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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 11, 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
Bruce Corcoran

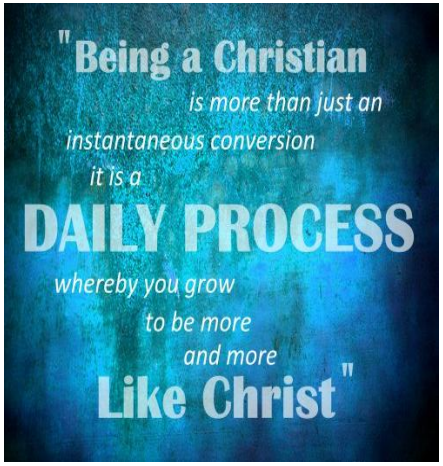
Lord's Supper Thoughts
Jerry Queen

Scripture: Luke 11: 1-4

Sermon: **The Christian Focus**
by Dean Wray

Announcements
Dean Wray

Closing Prayer
Keith Bragg



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

January 4 - $735.00 is under budget by $515.00.

Bible Study Attendance – 8
Morning Worship Attendance – 11

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. 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. Today studies will be led by Jerry Queen.

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

Roy and DJ Stephenson have delivered all the supplies placed in the fellowship room and send a special thanks to all who donated. The Hurlburt Johnson Homeless Shelter has indicated they have enough supplies for now. There are eleven churches in the area who provide support..

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

<u>if you notice something that needs repairing, please let him know</u>. 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.

<u>Toys For Tots</u>

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.

<u>Let Christ Be Our Guide</u>

By Roy Goodlet

On the old television show "Hee Haw," Doc Campbell was confronted by a patient who said he broke his arm in two places. The doc replied, "Well then, stay out of them places!" Many times, in our lives we make the decision to refrain or refuse things we know are not the best choice for us to make. It starts out with smaller choices that so many people would say are trivial. "Will it hurt me to watch one "R" rated movie? Will it be a big deal if I take one or two drinks on occasion? What is wrong with a little immorality in my life?" When we take a proper stand on the smaller choices, the right decisions we need to make about the bigger ones become easier.

There are choices to be made and sometimes those choices will have to include our refusal to accept certain things as part of our lives. There comes a time when we need to eliminate some of the multitude of "good" things and make way for the great things God wants to do through us. Are all the good things in life all that good for us?

We are blessed people because we have a multitude of wisdom made available to us in one written book, the Bible, but that is not the only source of wisdom we possess. We also have many examples of what happens to people who make foolish choices, and we have the memory of the foolish mistakes we have made. Have you ever done anything you now consider to be stupid, and you know you will never do again? If you lived up north did you ever stick your tongue to a frozen piece of metal? I never have because I saw other stupid people who did it.

So, how can I make wise choices? I found two sources of information on this. One is from the book *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges. He offers some questions we can ask ourselves when we need to discern the difference between a good choice and a bad choice. The second resource comes from Charles Stanley and his *In Touch Ministry.* Some of the questions are similar or overlap, so I will combine the two.

1. Is it helpful physically, spiritually, or mentally?
2. Will it control me?
3. Will it hurt or help anybody else?
4. Will it help me accomplish my goals in life?
5. Will it be wise stewardship of my time and resources?
6. Will it fit into God's Biblical teaching?
7. Will it glorify God?