



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

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

December 17, 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 12/13/15

Bible Class: 123
AM Worship: 168
PM Worship: 96
EMBF: \$78.00

WELCOME!



Sunday morning, Ted Norton, speaking for the elders challenged Eastern Meadows, . . . not just to turn in a *Purpose Card*, but to put *First Things First!* Yes it was Purpose Sunday, but the key to success in any endeavor is to first have priorities where they ought to be.

The churches of Macedonia succeeded in their giving because they had put First Things First. Their giving was during a “great trial of affliction” as they experienced “deep poverty” (2 Corinthians 8:2). In spite of this, they gave willingly (8:3) basically begging Paul to take their gift for the poor saints of Jerusalem (8:4). They were so successful in their giving because they “first gave themselves to the Lord” (8:5).

For Eastern Meadows to have success in purposing and then in giving, we too must *first* give our own selves to the Lord. So, the elders challenged Eastern Meadows to put *First Things First*. *Are you putting First Things First?*

If you did not turn in your *Purpose Card* on Sunday, please give it to one of the elders. Eastern Meadows is striving for 100% participation in purposing. We can do this if we all put *First Things First*.

FROM THE MINISTER:

Purpose Sunday. This past Sunday was Purpose Sunday. Eastern Meadows has “Purposed” for about 27 years. As a result each year we are challenged to do as God teaches in giving. Our elders are leading us in *Purposing* but the elders themselves, are the first to turn in Purpose Cards, and some of the most sacrificial givers at Eastern Meadows. In this they truly lead by example (1 Peter 5:3).

First Things First. Their challenge was deeper than just *Purposing*. The challenge was to put *First Things First*. This is exactly what must be done by Elders, Deacons, Ministers, and all members for us to please God, individually, as a church, and to grow as a church. *And Eastern Meadows needs to grow.* We need to grow spiritually; we need to grow numerically. And, no, it is not numbers for numbers sake. Each “number” represents a soul; a soul that will live eternally after death! Yes, we need to grow in number meaning there are more *souls* serious about spiritual matters.

First Things First, As A 2016 Theme. In 2016 there will be regular reminders to put *First Things First*. Though the elders have not told me to immediately change my preaching plans for the coming year, I found it interesting that our Sunday morning sermon series from the Sermon on the Mount, is now moving to chapter 6! It is Matthew 6:33 that Ted quoted Sunday, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” We will be studying, and soon, putting *First Things First*.

Be Thankful. Be thankful you are at a congregation where the elders are leading us and providing us the example of where they are leading us! Not all congregations have elders; not all congregations have elders who lead and provide an example.

Purpose. Please turn in your Purpose Card. Let us have 100% participation. After all, it is only a promise (2 Corinthians 9:5) of what we have already personally purposed (2 Corinthians 9:7).

FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER:

We had 18 representing our youth group (including Sally and me) attend the Area-Wide worship at Wetumpka on Sunday evening. Rob Baker presented a great lesson using Matthew 6:22,23 as his key verses in a study of Mathew 6:1-4, 19-24. Some thoughts from his lesson:

What you allow into your life affects who you are, and eventually who you become, so be careful what you watch, listen to, participate in, and think about.

Paul, in Philippians 4: 8,9 tells us, “Finally brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are **of good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy** – *meditate on these things*. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.” [emphasis added] If what you are watching or listening to doesn’t fit Paul’s list of things to meditate on, then why are you allowing these things into your life???



Congratulations to KIANA LONG on her graduation from Troy University.

Our next Youth Group Area-Wide worship and fellowship is this Sunday, January 10th, and will be at the Houston Park Church of Christ in Selma. Following the theme of AIM (Attitude, Image, and Mind) focusing on the Sermon on the Mount, we will hear a lesson on Matthew 6: 25-34. The van will be leaving at 3:30 p.m.

Cookie Bake at Tim and Sally's this Saturday, Dec 19th! We plan to start at 2 p.m.

Registration for ICYC AP weeks 1 & 2 begin on Jan 1st. 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 1st 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 has begun! 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 10th. 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 10 days away! We depart after Sunday morning worship on Dec 27th, and will return Wed the 30th.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **Dec. 19:** Sr. Youth Cookie Bake, 2 PM
- **Dec. 27-30:** EXPOSURE—"III"
- **Jan. 8:** After Christmas Party

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!

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: Approximately how many years after Moses wrote Deuteronomy did Malachi write his book? C) 1000 years (1400 B.C. to 400 B.C.)

This week's question: Where did God plant a garden in Eden in which he put Adam?

A) Northward; B) Eastward; C) Southward; D) Westward



ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/17/15

SICK: Baby ALLIE JAYE WARD has been dealing with some breathing issues. COURTNEY WARD continues to recover from a C-section. Prayers have been requested for JOE ANDERSON, former EM member, who underwent a heart catheterization on Tuesday in Florida. Prayers have been requested for DEREK MAY, Lori Hagan's cousin, who has leukemia and has begun treatments. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, MARCIA GRAVES, DOROTHY HICKS, JERRY PATTERSON, BUDDY PUGH, and MARIAN SIKES. 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.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to DEIDRE COLE and family in the passing of her grandfather, EDGAR HERRING, on Dec. 11. The funeral was Dec. 16 in Wichita, TX.

DEC. 20th NURSERY ATTENDANTS: DAWN CHANDLER & LINDA SIMPSON

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!

NEW PHONE NUMBERS: BURT TURNER, (334) 473-8740; JERRY & CHARLOTTE PATTERSON, Jerry's cell, (334) 301-4097; Landline removed.

WEDNESDAYS, DEC. 23RD & 30TH: We will have regular classes Wednesday, Dec. 23, and will have congregational singing, Dec. 30.

JANUARY 2016 CALENDAR: All events for the January 2016 calendar must be turned in by Dec. 23 to Wilma.

OFFICE CLOSED: The church offices will be closed Dec. 24th, 25th, and 31st.

FAULKNER EAGLES: Faulkner University would like to invite you to come watch the men's basketball team play Pikeville College on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 7 p.m. Pikeville is #1 in the country and this will be a great game. Admission is free and free pizza will be served at 6:30 p.m. The students are gone for the holidays and the team would really appreciate your support.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Faulkner University would like to announce the following open position: Director, Student Disability Services – Project Key. This position is being advertised to internal and external candidates. The complete position announcement can be viewed on our website at <http://www.faulkner.edu/about-faulkner/human-resources/current-openings/>.

CELEBRATION IN SONG: You are cordially invited to the "Celebration in Song" event at Decatur Highway Church of Christ in Gardendale, AL, Jan. 16, 2016, 6-9 p.m. For more information, call (205) 631-7000.

ANNUAL STEAK DINNER CHRISTMAS PARTY: Just a reminder that the annual Steak Dinner fellowship will be postponed until we can hold it in our new fellowship hall. It will not be in December, 2015.

LADYBUGS

- **Opportunities for Involvement:** Fill-out and return your LadyBUGS 2016 Opportunities for Involvement Card in baskets posted at the Front & Rear Welcome Desks
- **Jan. 10:** 2016 LadyBUGS Meeting

2015 BUDGET—\$12,120.00

12/13/15 CONTRIBUTION: \$16,983.65

BUDGET: + \$4,863.65

YTD: + \$51,309.59

PURPOSE CARDS:

If you did not turn in your Purpose Card last Sunday, Please be sure to turn it in by this Sunday, Dec. 20, to one of the Elders

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 _____

EXPOSURE 2015

"III" Father.Son.Spirit.

Dec. 27—30, Huntsville, AL

Attending:

Tim Gotkiewicz	Kelsey Evans
Turner Johnston	Landon Evans
Banks Sewell	Dianne Hoskinson
Norton Sewell	Ron Hoskinson
Eli Porter	Luke Ferrell
Randal Porterfield	Aaron Ferrell
Deonta Kelly	Cecilia Porterfield
Conner Gaither	Mollie Beth Dill
Sally Gotkiewicz	Miranda Porterfield
Jacque Hagan	Jinny Khantisouriya
Mary Vander Sewell	Gracie Johnston
Mark Evans	Ammaly Khantisouriya
Tammy Evans	Grace Mount

Sunday

Bible

Classes

Dec. 20

- **Auditorium Class:** Jonah (Chapters 3-4)
- **Young Ladies' Class:** Jonah
- **Experienced Ladies' Class:** Adah & Zillah (Gen. 4:19-22); Job's Wife (Job 1:2—2:10); Jemimah, Keziah, & Karenhappuch (Job 42:10-17).

Dec. 20, 2015 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:

A.M.: Jeff Simpson
P.M.: Jeff Simpson

Opening Prayer:

A.M.: Allen Clements
P.M.: Roy Mulkey

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: S. Neuenschwander
P.M.: Troy Steelman

Singing:

A.M.: William Dill
P.M.: William Dill

PLAN YOUR GIVING

Our elders have been working diligently and prayerfully in recent weeks on plans for this church for another year. They have completed their plans and are about ready to present them to the congregation. This necessitates some planning, now, on the part of the individual members. Planned spending depends upon planned giving. You should plan your giving because:

Planned giving is the only kind of Scriptural giving. Paul wrote the church at Corinth, "Let each man do according as he hath purposed in his heart." (2 Cor. 9:7). This simply means the Christian must deliberately and intelligently determine the amount of his gift rather than wait until the moment arrives then let the size of the crowd, his approval or disapproval of the sermon, or the nature of the weather determine it for him.

Planned giving stimulates cheerful giving. He who purposes or plans his gift to Christ thinks of the blessings and the prosperity he has enjoyed from God and gives accordingly (1 Cor. 16:2). He does not feel that he is being taxed, but is happy to express his love to God, who has so richly blessed him. The person who purposes his giving settles once and for all, a question that constantly plagues the man who does not do so, namely: "Is my giving as the Lord would have it?"

Planned giving encourages regular giving. The Christian who plans his giving, gives even when he is away on weekend trips, vacations, or emergencies. He is never tempted to "embezzle" the Lord's money. When he gives as he has purposed he does not use his contribution to pay pressing bills, vacation expenses, etc. The Christian knows that "upon the first day of the week" he is to lay by him in store as he may prosper. (1 Cor. 16:2). This demands regularity.

Planned giving inspires liberal giving. Paul said, "He that giveth, let him do it with liberality." (Rom. 12:8). Those who do not plan much do not give much. The more we purpose to do, the more we will do! He who does not plan his giving does not realize how little he gives to the Lord.

Planned giving increases our work for Christ. Giving is a means to an end—more work for the Lord. Thus, the more we plan to give to God, the more we give; the more we give, the more we can do for him. *The elders can depend on the Christian who plans his giving to support a program of work.*

Planned giving eliminates deficits and drives. If we will purpose in our hearts to give according to our prosperity, then give that regularly, there will be no need for deficits. All Paul asked the Corinthians to do was to give as they had purposed; and he had no fear of deficits. (2 Cor. 9:3-7).

Let us all purpose in our hearts to give liberally in the coming year. Let every person, young and old alike, have a part in the good work our elders are setting before us—with no "free-loaders", no "hitch-hikers" - but each one doing his part. When you have thoughtfully and prayerfully determined the amount of your giving, fill in the purpose card the elders will send you, and let them know you can be counted upon. The Corinthians promised a year before what they would do for the poor. (2 Cor. 9:2-7). If it was right for them, it is right for you. It is right to say, "If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this, or that." (James 4:15).

Finally, you may be assured, the Lord is able to make you able to give as you have purposed. (2 Cor. 9:8).

—Mack Lyon