stamp here

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**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. |

**" 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.

***Cell Phone: 828-557-8882***
***E-mail: MurphyNCchurchofchrist@gmail.com***

# JANUARY 4, 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 "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 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.

**Website:** murphychurchofchrist.com

Lula has advised that this can be time consuming and does not justify the current high monthly expense. Eventually, GoDaddy will discontinue access to the website. 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**
Lula Williams
Sheilah Queen

**Welcome/Song Leader**
Jerry Queen

**Opening Prayer**
Keith Bragg

**Lord's Supper Thoughts**
Dean Wray

**Scripture:**
**James 4: 13-17**
Read by Bruce Corcoran

**Sunday Sermon:**
**"Make the Most of Time"**
By Roy Stephenson

**Announcements**
Roy Stephenson

**Closing Prayer**
Ken McCurry

*May 2026 be filled with many blessings and happy moments with family and friends.*

Count your blessings and don't forget God is always with us. "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, "This is the way; walk in it". – Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)

## 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.
- Mindy Scaffe seems to be having at least one seizure each week and has difficulty walking. But she is always cheerful and has a wonderful positive attitude towards life. Prayers for her husband as he navigates providing her support.
- Chuck Brehm is not doing well and his kidneys are starting to shut down. His feet are swollen. These are difficult times for his wife Theresa as his caregiver.
- Stacy Packer had a lesion removed from her right lung on October 2nd. She is slowly recovering at home and returning for worship service when she has a good day. We pray she remains in remission.
- Roy Stephenson mitral valve leakage had decreased and he didn't need surgery on October 23rd. Thank you for your prayers! He is still scheduled for an aorta ring placement within the next 3 month. The procedure is experimental and the doctor is waiting on FDA approval.

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!

**Special Prayer**

Pray for guidance in our search for a new minister.

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.**

## Just Christians

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.

**Cell Phone Donations**

Woody Scaffe will make sure that all your personal data is removed. **Please place donated phones in the basket on the back table.**

**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. Special thanks for the financial donation total in 2025 of $400.00 to help support their programs.

*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. Roy Stephenson shared they are requesting empty 12 individualized egg cartons.

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**.

**December 21** - $790.00 is under budget by $460.00.

**December 28** - $1,555.00 is over budget by $305.00.

**Bible Study Attendance** – 14
**Morning Worship Attendance** – 24

*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 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.*

### Murphy Homeless Shelter Donations

*The Hurlburt Johnson Homeless Shelter is requesting that we continue donations for the months of January and July 2026. There are eleven churches in the area that also donate. They are requesting paper products from us: paper towels, bathroom tissue, paper napkins and paper plates. Please place items in the kitchen/fellowship room for the month of December and Roy Stephenson will deliver them.*

### Homeless Shelter Thrift Store

The homeless shelter need 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.

**January Birthdays**

| | |
|---|---|
| Michelle Dockery | 29 |

***January Wedding Anniversaries***

| | |
|---|---|
| *Johnny and Shelah Queen* | *9* |

*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 2025

"A Night in Bethlehem" location 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 setup 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.

Special thanks to all who brought cookies and to Karen Wray for agreeing to collect all donations.

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.

The three wise men, also known as the Magi, were a group of people who traveled to pay homage to the newborn Jesus and brought gifts.

Matthew never records how many wise men came to honor Jesus. We know there was more than one because of the plural use of "men." Most people assume there are three because of the three gifts they gave, as recorded in Matthew (gold, frankincense, and myrrh).

The gifts had symbolic meanings that represent different aspects of Jesus' identity:

- **Gold**

Symbolizes Jesus' status as the "King of the Jews" and his divinity. Gold was a precious metal used to make the Ark of the Covenant and pagan idols.

- **Frankincense**

Symbolizes Jesus' deity and his willingness to sacrifice himself. Frankincense was a white resin or gum that was burned as incense in the temple and was used in sacred oils and perfumes.

- **Myrrh**

Symbolizes Jesus' mortality and death. Myrrh was an embalming oil used to anoint bodies.

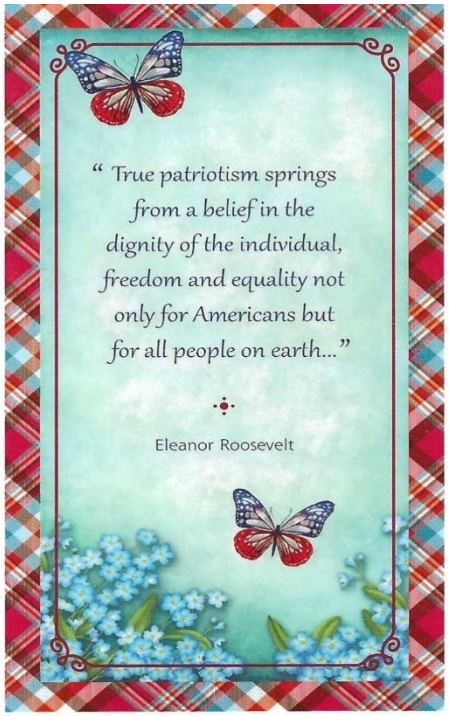
In the Book of Matthew, the magi stopped at Herod's palace on their way to Bethlehem, and the king asked them to let him know where this newborn babe is, so that "I may also go and pay him homage." But the magi were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and so they left for their own country by another road". An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and he and Mary left Bethlehem.

When the magi did not return to Herod, he had all the boys two years or younger killed.

## Toys For Tots

If you missed the collection deadline, 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 after Christmas sales!

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.**

Sunday, October 19th Roy Stephenson announced that he and DJ have begun making plans towards his retirement. He also shared that in addition to his cardiac issues and knee surgery he is no longer able to maintain the stamina and energy he feels he needs to continue his ministry.

**They haven't decided on the exact departure date or where they will be living. They are working towards finalizing their plans no later than the end of March 2026.**