



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

Phone: 334-273-0001 / Fax: 334-273-0375

November 20, 2014

ELDERS:

Tim Bagents
Don Brannan
Ted Norton

DEACONS:

Billy Bush
Roger Dill
Tim Gotkiewicz
Steve Housley
Wayne Johnston
Jimmy Mathews
Roy Mulkey
Randy Porterfield
Jeff Simpson

MINISTERS:

Steve Housley, Pulpit
Tim Gotkiewicz, Youth
& College

SCHEDULE:

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

RADIO PROGRAM
WMGY 800 AM DIAL

Sunday's 7:30-8 a.m.
With ROGER DILL

STATISTICS 11/23/14

Bible Class: 136
AM Worship: 168
PM Worship: 117
EMBF: \$86.00

WELCOME!

EASTERN MEADOWS BENEVOLENCE FUND

Our next "Benevolence Sunday" is November 30. On Benevolence Sundays a special contribution is taken for the EASTERN MEADOWS BENEVOLENCE FUND. This is to be separate and apart from the regular contribution. The special contribution will be used exclusively for benevolence work. Part of this contribution will go to the Childhaven Orphanage in Cullman Alabama and the rest will go to other benevolent works. Checks for this effort should be made out to: EASTERN MEADOWS BENEVOLENCE FUND. Envelopes marked "EASTERN MEADOWS BENEVOLENCE FUND" will be provided for those who wish to contribute to this effort in cash. All contributions made to this fund are tax deductible as are regular contributions.

Don Brannan, for the elders

This Sunday, November 30th

CONTRIBUTION GOAL

\$12,909.00

Current Budget YTD: - \$3,940.70

11/16/14: \$13,239.00 (+ \$1,119.00)

FROM THE MINISTER:

Happy Thanksgiving! Aren't you glad to live in a country that sets aside a day for Giving Thanks. The holiday of "Thanksgiving" is a National Holiday, not a religious Holiday; that is, the day is declared to be a Holiday by the United States, not the Bible. However, it is a safe assumption that our country would not have this Holiday if our country had not been founded by Bible believing people. It was a people who were thankful to the God of the Bible who began this Holiday. I am thankful to be in such a country. Enjoy time with your friends and family and be safe if you are traveling!

Thursday Class. Thanks to **Tim Gotkiewicz** for teaching the Thursday Class this fall. We have had a good study via videos by Don Blackwell and discussions led by Tim. We will not be meeting again until 2015. At that time we will begin a study of the book of Mark. We will try to study a chapter a week or so from January until May. I will be teaching the class through April and we will have different class members teach the class in May.

New Wednesday Classes. In the Auditorium Class we will begin a study looking at various Struggles we all face. I will be teaching this class. In the Young Adult Class Josh Cochran, Dean Norton, and Brooks Housley will lead the class in a survey of the Minor Prophets.

Sunday Afternoon Singing. Thank you for the good job Paul Clements has done in the Singing Class on Sunday afternoons. This class will be on hiatus (fancy word for "we will take a break") until after the first of the year.

Wonderful Wednesdays. Thank you to Eric Lyons for the good job he has done for our Wonderful Wednesdays this November. I am thankful we could study "Reasons to Believe the Bible." I believe at present the attacks on the Bible are more numerous than attacks on God. Our next Wonderful Wednesdays will be in April, 2015. We will have four speakers, Melvin Otey, Billy Hilyer, Don Myers, and Sam Long.

NEW CLASSES ON WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING IN DECEMBER

Auditorium Class

December 3	Surviving Our Struggles
December 10	Facing Failure
December 17	Dealing with Depression
January 7	Getting Over Guilt
January 14	Going Through Grief
January 21	Managing Money
January 28	The Pain of Parenting
February 4	Guest
February 11	Facing Fears
February 18	Living With Loneliness
February 25	Steps to Raising a Low Self-Esteem
March 4	Ditching Disappointment
March 11	Making Marriage Marvelous
March 18	Being Happy With Your Health
March 25	Dying with Dignity

Young Adult Class

Hosea	(Josh Cochran)
Joel	(Josh Cochran)
Amos	(Josh Cochran)
Obadiah	(Dean Norton)
Micah	(Dean Norton)
Nahum	(Dean Norton)
Habakkuk	(Dean Norton)
Zephaniah	(Brooks Housley)
Haggai	(Brooks Housley)
Zechariah	(Brooks Housley)
Malachi	(Brooks Housley)

*STEVE HOUSLEY IS TEACHING
THE AUDITORIUM CLASS*

FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER:

Sandwiched somewhere between Halloween and Christmas is a Thursday holiday that is slowly becoming forgotten in the minds of millions of Americans – Thanksgiving. If you search hard, you might find one small section of Thanksgiving cards, autumn decorations, and a turkey platter amid the aisles and miles of Halloween costumes, Christmas decorations, and toys.

For some, Thanksgiving is a day to get a list together prior to a day of marathon Christmas shopping on Black Friday (Not to mention those stores that are now open on Thanksgiving day). Somewhere along the way, the way we celebrate Thanksgiving has gotten twisted. We've forgotten the reason that people celebrated that first Thanksgiving; they were grateful to God for their survival!

Historically we think of Thanksgiving as a time of feasting for the Pilgrims and Indians. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims had been in America less than a year. During those months, over half of their original population died from disease or starvation. The Pilgrims hosted the first feast not to try out their latest recipes, but to celebrate their first successful harvest. They shared with their Indian friends and gave thanks to God for His provision in difficult circumstances.

We all see the first Thanksgiving as pilgrims and turkey and other stuff (ing). Right?

Well, I've got news for you: the REAL first Thanksgiving (on record) happened not hundreds, but thousands of years ago. Here's how it went:

“And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” (Genesis 4:3-7)

The Lord instituted the first thanksgiving by asking for an offering to praise Him and thank him for what he had blessed them with. The first recorded thanksgiving involved two men, two offerings, and two totally different reactions.

Abel gave his offering with a grateful heart, which pleased God. There are several theories behind why God rejected Cain's offering, but there was obviously a mind-set problem with him that didn't set well with the Lord.

During this time of the year when we reflect on the harvest and respond with being thankful, let's not forget that God cares very much about the attitude behind our gratitude.

So... the main question we should ask ourselves this coming week is: am I more like Cain, or Abel?

Here's what Thanksgiving would look like for Cain:

He gets up, and is looking forward to completely gorging himself on good food. He is thankful for a few days off from school or work, but mainly because he can lay around, watch a parade, then watch football. Or, he's excited mainly because of black Friday! Some Cains love Thanksgiving mainly because they get to do nothing for a few days. At the table, he wants to be served first, and when it comes time to praise God before the meal, he bows his head, but his mind wanders to what is going on with the football game or getting together with friends later. He's sure to say a hearty, “Amen!” after the prayer, because he knows it is now time to feast! Eventually the day ends, and he goes to sleep thinking about that leftover turkey.

Cain's kind of thanksgiving is like wax fruit in a bowl. It looks real on the outside, but in reality it is

fake and useless, and that is why God rejects it.

An Abel, on the other hand, remembers that even the very air he breathes is a gift from God. He knows that all good things in his life are directly from the hand of God. His focus during this time of year (Thanksgiving and always) is to take the energy he would normally devote to school and/or work, and direct it towards thanking God and serving others. He is quick to help set the table and clean up afterwards, he is intent in listening to others, and he is active in the family traditions. During the day he thinks of all the blessings of God and thanks Him for each and every one.

Heartfelt thankfulness has an amazing effect. It gives us hope, turns our eyes on Jesus, and protects us from sin.

This Thanksgiving, think of the blessings from God that you are thankful for and share with someone.

Psalm 107:1 "Oh give thanks to the LORD for He is good!"

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's Apocalypse question: Which plague came first? Boils, Exodus 9: 10, 23

This week's question: Who is the second man, recorded in the Bible, to have committed murder? (Do not count Satan, who was a murderer from the beginning.)

A) Tubal-Cain; B) Irad; C) Lamech



ANNOUNCEMENTS 11/26/14

Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:

A.M.: Mark Evans

P.M.: Mark Evans

Opening Prayer:

A.M.: George Davidson

P.M.: Paul Clements

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Jon Timbes

P.M.: Troy Steelman

Singing:

A.M.: Nathan Bridges

P.M.: Nathan Bridges

SICK: RUSSELL CARNLEY, father of Faulkner University student Derek Carnley, had amputation surgery Wednesday, Nov. 26. GLEN BARRON, Kerry Roberts' dad, is home continuing to recover from surgery. ANN EVANS and WAYNE JOHNSTON are recovering from surgery. It was good to have GEORGE & BETTY DAVIDSON and BECKY BLUE here Sunday following illness and surgeries. Prayers are requested for CINDY MATTOX, a co-worker of Linda Simpson, who is very ill. Sick at home Sunday: JOHNNY BLUE, JOY DAVIS, HELEN DILL, JULIE GOTKIEWICZ, MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, CHRIS KELLEY, and MARSHA SUTTON. *Battling Cancer:* MIKE NORMAN. *Shut-ins:* SYBIL SCOFIELD, TAM LOWERY, INELLA BOWDEN, JACKIE JOHNSTON, and JEWEL BARNES.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Health Issues) APRIL BROWN, ELMER UTLEY, JAMES JUSTUS, and CINDY MATTOX. (Battling Cancer) DENNIS DRAGOTTA, KEVIN PENICK, ANDY ALLEN, GLEN BARRON, and RUSSELL CARNLEY.

SUNDAY BIBLE LESSON: 11/30—*The Flood*, (Gen. 6-10); 12/7—*Scattering of the People*, (Gen. 11).

SINGING CLASS: Sundays, 4:30 PM—Class is suspended until January, 2015.

JOB OPENINGS: Faulkner University announces the following open position, Math Tutor—Instructional Lab. More info at: www.faulkner.edu/about-faulkner/human-resources/current-openings/.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

- **Dec. 14:** Area Wide Youth Devo, PM

COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Wednesday Night Desserts**, 7:30 PM



- **Visitation:** See Tish, Terry, or Shirley K.
- **Dec. 5:** Ornament Swap, 6 PM, @ Jane Sewell's

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS



ANNUAL ADULTS CHRISTMAS DINNER: The dinner is Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 PM at the Faulkner University's Rotunda. Cost is \$10 per person. See Shirley Kaye, Sally Gotkiewicz, or Wilma Berry to sign-up and pay.

LADYBUGS ORNAMENT SWAP: The LadyBUGS Ornament Swap is Friday, Dec. 5, 6 PM at Jane Norton's. Keep ornament cost at \$5–\$7. See the sign-up list at the front welcome center or see Jane.

SR. YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY: The party will be at Tim & Sally Gotkiewicz's house Friday, Dec. 12, 6 PM. See Tim or Sally for more info.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS/YOUNG FAMILIES: On Sunday, December 21, the Young Professionals/Young Families Class will meet at Jason's Deli following evening services and then caravan to the Montgomery Zoo for the Christmas Lights Festival. Admission for the zoo event is \$15 for adults and children. Please see Brooks or Sarah Housley for more details.

What You Might Do To Point Someone Toward Heaven Today

- ♦ Pay a compliment to someone who does not like you or know you very well.
- ♦ Choose the moral high ground, whether it be your speech or attitude or deed, especially if toward someone who has treated you ill.
- ♦ Say a word of encouragement to someone who seems down.
- ♦ Make a brief call, visit, or write someone who is sick, lost, spiritually slipping, or dealing with troubles.
- ♦ Find a way to share the positive difference Christ is making in your life.
- ♦ Spend quality time with your spouse and children.
- ♦ Tell a friend or neighbor about an upcoming event at church and invite them to attend with you.
- ♦ Take a meal, baby-sit, mow the grass, or do some similar act of service that reveals Christ to them.
- ♦ Share a passage that you have recently found helpful with someone for whom it might have direct application to a life situation.
- ♦ Pray for opportunities to share Christ, look for them, and seize them.
- ♦ Never miss an opportunity to smile and say "hello"--even to STRANGERS!
- ♦ Read your Bible while on the plane, bus, carpool, etc.--it rarely fails to start a spiritual conversation.
- ♦ Spend time studying God's Word on a subject that will help make you a better soul-winner.
- ♦ Invite a new Christian over for dinner or coffee and dessert.
- ♦ Repay evil with good.
- ♦ Turn the other cheek.
- ♦ Go the second mile.

- ◆ Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt.
- ◆ Redeem the time (people are always watching, even the ones you cannot watch watching you).
- ◆ Pay a kindness to the elderly and the very young--they most need and appreciate it.
- ◆ Contact a missionary, who likely has just been, is, or will soon be under stress or burdened or discouraged.
- ◆ Give a book, tract, or bulletin that might be helpful to a non-Christian over whom you have influence.
- ◆ Offer a sympathetic ear.
- ◆ Shed a sympathizing tear.

Fill your life and heart with whatever is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and of good report--good influence will virtually ooze out of your pores.

--Neal Pollard

16 Periods of Bible History

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ◆ Before the Flood | ◆ Wandering in the Wilderness | ◆ Divided Kingdom |
| ◆ The Flood | ◆ Invasion and Conquest of the Land | ◆ Judah Alone |
| ◆ Scattering of the People | ◆ Judges | ◆ Captivity |
| ◆ Patriarchs | ◆ United Kingdom | ◆ Return from Captivity |
| ◆ Exodus | | ◆ Years of Silence |

WE ARE RICHLY BLESSED!

We live in the greatest country in the world! Physical blessings involve much more than we can itemize - things such as electricity, good roads, pure water, bathrooms, etc. The majority have jobs, cars, homes and clothes - richly blessed! We are blessed to have medicine that prevents or eliminates many diseases, as well as medical procedures and equipment that gives us quality life. We benefit daily from the vast (and sometimes staggering) electronic and technological advancements. We have friends and neighbors who are helpful and kind. We are wealthy (compared to the vast millions throughout the world)!

Above All Else, WE ARE BLESSED SPIRITUALLY. We can be forgiven of our sins. Upon our obedience to the gospel of Christ, we are added to the family of God (adopted into His family). If we remain faithful unto the time of our departure from this earth, we are promised

a home in the eternal mansion (John 14:1-3). Surely NONE could successfully deny that we are richly blessed. Yet, friend, will you stop and consider with me for a few moments that while we are blessed, are we sincerely THANKFUL?

ARE WE THANKFUL? God's faithful followers realize their dependence upon their Creator and are THANKFUL. They know that all things come from God above (2 Pet. 1:3). They understand that "in him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

ALL YEAR! Let us ALWAYS recognize the need and ever be grateful for our rich blessings. Thanksgiving Day is a special day, but let us be thankful, express our thanksgiving, possess an attitude of appreciation for our rich blessings every moment of every day.

--Brandon Britton