



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

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Web: emcofc.org

January 7, 2016

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 1/3/16

Bible Class: 131
AM Worship: 183
PM Worship: 115
EMBE: \$166.00

WELCOME!



2016 BUDGET SUNDAY JAN. 10

The Elders will present the 2016 Budget this Sunday, January 10th.



LadyBUGS Meeting

ALL ladies are encouraged to attend the meeting this Sunday, Jan. 10, 4 p.m., as works for 2016 are presented. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

FROM THE MINISTER:

Budget Sunday. Be here Sunday to hear about Eastern Meadows' coming plan of work for 2016. Ted already hinted at some big things coming to Eastern Meadows in 2016 at Purpose Sunday. Now let's hear the details. Be thankful we are informed. Be thankful there are no secrets. I am thankful for this!

We Eat Sunday! Fellowship groups will begin eating again on Sundays after the Holiday Hiatus. Team one, The Porterfield Team, will be the hosts this Sunday. Invite visitors to stay. May 2016 be as successful as 2015!

Thanks to Song Leaders. Thank you to Dean Norton, Paul Clements, Chris Kelly, Allen Clements, Alan Kaye, William Dill, and Mike Norman for making the "All Request Singing Night" a success. A total of 21 songs were sung, with the song leaders keeping us singing! Thanks to all who turned in song requests and unfortunately, we could not get to all of them. Thanks to the song leaders.

Bible Class News

Wednesday Auditorium Class. Wednesday, January 6, Alan Kaye began teaching a series of 13 lessons on the church. He will be using *Family of God: A Study of the New Testament Church (Gospel Advocate Classics)* by Batsell Barrett Baxter.

This book was published in 1980 by Gospel Advocate Company. There are 26 chapters dealing with such subjects as *The Glory of the Church; What is the Church?, When Did the Church Begin, Authority in Religion, The Work of the Church – Evangelism, Edification, and Benevolence, Government of the Church,* etc... Alan will be making the choice of the topics from the book that he will be teaching.

A number of these books are available as used copies ranging for 1 cent upward (with \$3.99 shipping) at http://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/0892252081/ref=tmm_pap_used_olp_sr?ie=UTF8&condition=used&qid=1451935162&sr=8-1. Some used ones are also available at <http://product.half.ebay.com/Classics-Ser-Family-of-God-A-Study-of-the-New-Testament-Church-by-Batsell-B-Baxter-1998-Paperback-Revised-Reprint/906580&tg=info>. On Half.com. The book starts at 75 cents with \$3.49 shipping. Shipped price for a new one from Gospel Advocate is about \$15.00.

This promises to be an informative and faith-building class. Thank you Alan for your planning and study.

Thursday Class. The Thursday Class begins again after the Holiday Hiatus. We will be digging back into the Gospel of Mark, soon finishing our study. After Mark is finished Tim Gotkiewicz will be teaching the Thursday class. Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.!

FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER:

Registration for Lads to Leaders is this week! Everyone going must participate in Bible Bowl plus one other convention event. The event registration deadline is January 11, 2016.

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.

The youth and college groups are having an after-holiday party at Tim and Sally's this Friday, January 8th, starting at 6 p.m.

All of us who attended exposure youth camp last week express our deepest thanks to Eastern Meadows! The trip was extremely educational and encouraging. Our evening keynote speakers spoke to us about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our morning keynote speakers spoke about Jesus' baptism and His ascension. Each speaker spoke from God's word in such a way that both glorified God and edified each of us in attendance.



Each of us also had the opportunity to attend four of eight available spiritual challenge sessions. The sessions were designed to help young adults deal with specific issues.

Rick Whittle spoke on helping my friend who does not care.

Ralph Gilmore spoke on helping my friend who has questions.

Eric Lyons and Kyle Butt dealt with helping my friend who is an unbeliever.

David Baker spoke on helping my friend who is not my friend.

Matt Vega spoke on helping my friend who is in big trouble.

Big Red James spoke on helping my friend get into spiritual shape.

Blake McCaskill spoke on helping my friend who has lost hope.

A panel of ministers dealt with helping my friends who are confused about their sexuality.

I asked the teens to give me their "best quotes" of the week; here are a few:

"Jesus is our main priority, we should never walk away from that."

"The Holy Spirit is not an 'it'."

"We should always make time for worship and study. We should be like Mary and not Martha."

"You can't get the fruits of the spirit from anyone but the Holy Spirit."

"One of the most dangerous things that Satan can do is simply convince you not to care."

"We will never be fully balanced until Jesus is the center of our lives."

"The more you know about God, the more you know about yourself."

"Not a quote, but my favorite thing was imagining the joy in heaven when Jesus went home."

"Choose the best part."

It's apparent that many hearts were touched, and I pray that we all can push forward to teach and encourage every one of our young adults.

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: Jemimah, Keziah, and Keren-Happuch were: B) Job's daughters (Job 42:14)

This week's question: Who shut the door to the ark? A) Noah; B) Shem; C) The Lord



ANNOUNCEMENTS 1/7/16

Jan. 10, 2016 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:

A.M.: Turner Johnston
P.M.: Turner Johnston

Opening Prayer:

A.M.: Tim Stevens
P.M.: John Cole

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Thomas Anderson
P.M.: Austin Brown

Singing:

A.M.: Dean Norton
P.M.: Dean Norton

SICK: LOURINE BLACK is in Baptist East Medical Center. SYBIL SCOFIELD is in Southern Springs Healthcare. Sick at home Sunday: VI ENGLISH, RYAN & JULIE GOTKIEWICZ, GRAYSON GOTKIEWICZ, CARTER GOTKIEWICZ, RANDY PORTERFIELD, DOROTHY SULLIVAN, 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): JENNY JOHNSON and FINN ADAIR. (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.

BUDGET SUNDAY: The Elders will present the 2016 Budget this Sunday, Jan. 10.

JAN. 10 NURSERY ATTENDANTS: KAYLA KNOWLES & CINDY MULKEY

FELLOWSHIP MEALS: Team 1 (Porterfield) will host the Fellowship Meal this Sunday, Jan. 10, following the morning worship service. There will not be a meal Jan. 17, due to the holiday weekend.

BIRTHDAY: A birthday was unintentionally left off the January calendar. Please note that J.P. KELLEY'S birthday was Jan. 6. Happy Birthday, J.P.!

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: 10:30 AM

2ND SUNDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP: The Young Professionals/Young Families class will meet after evening services on Sunday, January 10, at Buffalo Wild Wings for dinner.

AREA WIDE SINGING: Elmore Church of Christ will host the Area Wide Singing Friday, Jan. 8, 7 PM.

SAVE THE DATE: Marriage Seminar, Feb. 26–28, 2016, with Jerry & Denise Martin

LADYBUGS:

- ♦ **Jan. 10: Meeting, 4 PM**—ALL ladies are encouraged to attend.
- ♦ **Jan. 17, 2:30 PM** - Art Project, Jan. 17, 2:30 PM, \$8, sign-up at the LadyBUGS Desk

CONGRATULATIONS TO BURT TURNER!



Our congratulations to Burt who was recently recognized for 15 years of volunteer work at the Montgomery Cancer Center.

Sunday Bible Classes—Jan. 10

- **Auditorium Class:** Hosea 3 & 1 Samuel 25
- **Young Ladies' Class:** Nahum
- **Experienced Ladies' Class:** Bible Women of the O.T.—Lots' Wife and Daughters (Gen. 13–19)

1/3/16 CONTRIBUTION: \$12,467.50



Montgomery Area Benefit Dinner

Thursday, February 4, 2016 • 6:00 PM

Faulkner University (Rotunda)

5345 Atlanta Highway • Montgomery, AL 36109

Bring Your Family & Friends! For Tickets:

See Paul Clements or Charlie Boddy



First Things First.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **Jan. 8:** After Christmas Party, 6 PM
- **Jan. 10:** L2L Event Registration Due
- **Jan. 10:** Area Wide Youth Devo

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the LadyBUGS for our beautiful pillowcases. We love them!



10 faith strategies for every situation

The world encourages us to develop coping skills. God wants us to do more than cope. He offers us strategies to express our faith, strengthen our joy, and promote righteousness in the world. For every situation, we have the Way. How can Christians deal with difficulties?

1. Trust the word of God in every way. Satan wants us to feel that Scripture has nothing for us, but everything we need for our walk, worship, and work is in the Bible. "I trust in your word" Psalm 119.42 NET. No situation calls for laying aside the word of God. It has both answers and power for the difficult moment we're living.

2. Own up to your feelings. Denial intensifies them. Cain failed to deal with his anger and killed his brother, Genesis 4. Express your emotions in prayer, admitting them to God. He can handle them. Write it down, if necessary. Use many of the Psalms as models or their words to express your thoughts. Recognize, too, that emotions do not represent reality, but only our inner state based on our momentary, limited evaluation. "How do I feel?" is a great question, but ultimately we must

move on to ask, "What must I do?" In the garden, Jesus admitted that he felt anguish: "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death" Matthew 26.38 NLT. Then he went willingly to die on the cross.

3. Realize you're only a part of the situation. Sure, if we have wronged someone, we should go to them, ask forgiveness, and correct what can be amended. But in the end, it's not about you. Many dynamics are involved. The world doesn't revolve around any single person, nor does any given crisis involve only one person. What is most at stake is not your interests but the glory of God and the kingdom of Christ. Find out what will promote them, and pursue what will "lead ... to God's glory" John 11.4.

4. Deal with what is, not the past nor the future. We do have histories, and we ought to be concerned with consequences, but trying to solve it all at once probably won't happen. There are times to let go of the past. As well, don't borrow tomorrow's troubles, Matthew 6.33-34.

5. Recognize that such things in life happen on a regular basis. Good and bad changes are a part of our earthly existence. What we first tag as negative, may turn out to be a positive. Look for the good, instead of anticipating or prophesying evil. Deal with life as it is, not life as you want it to be. Living in a fantasy world only brings grief, because the real world will frequently break in to spoil our fiction.

6. Avoid the blame game. When we are wrong, we should repent. We should be willing to forgive others when they commit wrongs. But dwelling on *who did what* doesn't tend toward solutions and resolution of situations. There are people and places we may need to avoid, but we can't control others' behavior or decisions, nor should we. If we can't fix a situation, we need not attempt to extract ourselves by blaming others for their part. God will judge.

7. Face the situation. Don't pretend it didn't happen or hide in a hole hoping it will go away. The quicker, usually, you assess and address the situation, the less damage will be done. Nehemiah cried when he heard about the ruins of Jerusalem, but through prayer and the permission of the king, he went there, took stock of the situation, pulled the city's inhabitants together, and went to work to build the walls in record time. Inaction perpetuates a crisis, action often mitigates it.

8. Look, and leave room, for God to work his will. God works for the good of those who love him, Romans 8.28. Relax! God is in control of the world, of the church, of our workplace and homes. We ought to cooperate with him, submit to him, deliver all of our lives to him. Fifty years from now, this situation will look far different than it does now. We may not even remember it!

9. Find motive to give thanks. God can and will bring good out of any situation, regardless of how hopeless we consider it. Every situation can serve as a learning experience. God disciplines us in suffering, and his desires for our growth and maturation are wonderful reasons for gratitude, Hebrews 12.7-13.

10. Get support from other Christians. This is a time to seek them out, not to avoid them. To the garden of anguish Jesus took three friends, "Stay awake with me" Matthew 26.38. Keep up your spiritual commitments with the church. We follow the Lord Jesus Christ in good times and bad. Our faithfulness in crisis may well be the example that keeps someone else strong in the Lord. The love-one-another commandment means that we allow others to show their love to us.

This list is not exhaustive, but seeks to point us in the right direction when difficulties appear. At the center of each point is the God who loves us all and works for the eternal salvation of all mankind. Let's put this God in the center of our lives as well.

--Randal Matheny, via forthright.net