers. They also ask for cooking utensils to help victims start over. Often the victims leave home with only the clothes on their back, so they are given clothes, furniture, and items for the home from the Thrift Store until they can get back on their feet. They also can use items to help with their self-esteem and pass the time until they can be placed in a safe environment. You can provide puzzles (500 pieces or less), adult coloring books, reading material, word puzzles, make-up, nail polish, hair clips, etc.

Volunteers and donors are always needed. Call the office at 828-837-2097 or 828-837-8064 for more information.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

We need your help to keep our pantry stocked. If no family, or individual has made a special request; then, items are taken off the shelves and taken to the Cherokee County Food Bank, Inc. in Andrews, NC. The food bank is open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10-12.

Suggested items based on Lula's discussion with some of the female staffs: they can always use feminine hygiene products and other personal hygiene items, e.g. toothpaste, toothbrushes, small bottles of mouthwash, bars of soap, wipes, small bottles of shampoo, soups that can be heated over a small fire, small jars of peanut butter and items that do not require a stove for cooking. Most of the clients are homeless and/or senior citizens living on a fixed income, so they can use small bottles of laundry detergent to wash their clothes. **Lula also includes assorted chips and crackers to give to the homeless who sit outside next to the food bank.** The food bank has a bakery that donates bread, and the local Walmart provides fresh produce.

You can also write a check payable to the Andrews Food Bank, P. O. Box 843, Andrews, NC 28901, and they will supplement items that are not being donated.

To whom much is given, much will be required (Luke 12:48). If you have heard that line of wisdom, you know it means if we have been blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge, time, and the like, it is expected that we benefit others.

 **News and Announcements**

Our church's 2024 weekly budget is set at \$1,250.00.

December 8 - \$885.00 is under budget by \$365.00.

December 15 - \$725.00 is under budget by \$525.00.

Bible Study Attendance – 11
Morning Worship Attendance – 22

Members are asked to please check their temperature and if you are not feeling well stay home, especially since many of our members are considered high-risk because of age and/or chronic health issues. Chairs are set up to help us maintain social distancing in keeping with current guidelines for COVID, seasonal flu and RSV.

We will start telephone contacts to let you know if anything changes regarding church services. **STAY SAFE!**

Wayne's Outreach Ministries

If there are folks who would like to participate in the prison ministry, please contact Nell Ard. Wayne was the only person that some of these men had reaching out to them. Upon his death, Wayne's requested that Nell continues to correspond with some of these men since they truly have no one else. Thanks to Dean and Karen Wray for working with her to keep Wayne's prison ministries going.

Wayne was also active with World Bible Study. If you need help with WBS (World Bible Study) or know someone who has indicated an

interest in WBS, please contact Roy Stephenson.

Sunday Bible Study at 9:30 am

Roy Stephenson is slowly resuming his ministerial duties while recuperating after his right knee surgery on November 20th. Last Sunday he conducted Bible study class and morning worship sermon. Next Bible study he will finish 2 Chronicles and Ezra and if we have time we will begin Nehemiah and Ester.

NO - Weekday Bible Devotional

Wednesday devotional is postponed until Roy Stephenson's doctor lets him know when he can resume more activities.

Sign-up sheets on the back table

Nursery Assignments

If you can help in the nursery some Sundays during bible study and/or morning worship if we have any children visiting please indicate what date(s) you are available.

Communion

If you are willing to help prepare communion and clean-up the trays please indicate your willingness by putting your name next to the month you are available.

Building Maintenance

Dean Wray continues to keep us updated on the status of maintenance projects, so if you want to help or **if you notice something that needs repairing, please let him know.**

We have completed setting up the kitchen and replacing the flooring. Now we will be doing some touch up painting in the main auditorium and the minister's office will be set up as our library. Once all the boxes have been removed you may again begin placing food donations in the pantry and REACH donations in the bin provided.

Dean Wray can use our help to move items, doing touch up painting and with any last-minute details to help complete all projects. Upon completion of things inside the church, we will begin working on the breeze way concrete repair.



December Birthdays

Ronald Wilkins	1
Jerry Queen	5
Linda Trusty	11
Sheri Goodlet	13
Mike Terrill	29

December Wedding Anniversaries



None listed	
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If you do not see your birthday or wedding anniversary listed or the date is incorrect, or your name is misspelled please let Lula know. **NOTE:** Some of the people listed are frequent visitors or former members that like to stay in touch.

Toys For Tots

If you miss the collection deadline we keep the empty boxes in the back

classroom for next year. **Please do not wrap the toys.** Look for special sales throughout the year.

This year we were only able to donate two bags of toys.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the coordinator Jeana Conley at jeanaconley33@gmail.com or call her at 828-361-2161 or the assistant coordinator Sue Evans at 828-837-3035. There is also a Facebook page and website <http://murphy-nc.toysfortots.org> with more information and instruction on how to donate funds.

A Night in Bethlehem 2024

We would like to thank everyone who donated books, cookies and their time to make this year's celebration a success. As per usual the children enjoyed the crafts DJ selected and thanks to members, Shelah Queen and Norma Leiby, who worked with her to help the children with the crafts.

This year there were 300 more visitors than last year for a total of 1442 attendees. We had 30 local groups who served as vendors for a total of 37 booths.

The activities were held December 14th from 5 – 8 pm at the Fairgrounds on West US 74/64. We opened with a prayer to welcome everyone. There was singing as the story of the nativity was being read. All volunteers dressed in period clothing, but it was not a requirement. Your support through your presence was more important!

For those who represented the Murphy Church of Christ or was there as a visitor if you have any suggestions for next year. Please contact Roy Goodlet.

Christmas Eve Invitation

Roy and Sheri Goodlet invite you to their home on **December 24th at 4:00 pm** for an evening of fellowship with refreshments and singing. Please RSVP if you plan to be there. This time of year, it gets dark early and if you have never been to their home, please contact them for directions. If you would like to bring something to share you are welcome to do so. To avoid duplication and make sure we have enough to share please let Sheri know what you are bringing.

Goodness and Tidings of Joy

Matthew 1:17-24 (NIV)

¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[a]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph's son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a

son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[c] because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"^[d] (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.



Phone Donations

Woody Scaffa has requested that if you have any old cell phones you are willing to donate to the homeless shelter, please bring it to him next time you are in church. He will make sure that all your personal data has been removed before giving it to the homeless shelter staff for one of the clients.

40th ANNIVERSARY

Murphy church had its' beginning on September 3, 1984.

Because of the water damage to the flooring in the kitchen and the back of the main auditorium, we had to change the 2024 date twice. Now we are in negotiation to repair the breezeway entrance to the church.

We are still in the discussion phase pending feedback from the congregation as to whether to plan to have a Homecoming.