



# Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

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

December 10, 2015

#### ELDERS:

Tim Bagents  
Don Brannan  
Ted Norton

#### DEACONS:

Billy Bush  
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

#### STATISTICS 12/6/15

Bible Class: 130  
AM Worship: 173  
PM Worship: 100  
EMBE: \$97.00

**WELCOME!**

## PURPOSE SUNDAY FOR 2016

*This Sunday, December 13, has been designated "Purpose Sunday for 2016". Prayerfully consider what you can possibly do for next year in regard to your giving. Purpose cards will be passed out Sunday morning. The Elders ask that you fill out and return the cards – the sooner the better – no later than Sunday, Dec. 20.*

### CONFIDENTIAL—

### "PURPOSE OF HEART" CARD

"Every man according as he hath purposed in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

To show my love for my Lord, my home congregation, and the support of its work, it is my purpose of heart (if the Lord wills) to give to our Lord each **week** (if you give by the month because you prosper by the month, for the "purpose card" please average the amount by the week)

|             |          |             |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| 2015 Giving | Increase | 2016 Giving |
| \$ _____    | _____    | _____       |

I understand that this is not a legally binding contract but will help the elders plan our work. At my discretion, this amount may be increased or decreased, as I prosper during the year.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## FROM THE MINISTER:

**Sunday is Purpose Sunday.** This Sunday our elders will be asking us to fill out Purpose Cards, indicating our plans for giving in 2016. Eastern Meadows has used "Purposing" to help the elders determine the Eastern Meadows budget since about 1990. This has provided them useful information and also has challenged the church here to be diligent in our giving. God has blessed the Eastern Meadows church and you, as you have been faithful in your giving.

In preparation for Purpose Sunday, discuss as a family your giving plans for 2016. A family (often the husband and wife) usually discuss major purchases and plans. Certainly, they should discuss giving! It is also a good teaching moment for the children to know that Mom and Dad have learned to give as they have prospered with a cheerful heart.

**The Cartoon.** This cartoon illustrates how we can often be very willing to take on "payments" for various things we *want* or feel we need, but be reluctant to promise our purposed giving. But the way, the Lord understands if we do not prosper as much and are forced to reduce our giving; however, the finance company still demands its same payment. Our Lord is far more gracious than the finance company. Let us be generous with our Lord!



## "PURPOSING AND AFOREPROMISING"

It becomes increasingly apparent that some do not understand the difference between "purposing in one's heart" (2 Cor. 9:7) and that matter of "aforepromising" (2 Cor. 8:10-11; 9:5), that which has already been decided (purposed) in the heart! In these passages cited above, the apostle Paul draws this candid distinction else the passages really do not mean anything to us! This expression "aforepromised bounty", has reference to the fact that these people (our brethren) promised beforehand a certain gift! Now, in all probability, they did it much after the fashion of their ancestors as is mentioned in Deuteronomy 23:23! The scripture says they "promised with thy mouth!" The fact remains that they "openly" made a commitment; whether by mouth or on paper - we still have the same principle! "Purposing" was done in the "heart" whereas the "aforepromise" was generally "known"!

Signing a purpose card does *not* mean: (1) That you will be expected to give anything beyond your prosperity! (2 Cor. 8:12). (2) That you will be expected to continue giving your purposed amount if there is a decrease in your income, or loss of job! (3) That you will be “billed” or “assessed” for your contribution if you become delinquent! You’re on your honor with the Lord, dear Christian, to “complete the doing also.” (2 Cor. 8:11) (4) That you are prohibited from increasing your contribution as your prosperity increases or as your understanding and love increase in the matter of giving! (5) That this is any more denominational than “sitting in pews” because “they” do; “using songbooks” because “they” do! We have a Biblical principle for doing this, and we do not cease to do that which is right simply because “anyone” else does it! The Bible is still our guide to furnish us “completely unto every good work!” This, we must remember!

Signing a purpose card *does* mean” (1) That you are eager and willing to honor that Bible principle of “aforepromising” (2 Cor. 9:5) what you have “purposed in ... heart.” (2 Cor. 9:7). (2) That you are, like Corinthian Christians, desirous of assisting in the work of the Lord by declaring (aforepromising) your intent for the year following! (2 Cor. 8:10). (3) That you are cooperative with the elders of this congregation who bear the burden (but joyfully so) of spending long hours in the planning of the Lord’s work, and the other members of the congregation who share in the financial challenges before us! (2 Cor. 6:1; 6:6). (4) That in you there is the “readiness to will.” (2 Cor. 8:11, 12). (5) That you are making every effort to “be found faithful as a steward.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

—William W. Anderson

### ***FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER:***

Our next Youth Group Area-Wide worship and fellowship is this Sunday, December 13th, and will be at the Wetumpka Church of Christ. Following the theme of AIM (Attitude, Image, and Mind) focusing on the Sermon on the Mount, we will hear a lesson on Matthew 6:1-4, 19-24. The van will be leaving at 4 p.m. and picking up at the McDonalds on Congressman Dickinson Drive. We will worship and then eat.

Cookie Bake at Tim and Sally’s on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>! We plan to start at 2 p.m.

Registration for ICYC AP weeks 1 & 2 begin on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme for week 1 (June 5 – 10) is “The Church” and the theme for week 2 (June 26 – July 1) is The Existence of God.” I plan to register Eastern Meadows on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> for week 1, so check your calendars, schedules, etc. and decide if you want to attend. I will be passing out registration forms this week and next week.

Registration for Lads to Leaders begins this Saturday! Everyone going must participate in Bible bowl plus one other convention event. The event registration deadline is January 11, 2016. Bible Bowl Practice will commence on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Besides reading the book of Matthew and looking at the L2L Bible Bowl study questions, I encourage each participant to download the “Bible Bowl Prep” app for their tablet or phone. The app is free, and the Matthew questions are 99 cents. If you can’t afford to buy the questions, let me know and I’ll pay for them.

Exposure is less than 4 weeks away! We depart after Sunday morning worship on Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, and will return Wed the 30<sup>th</sup>.

This is a copy of an article I wrote for the church bulletin in the early 90’s. I revive it every once in a while because I believe it is still relevant.

Have a happy holiday season, but as you do...please remember that:

1. There is no scriptural authority to formally celebrate the birth of Christ. The fact is, no one knows

exactly what day Christ was born. What we are told, is to remember the death of Christ each time we partake of the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-29; Acts 20:7)

2. There is good news that he was born as our savior, and that he came down from heaven to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 2:8-12)

3. We do not have to cease to be happy in Jesus, just because it's "Christmas." Paul told us, "Rejoice in the Lord always." (Philippians 4:4)

4. We should show our faith in Christ in every proper way, but we should not deceive others into thinking that we are celebrating December 25th as the birthday of Christ.

5. When all the facts are considered, there is nothing to prevent our enjoying the holiday season called "Christmas." We may give and receive gifts, just as we can any other time of the year for whatever reasons we wish.

6. Most Importantly!!!!

Instead of revealing the date of the birth of Christ, God has revealed the day on which he was raised from the dead...the first day of the week. (Mark 16:8-9; Luke 24:1-7) God does want us to celebrate this day. It is a day called the "Lord's day."

See you next time we do!!!

## TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:



*Last week's question:* Matthew 10:2-4 names the twelve in pairs. Why?

C) Jesus sent them out by pairs

*This week's question:* Approximately how many years after Moses wrote Deuteronomy did Malachi write his book?

A) 2000 years; B) 1400 years; C) 1000 years

### Dec. 13, 2015 / Leading the congregation in:

#### Announcements:

A.M.: Steve Sewell

P.M.: Steve Sewell

#### Opening Prayer:

A.M.: Paul Clements

P.M.: Ryan Gotkiewicz

#### Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Randy Porterfield

P.M.: Troy Steelman

#### Singing:

A.M.: Dean Norton

P.M.: Dean Norton

## LADYBUGS

- **Dec. 16:** Holiday Basket Items Due & Assembly
- **Jan. 10:** 2016 LadyBUGS Meeting

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **Dec. 13:** Area Wide Devo, PM
- **Dec. 19:** Sr. Youth Cookie Bake
- **Dec. 27–30:** EXPOSURE—"Ill" *Father. Son. Spirit.*

### 2015 BUDGET—\$12,120.00

12/6/15 CONTRIBUTION: \$12,784.78 / BUDGET: + \$664.78 / YTD: + \$45,595.78

# ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/10/15

**SICK:** It was good to have HUNTER TIMBES with us Sunday following surgery Dec. 4. It was good to have PHYLLIS ALLEN with us Sunday as she continues to recover from back surgery. Prayers have been requested for MARC MCDANIEL, friend of Ryan & Julie Gotkiewicz, who is battling cancer. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, BARNEY BELL, VIRGINIA EVANS, DOROTHY HICKS, CHARLOTTE PATTERSON, and MARSHA SUTTON. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Night-Service Prayer List. Shut-ins: SYBIL SCOFIELD, TAM LOWERY, INELLA BOWDEN, CATHERINE LEINHEISER, LOURINE BLACK, JACKIE JOHNSTON, and JEWEL BARNES. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN. Deployed: JON TIMBES, Kuwait.

**PRAYER REQUEST LIST:** (Health Issues) KATHY DAVIS and JENNY JOHNSON. (Battling Cancer) KEVIN PENICK, GERMAINE HARDIN, IMOGENE GRACE, GLENDA SMITH, WAYNE EDWARDS, MELISSA MOTE, PHYLLIS DELL, OLEN HOUSLEY, TELSIE DAVIS, MARK CHAMBLISS, DONNA HINES, MARILYN PIERCE, and MARC MCDANIEL.

**PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE:** We are happy to announce that RYAN AKERS and JAMIE FINLAYSON, who were on our prayer request list as they were battling cancer, are now cancer FREE! Your prayers and cards were greatly appreciated.

**DEC. 13th NURSERY ATTENDANTS:** CECILIA & MIRANDA PORTERFIELD

**LEADERSHIP EAT & MEET:** All the Elders and Deacons will meet this Sunday, Dec. 13, for a business meeting at 7:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served by Tim Gotkiewicz and Steve Housley at 7 a.m.

**PURPOSE SUNDAY FOR 2016:** This Sunday, December 13, has been designated "Purpose Sunday for 2016". Purpose cards will be passed out Sunday morning. The Elders ask that you fill out and return the cards—*the sooner the better*—by Sunday, Dec. 20.

**YOUNG FAMILIES/PROFESSIONALS 2ND SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP:** The December 2nd Sunday Fellowship will be this Sunday following the evening worship service at Urban Cookhouse. See Sarah Housley for more information.

**RAINBOW OMEGA POINSETTIAS:** The poinsettias were delivered Wednesday, Dec. 9. If you have not paid, be sure to turn in money to Wilma by this Sunday.

**HOLIDAY BASKETS FOR SHUT-INS:** It is time to prepare holiday baskets for our shut-ins at Eastern Meadows. A suggested items sign-up list is posted at the LadyBUGS' desk. We will be preparing 16 bags this year including 1 for a man. Please sign your name by the item(s) you are willing to bring and have them at the church building no later than Dec. 16th. There will be a box behind the desk where you may leave your items. Bags will be assembled Wed. night, Dec. 16th, following the service and your help with this we would appreciate it. Thanks so much for your participation.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING (Note Date Update):** All are invited to spread some holiday cheer on **Friday, Dec. 18**. Meet at 6:15 p.m. in the Eastern Meadows back parking lot, then we'll caravan to each location. Please sign the list on the front foyer desk if you plan to be there so that we can approximate the number of homes we will be able to visit. All ages are encouraged to come!

## The Hero of Calvary

The light of my life has been shielded from me,  
In darkness I stumble and barely can see...

The Prince of the dark is now lurking about,  
He's trying to fill my very heart with doubt...

He would hold back all of life's goodness from me,  
All comfort and respite he'd fain let me see...

Not a moment's rest and never any peace  
And from his devices he'd grant no release!

So long, long ago he set his sites on me

From his vileness not one relief can I see...

And from early morning on 'til dark of night  
Each moment is for my very life a fight!

CHORUS:

Then I met him! The hero of Calvary!

And from this fight he finally set me free!

No more must I be tossed about like a wave,

He fought for me... Fought my very soul to save!

—H.L. Gradowith, via *BulletinGold*

## A Kitchen For The Fellowship Hall

Equipping the new kitchen for the fellowship hall is not in the building contract with Hagan Construction. A good kitchen is costly. So that Eastern Meadows can be equipped in the future with any food need that may arise, a commercial kitchen is being planned. Each of us is needed to provide the funds – above the regular contribution – for the kitchen equipment. Any contribution you can make will be greatly appreciated.

Below is a list of the various pieces of equipment and their cost:

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Hood System:                 | \$10,998.23 |
| Dishwasher Station:          | 7,702.00    |
| Soiled Dish Assembly Station | 4,744.67    |
| Gas Range/Cooktop            | 3,743.93    |
| Food Prep Station            | 3,451.46    |
| Food Disposal System         | 3,265.85    |
| Freezer                      | 2,987.50    |
| Oven                         | 2,969.41    |
| Ice Machine                  | 2,950.00    |
| Refrigerator                 | 2,543.75    |
| Dishwasher Hood System       | 2,329.23    |
| Serving Counter - Hot        | 1,400.00    |
| 3 Compartment Sink           | 1,342.15    |
| Serving Counter - Cold       | 1,050.00    |
| Deep Fryer                   | 1,061.25    |
| Shelving                     | 884.40      |
| Microwave                    | 400.00      |
| Hand Sink                    | 241.67      |

If you can and will provide for a specific piece of equipment, sign the list. If you wish to provide the funding for a partial amount of a piece of equipment, sign the list with the amount you will be contributing. You may sign the list Anonymous, or you can sign your name. Please give your contribution directly to Ted Norton.

Please make your plans and sign the list by December 31, 2015!

Again, thank you for your help!

## Lord, Show Me How

If I can do some good today,  
If I can serve along life's way,  
If I can something helpful say,  
Lord, show me how.

If I can right a human wrong,  
If I can help to make someone  
strong,  
If I can cheer with smile or song,  
Lord, show me how.

If I can aid one in distress,  
If I can make a burden less,  
If I can spread more happiness,  
Lord, show me how.

—*BulletinGold*

## Glorious Exchange

I brought Him all my sorrow  
And all my falling tears;  
I brought Him all my loneliness  
And all my wasted years.

He took them all upon Himself,  
With all my load of sin,  
And gave me in exchange  
His love, His joy, His peace within.

He took away my sorrow  
And gave me back a song;  
And now my heart can only praise  
My Savior all day long.

—*BulletinGold*

Nobody can go back and make a new beginning or undo anything that has been done. But we can always start again at the present moment, correct things that are wrong and start doing what is right and make a brand new ending.

—*BulletinGold*