



# Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

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

December 3, 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 11/29/15

Bible Class: 133  
AM Worship: 169  
PM Worship: 126  
EMBF: \$1,852.00

**WELCOME!**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AND TEACHER'S MEETING

To kick-off the new curriculum, *this Sunday, December 6* will be Sunday School Open House and Teacher's Meeting. After Sunday morning worship, all the students, along with the parents, will return to the child's classroom for a brief meeting. You will have an opportunity to hear the teacher's plans for the quarter. Additionally, at this time, the parents will receive the mini-flashcards so they can help the children learn their facts. The meeting will be brief – likely no more than ten minutes. We have many talented, hard-working, teachers and we can be thankful. We can also be thankful for every child/student.



## PURPOSE SUNDAY FOR 2016

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.

## **FROM THE MINISTER:**

**We Rejoice and Pray!** Sunday morning Grace Mount came forward confessing sin. Grace was very direct in confessing her sin and requesting prayer. Let us continue to pray for Grace and encourage her. Pray for her wisdom, resolve, and strength.

**Thank You.** Thank you for your faithful giving. You have given faithfully over this year. Additionally, there have been large contributions for the building fund. Thank you for these building fund contributions. This has enabled us to get through most of the year without a “budget catch-up.”

**Pray.** Now is the time that much consideration is taking place about Eastern Meadows work for the coming year. Already the elders have spent more than usual time in meeting, planning for the 2016. Pray.

### **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 con-

tributing. 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:** Where did Luke join Paul and Silas? C) Troas (Acts 16:7-11)

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

A) It was a Jewish custom; B) It was a rhyming device in Greek; C) Jesus sent them out by pairs



### FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER:

Our next Youth Group Area-Wide worship and fellowship is 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 4pm and picking up at the McDonalds on Congressman Dickinson Drive.

Cookie Bake at Tim and Sally's on Dec 19th! We plan to start at 2pm.

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.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS 11/3/15

**Dec. 6, 2015 / Leading the congregation in:**

**Announcements:**

**A.M.:** Mark Evans

**P.M.:** Mark Evans

**Opening Prayer:**

**A.M.:** Josh Cochran

**P.M.:** John Cole

**Closing Prayer:**

**A.M.:** George Davidson

**P.M.:** Troy Steelman

**Singing:**

**A.M.:** Alan Kaye

**P.M.:** Alan Kaye

**SICK:** HUNTER TIMBES is scheduled for myringotomy surgery Dec. 4. MIKE NORMAN was injured in an auto accident Monday, Nov. 30, requiring an ER visit. JACKIE JOHNSTON is home after a stay in the hospital. PHYLLIS ALLEN continues to recover from back surgery. WILLIAM BRIDGES, Nathan & Melissa's baby son,

Is in Children's Hospital in Birmingham. Prayers have been requested for JENNY JOHNSON, friend of Charlotte Patterson, who had foot surgery Dec. 3, which will require a long time of therapy. Prayers have been requested for baby FINN (GORDON FINLEY ADAIR), nephew of co-worker of Dianne Hoskinson, who was born 10 weeks premature and remains in the hospital. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, MARCIA GRAVES, MIKE NORMAN, and WAYNE JOHNSTON. 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) DAVID CUNNINGHAM, KATHY DAVIS, and JENNY JOHNSON. (Battling Cancer) KEVIN PENICK, GERMAINE HARDIN, IMOGENE GRACE, GLENDA SMITH, RYAN AKERS, WAYNE EDWARDS, MELISSA MOTE, PHYLLIS DELL, JAMIE FINLAYSON, OLEN HOUSLEY, TELSIE DAVIS, MARK CHAMBLISS, DONNA HINES, and MARILYN PIERCE.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** ALLIE JAYE WARD was born Wednesday, Dec. 2, to AARON & COURTNEY WARD. Allie weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19 ½ in. long. JAY & KERRY ROBERTS are the proud grandparents and SYDNEY ROBERTS is the proud aunt. Congratulations to all!

**BIBLE CLASS LESSON:** Dec. 6, begin new curriculum, "Engraving Heavenly Truths"

**DEC. 6th NURSERY ATTENDANTS:** DEIDRE COLE & CASSIDY BROWN

**AREA WIDE SINGING:** Wetumpka Church of Christ will host the Area Wide Singing Friday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AND TEACHER'S MEETING:** The Sunday School Open House and Teacher's Meeting will be this Sunday, Dec. 6, immediately after morning worship.

**2015 RAINBOW OMEGA POINSETTIAS:** It is time to order your poinsettias from Rainbow Omega. Order forms will be posted at the front and rear welcome centers. Please turn in order forms by Dec. 6 to Wilma Berry.

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

**YOUNG FAMILIES/PROFESSIONALS 2ND SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP:** The December fellowship will be on the 13th following the evening worship service at Urban Cookhouse. See Sarah Housley for more information.

**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, and 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!

## LADYBUGS

- **Dec. 4:** Ornament Swap, 6 PM, @ Sewells
- **Dec. 6:** A Time To Pray, 4:15 PM
- **Jan. 10:** 2016 LadyBUGS Meeting

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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

## YOU ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK

Your whole family needs to be in Bible study and both worship periods every Sunday and mid-week services each Wednesday evening. **One** hole in a boat will sink it. **One** false alarm can cause a panic. **One** wayward child can break a mother's heart. **One** visitor brought by every member would double our attendance. **One** dollar would increase immeasurably our mission and benevolent programs. **One** convert per Christian would mean the whole world converted in one generation. **You are one...**but a very important one!

— Author Unknown

# Quality Bible Classes

Quality Bible classes are not accidental. They are the product of good efforts by both teachers and students. Each teacher and every student has the opportunity to either contribute toward or detract from quality Bible classes that enhance the learning process and motivate students to be participants therein.

I encourage fellow teachers to ponder the spiritual needs of the student body most likely to be before them and to select studies that will address those needs in a profitable manner. I encourage teachers to spend adequate time in study so that one can lead a quality and in-depth study. Such a study will be logically arranged and will be amply supported by biblical references that are directly related to the study. If the teacher is offering an opinion or does not know something, such should be freely acknowledged, giving the student body an opportunity to appropriately weigh the commentary being given.

The conduct of the teacher in class may be very important. I encourage teachers to present material logically and clearly as well as to demonstrate that open discussion, rather than argument, is not only acceptable but is valued and encouraged. Teachers should not underestimate the lack of knowledge associated with the student body before them. Therefore, care should be taken to maintain logical arrangement and to support affirmations with related biblical passages. In addressing the class, one should remember to serve the needs of the entire class rather than only a portion thereof. The methodology and mannerisms should induce many in the class to feel free to participate if they desire. Also of import are the expectations that a teacher holds when addressing a class. For one to assume that everyone will always agree concerning all matters demonstrates a measure of naivety. Respect for the students and their respective views enhances the learning process, even though a teacher may clearly disagree with commentary offered in class. Yes, a teacher must conduct himself or herself in a manner that encourages discussion, review, research and the discovery of truth. May it be that a teacher motivates class members to be more diligent in their study of the Word of God.

I encourage fellow students to prepare in advance through study when possible for class. Such cannot be adequately done if the student body is not advised in advance about the course of study. As a means of enhancing the learning process, students should maintain proper attitudes and conduct.

With respect to attitudes, students should go to class prepared to be challenged to grow spiritually. Such requires that one not assume that he or she cannot be honestly mistaken about some passage or subject matter, but rather each student needs to be open minded to the degree that will allow him or her to grow spiritually without accepting error. Maintaining such a balance may be more difficult than one anticipates. We may fall off balance in this regard and not even know it. An open-minded student is actually weighing in his or her mind what is being taught, examining it from a neutral perspective and drawing conclusions that are demanded by the biblical evidences presented. In contrast, students who approach a biblical topic with a prejudiced mind limit their own potential of spiritual growth.

With respect to conduct, I encourage students to demonstrate that open discussion, rather than argument, is their goal. Students should freely join a discussion of issues that interests them and do so in a manner that encourages rather than taints the learning process. On occasion, students will and should voice disagreement with what is being taught. Such should be done honorably, though. We do well to remember that a discussion should never be allowed to degrade into a personal con-

frontation. Such neither serves the one holding to truth nor the one who may be honestly mistaken. As always, may we as students give a "thus saith the Lord" for what we affirm. Affirmation without biblical support is of lesser value. Quality Bible classes occur when quality teachers, employing qualitative methodologies, interact with quality students employing quality listening skills. I pray that all of our Bible classes rise to such a high plane.

--Ronald D. Reeves, *Gospel Gazette Online*

### **2015 BUDGET—\$12,120.00**

**11/29/15 CONTRIBUTION: \$36,0003.00 / BUDGET: +\$23,883.00 / YTD: + \$44,930.96**

## **Adversity or Opportunity?**

Maybe you've heard the story of the farmer who began digging a well one afternoon. By the end of the day, the well was quite deep, and due to darkness, the farmer decide to "call it a day" and resume digging in the morning. However, that very evening, under the cover of darkness, an unsuspecting cow wandered near and fell into the freshly dug hole. The next morning, the farmer and his three sons tried every way imaginable to pull this unfortunate cow out of the hole, but with no success. Finally, the frustrated farmer instructed his sons to give up on trying to rescue the cow and to just take their shovels and cover him up. So the farmer's sons did as they were instructed. However, with every shovel of dirt thrown on the cow's back, the cow would shrug, and the dirt would fall around it. Pretty soon, they had thrown so much dirt into the hole that the cow was simply able to walk out of the hole without any help.

The point is this: "What may be intended to 'bury' us may just become our 'salvation.'"

Next time you face adversity, shrug it off. Who knows whether that experience may end up being a stepping-stone to your success and spiritual growth. Give it some thought.

--Steve Higginbotham, *Bulletin Gold*

## **God's Will, Will Be Done!**

In Judges 4, the children of Israel did evil

in the sight of the Lord after Ehud died, so God gave them over to their enemies, into the hands of Jabin, king of Canaan. Deborah was a prophetess and was judging Israel during this time, and God commanded Barak through Deborah to go up against Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army. Barak refused to go unless Deborah went with him. Because of this, the honor of defeating Sisera would not be his, but it would fall to a woman. We continue reading and learn that it was Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, who killed Sisera while he slept.

God has a plan, and it will be done. Pharaoh tried to prevent God's plan in his day, and his country was left in utter ruin. Barak was afraid, so God raised up someone else to do His bidding. This lesson should resound with all who claim to be faithful followers of God. God has a will, and it will be done. Let us always have the courage to repeat the words of Isaiah, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).

--Thomas Baxley, *Gospel Gazette Online*

## **GOD'S INFINITE THINGS**

Riches that are unsearchable (Eph. 3:8).

Joy that is unspeakable (1 Pet. 1:8).

Peace that passes understanding (Phil. 4:7).

Love that passes knowledge (Eph. 3:19).

Ways past finding out (Rom. 11:33).

—Mark Posey, *HTH/HTH*