

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

TIME OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Devotional 6:00 p.m.

stamp
here

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“ 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**

Minister

Roy Stephenson announced on October 19th his upcoming plans to retire in March.

Please join us March 22nd to wish him and his wife, DJ the best as they begin a new chapter in their life.

MARCH 15, 2026

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 “church family” then why not give us a chance to be your family?

Please fill out a visitor’s form and drop it in the collection box on the back.

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 is held at 6:00 PM. Any changes will be announced after Sunday morning worship.

On the 5th Sunday of each month, we get together for potluck fellowship meal. Instead of March 29th, we will have a special time with the Stephenson’s (Roy and DJ) on March 22nd.

Website: murphychurchofchrist.com

Maintenance is time consuming and does not justify the monthly expense. GoDaddy has advised that they will discontinue access. We will review this again as we make plans for our 2026 budget.

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 or see an error or want to make a change, please contact Lula Williams.

Greeters
Olivia Bragg
Sheri Goodlet

Welcome/Song Leader
Keith Bragg

Opening Prayer
Dean Wray

Lord’s Supper Thoughts
Roy Stephenson

Scripture: John 11:21-27
Read by: Amari Bryant

**Sermon: “Encouraged –
Death Is Not Final”**
By Roy Goodlet

Announcements
Roy Goodlet

Closing Prayer
Bruce Corcoran



The next potluck fellowship will be held next Sunday, March 22nd and immediately following there will be a special program at 1:00 PM as part of a special farewell program for Roy and DJ Stephenson. Please plan to join us to say good-bye, show your love and wish them the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

We would also love it if you would join the congregation for 9:30 Bible study and Sunday morning worship service at 10:30 AM!



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Jerry Queen requests that we keep his family in our prayers. Several of them are battling multiple health problems. He notes his wife continues to have her good and bad days. Michelle Dockery surgery is on hold pending stabilization of some other health care issues which would complicate her recovery.
- Mindy Scaffa has difficulty walking and has fallen several times. The most recent emergency visit she was admitted to Murphy Erlanger facility. She is in room 206 as of this publication. Prayers for her as she deals with the death of her beloved husband Woody. Doctors are making plans for her next level of care. As a church we are doing what we can but until all legal and recent health issues are addressed, we are limited as to what we can do.
- Stacy Packer is slowly recovering from lung surgery and remains under doctor’s care as they monitor her progress. We pray she remains in remission.
- Connie Diaz is being treated for blood clots. Currently the doctor is working to adjust her medication. She has had to go to the emergency room several times with a brief stay in the hospital in Gainesville. She is back home.
- Roy Stephenson mitral valve leakage has decreased. The doctor plans to schedule him for an aorta ring placement if he remains stable. The procedure is experimental and the doctor is waiting on FDA approval.

January 13th, he had to have surgery on his right foot again. Hopefully he can bounce back quickly.

You or family member or friend may not be on this list; but, we are all in need of prayer. The pandemic, flu season and the uncertainty in the economy and government shut-down has taken and continues to take its toll on many. Depression, homicides, suicides and gun violence are increasing as well as the impact of climate changes. Take time to check on your neighbors!



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 to each member for your reference. Complete the form provided on the back table and give it to Nell upon completion. It is most important that you make sure your information is current.

Please note that because the bulletin may be shared with non-members therefore, we do not include details regarding home address and phone information for privacy reasons in the bulletin.



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



REACH of Cherokee and Graham County, Inc. is an outreach program for victims of domestic violence.

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. They have also adopted some families to help as well. **Teens frequently request a fleece blanket.** 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 or you can drop them off to be sorted for the thrift store. Check out the clearance section at Walmart next time you go shopping.

Clients in the safe house can always use travel size shampoo and conditioner, toothbrushes, tooth paste, travel size deodorant, hand sanitizer, etc.

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. Local REACH covers Cherokee and Graham County.

REACH is leading our community in eliminating domestic violence and sexual assault through education, advocacy, self-empowerment, and community awareness. Suicides statistics among teens and young adults is increasing.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

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

Other suggested items based on Lula's discussion with some of the female staff: feminine hygiene products and other personal hygiene items, e.g. toothpaste, toothbrushes, 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 their clients are homeless and/or senior citizens living on a fixed income, so they can use small bottles of laundry detergent and Clorox to wash their clothes.** 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.

News and Announcements

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

March 1 - \$1,135.00 is under budget by \$115.00.

March 8th - \$895.00 is under budget by \$355.00,

Bible Study Attendance – 11

Morning Worship Attendance – 22

Members are asked to please check their temperature and/or if you are not feeling well please stay home, especially since many of our members are considered high-risk because of age and/or chronic health issues.

We will start telephone contacts to let you know if anything changes regarding church services. Please make sure we have your current phone contact number. 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 so he can make arrangements for anyone currently

taking the classes as he is retiring this month.

Sunday Bible Study at 9:30 am

Roy Stephenson and DJ are slowly working toward his retirement therefore, we will continue to make changes as needed.

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 accept our thanks. All the items needed are located in the kitchen.

Homeless Shelter Thrift Store

The homeless shelter needs volunteers at the thrift store. If you are interested and want more information on what is expected please contact Carol Paul at 518-321-4190.

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.**

Dean Wray can use our help to move items, doing touch up painting and with any last-minute details to help complete a project.



March Birthdays

Chris Astoria	1
Ute Chewning	3
Lee Sanders	7
Michael Sutton, Jr.	13
DJ Stephenson	22
Robert Parmer	26

March Wedding Anniversaries



Keith and Olivia Bragg	2
Robert and Sandy Parmer	11
Dean and Karen Wray	21

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.

A Night in Bethlehem 2026

"A Night in Bethlehem" location for 2025 was changed to the area below the casino. Some churches and organizations indicated they would not participate because of the location.

The organizers had to pay \$5,000 to set up the tents, so we are encouraging people to start donating now for 2026 to help defray the cost. The organizers will continue to see if they can find another location.

We had an attendance of 1,153 which is lower than last year but still significant. We had plenty of cookies left over.

When you are looking for books to donate for next year, keep in mind that we had more requests for children's

biblical books and one in Spanish. If you have any suggestions for 2026 that can help the church stand out in the market place, please share them with Roy Goodlet.

Toys For Tots

Special thanks to everyone for making it possible to help 1,235 children have a bright Christmas. We keep the boxes in the classroom in the back for next year's start up dates. **In light of the changing economy, you are encouraged to start looking for special sales throughout the year. Please take advantage of the sales and remember do not wrap the gift.**

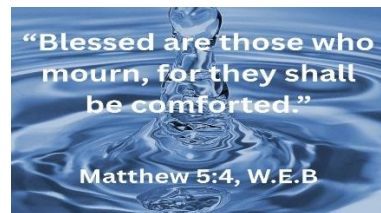
If you would like to volunteer to help with planning for next year, please contact the coordinator Jeana Conley at jeanaconley33@gmail.com or call her at 828-361-2161 or the assistant coordinator Sue Evans at 828-837-3035. There is also a Facebook page and website <http://murphy-nc.toysfortots.org> with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

Upcoming Events

- **March 21st** - Ellijay Church of Christ will host the Annual North Georgia Men's Leadership Conference with Keynote Speaker Eric Garner from Chattanooga. This year's theme is "Unmoved" taken from Psalm 15. There will also be two breakout sessions for some hands-on leadership exercises. The cost for this event \$15 and includes breakfast and lunch.
- **March 28th** - they will host their annual Ladies Day with Guest Speaker Celine Sparks. This year's program is FREE event that starts at 8 AM and includes a catered lunch.

You can also register by calling the office at 706-635-2950 or email office@ellijaychurchofchrist.com.

- **March 28th** - Hayesville church of Christ located at 25 Riverside Circle, Hayesville, NC invites you to their annual Ladies Day from 10am-2pm in the community service building. This year's theme is "I want to Thrive (John10:10) not just Survive!" To ensure enough food is available, please RSVP by March 20th to: 828-644-8497 or 678-778-7140



Through His Word, we can find peace, hope, and the assurance that our loved ones are in His eternal care:

- **1 Corinthians 15:42-44** "So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; and it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body."
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell

you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words."

- **2 Corinthians 5:8** "We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord."
- **Romans 8:38-39** "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- **Psalms 116:15** "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."



Easter Comes Early for 2026

In 2026, the March Equinox is on March 20th. **The full Moon after this date is on April 2nd and therefore Easter Sunday is the following Sunday which is April 5th!** Now you'll be able to impress friends and relatives with your knowledge of why the Easter date changes each year!