

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

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**TIME OF SERVICES**

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

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 22<sup>nd</sup> to wish him and his wife, DJ the best as they begin a new chapter in their life.

**MARCH 01, 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.**

The next potluck fellowship will be held March 22<sup>nd</sup> as part of special farewell program for Roy and DJ Stephenson as they begin a new chapter in life. Please plan to join us to say good-bye.

**Website:** [murphychurchofchrist.com](http://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  
Lula Williams

**Welcome/Song Leader**  
Keith Bragg

**Opening Prayer**  
Dean Wray

**Lord’s Supper Thoughts**  
Dean Wray

**Scripture:** Psalm 146  
**Read by:** Gregory Jones

**Sermon: “Encouraged – God Reigns”**  
By Roy Goodlet

**Announcements**  
Roy Goodlet

**Closing Prayer**  
Jerry Queen

*God is in charge!*



“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.



**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.
- Darlene’s son Justin Sutton had a heart attack and has been in the Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital for two weeks as of this posting.
- Mindy Scaffa seems to be having at least one seizure each week, has difficulty walking and has fallen several times. She has 2 service dogs at her residence and they are very protective so if you plan to visit, please call first. Prayers for her as she deals with the death of her beloved husband Woody and plans for her next step without him. As a church we are doing what we can but until all legal 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 in her lungs and legs. Currently the doctor is working to adjust her medication. She has had to go to the emergency room several times and was taken to the hospital in Gainesville.
- 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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.**





**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.**

**February 15** - \$1,1310.00 is over budget by \$60.00.

**February 22** - \$1,931.00 is over budget by \$681.00.

**Bible Study Attendance** – 16  
**Morning Worship Attendance** – 25

*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 we can make arrangements for the study dates.

### **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.



### Woody Scaffé Jr.

**March 04, 1976 – February 11, 2026**

He passed away at his home at the age of 49.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made in memory of Woody Scaffé Jr. to help with final expenses.

**Plans for his Celebration of Life will be held in our church building Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.** If you plan to attend, please bring a dish to share. We are expecting some of his family. some of his co-workers from Walmart and church friends.

Any contributions from the church to his final expenses may be made by putting them in the smaller basket at the back of the church. There is also a sign-up sheet to help with food delivery for Mindy. Sheri asks that you let her know if you plan to take something to her or need someone to help you with delivery.

**His obituary is available on the Ivie Funeral home website.**

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### Physical and Spiritual Healing

Is there a link between physical healing and spiritual healing? Let me share a few things with you. Charles Colson with Nancy Pearcey in the book, “A Dangerous Grace,” have said, “On the day of Pentecost, those touched by the Holy Spirit were accused of being drunk, or maybe crazy. Today, believers are still considered to be weak, foolish, or emotionally unstable. But more and more studies are showing that religious believers are more emotionally and mentally stable than the average population. Religious faith is linked to lower blood pressure and lower rates of drug use, alcoholism, suicide, and mental disorders.”

These next illustrations may not mention that the people involved are Christians, but the link between good living and personal health is definitely related. A Florida State University study found older adults who volunteer up to 100 hours a year live happier and healthier lives. According to a Columbia University study, teens who are under high stress, are often bored, or have \$25 or more a week in spending money, are twice as likely to smoke, get drunk, and use illegal drugs. Teens who attend religious services at least once a week are at

significantly lower risk of substance abuse.

Jesus knows the cause of every ailment and He also knows the cure. It is said that in the entrance hall of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore is a remarkable statue of Jesus. He is portrayed as The Great Physician. Jesus is the Great Physician, and His power is almighty. I know there are people who need the Great Physician in their lives. Someone has a need in their life. Someone has a problem they can’t solve. Someone has a situation they are struggling with. Someone has a sickness they are battling. Someone is dealing with a broken heart and a broken life.

Jesus’ healing is done within the will of God, and occasionally the Lord will choose not to physically heal someone so that a greater work of God can be done in him or her. God can use sickness as a way to bring us to a deeper level of spiritual intimacy with our Heavenly Father.

During that time of illness, when things seem so dark and drear, we must grow in discerning His presence. We need to be able to respond to His presence. And most importantly, we need to be able to submit to His presence. And our hope needs to be that someday God will heal us completely for all eternity.

If you have a question, you can contact Roy Goodlet at his email address: [royfcc@yahoo.com](mailto:royfcc@yahoo.com) or next time you see him let him know if you have a question.

