



## Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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Website: <http://www.emcofc.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EasternMeadowsChurchofChrist/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EasternMeadows>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EasternMeadows>

December 1, 2016

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### 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:

Tim Gotkiewicz, Youth  
& College  
David Hester, Educa-  
tion & Involvement  
Steve Housley, Pulpit

### 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 11/27/16

Bible Class: 141  
AM Worship: 193  
PM Worship: 109  
EMBF: \$140.00

**WELCOME!**

## PURPOSE SUNDAY FOR 2017

This Sunday, December 4, has been designated “**Purpose Sunday for 2017**”. 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. 11.



### *Annual Adult's Christmas Dinner*

*Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016 / 2:00 p.m.*

*Eastern Meadows Fellowship Hall*

***\$10.00 each***

See Sally Gotkiewicz or Wilma Berry by this Sunday, Dec. 4, to sign-up and pay.



# Giving and Purposing:

This Sunday our elders will challenge us to plan for our giving in the New Year. We can be thankful. They do not approach the Lord's work in a haphazard manner. They approach the New Year with prayer and planning. They are already making plans for the Lord's work in 2017 and the involvement of the flock at Eastern Meadows in this work. One aspect of this work is our giving.

Our giving, in and of itself, is a part of the Lord's plan (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Faithfulness is not all about giving, but it certainly includes it. However, giving also is a predictor of what the Eastern Meadows can do and what therefore, the elders, can plan for Eastern Meadows to do. Please be prayerfully considering what you plan to do concerning your giving in 2017.

Sunday morning the elders will address the congregation and the purpose cards will be handed out. If you are not sure about purposing/promising, please read the short article below. This is one of the best, concise articles that I have ever seen. It has been in our bulletin several times over the years, but if you are new to Eastern Meadows you probably have not seen it. Please read it. It explains what we will be doing and why.

Not everything we do as a church requires 100% participation. Not everyone waits on the Lord's table each Sunday, though every Christian partakes of the Lord's Supper. Not everyone is a Bible class teacher. **4** BUT, with purposing and giving there should be 100% participation, either individually or as a family.

Parents, this is a good time to have a teaching moment with your children. It is an opportunity to teach them to give; and to teach them of the value of the local church and the need to support it. It is a good time to even see what they wish to "purpose."

—Steve Housley

## "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"!

**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)

2016 Giving	Increase	2017 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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

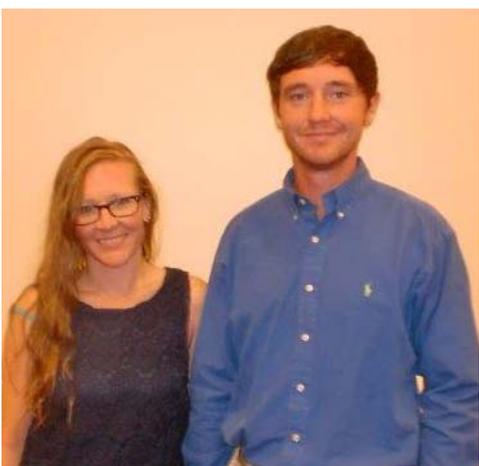
### **FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:**

**Great Day Sunday! Welcome Patrice McClain.** Even though “numbers” were off Sunday, it was a great day as we announced PATRICE MCCLAIN placing membership with Eastern Meadows. Patrice has attended many Sundays, with her membership most recently being with the Northpointe church of Christ. Patrice was born in Andalusia and lived in California before returning to the Montgomery area. She is the mother of two and works at Medline Industries as an inventory coordinator. Patrice was baptized in Andalusia many years ago at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street church of Christ and goes back with some regularity to assist with a very close friend who is very sick. On those weekends she worships at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Meet Patrice and welcome her to Eastern Meadows!



**Patrice McClain**

**And Sunday Got Better! Welcome Austin and Lindsay.** Sunday after



**Austin & Lindsay**

church there was a Bible study with AUSTIN CHANDLER and LINDSAY ALEXANDER. By the way, they are to be married December 10! After the Bible Study they decided to be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. They wanted to be sure about their obedience, and we can rejoice with that attitude! We all should want to be sure! Austin was born and reared in Montgomery, Alabama being the son of Russ and Dawn Chandler and grew up at Vaughn Park Church of Christ. He has lived away from Montgomery in recent years but has moved back. He works for Bonnie Plants. He has a daughter, Elizabeth, who is three years old. Lindsay was born in Marietta, GA but lived in many different places as her Dad worked in the Construction Industry. Lindsay is a Pediatric Pulmonary nurse at the Children’s

Hospital in Birmingham. She has accepted a job and will soon begin at Baptist South in the Emergency Room. Lindsay has a son, Mason, who is seven years old. We congratulate them on their upcoming wedding but rejoice in their decision this past Sunday! Due to work and the wedding, it may be 3 or more weeks before we see Lindsay back at Eastern Meadows, but after the wedding they Lindsay and Austin will be living in the Montgomery area.

**Adult Christmas Steak Dinner Fellowship.** One of my favorite fellowships. Absolutely one of my favorites. It is good food. It is good fellowship. Please sign up! IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP AND PAID, SIGN UP SUNDAY!!!! After 10 years of not being able to have the Christmas Fellowship Dinner in our own building, this one will be in our Fellowship Hall!

**Adult Christmas Steak Dinner Fellowship Entertainment.** Once again we will have an Eastern Meadows Talent Review. If you would like to sing, or play, or do a comic act, let me know! Among those will be Alan Kaye, Henly Khantisourya, James and Jean Berry, Eli Porter, and others. It will be fun.

**It Can't Happen To Us!** Sometimes we can think this way. We hear of something far off and sometimes think "not here, not us, it's not going to happen to us." I guess that is the way I thought about large forest fires. I have seen them on TV burning uncontrollably, especially in California and Colorado, but not here! Not the South! Then today I see the fires in the Smokies (I guess the name really fits now), with the fires around Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. I then heard that the church building in Gatlinburg was destroyed by fire. And I hear that there were fires burning on Cheaha State Park right here in Alabama (so glad Alabama finally got some rain!). All of that is just too close to home, but it does illustrate that we are NOT immune to tragedy. We are not immune to problems, difficulties, and on a spiritual level, TEMPTATION. That is right, we hear of spiritual tragedies where people succumb to the temptation and the resulting consequences that hurt, maybe destroy their lives. We want to think, "not us." But it can be us. We must ALWAYS be vigilant. As Peter wrote, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8 NKJV)

### **FROM THE YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:**

Aaron Ferrell is hosting a special screening of the Tim Burton classic, "The Nightmare Before Christmas" at the fellowship hall from 1-4 p.m., THIS SATURDAY, December 3rd. All 7th grade through college students are invited. Snacks will be provided and other activities are planned.

College Devo will be THIS SUNDAY EVENING, December 4th at the home of Steve and Tish Housley.

Sunday evening December 11th - Area-Wide @ Grandview Pines. The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly series continues with a lesson about Solomon.

Youth and College Holiday Party! December 30th at the building from 6 to 11 p.m. ALL 7th grade through college students are invited. Stay tuned for more info.

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### **TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:**

**Last week's question:** Besides Solomon, which two people ruled Israel during Solomon's lifetime? David and Absalom (2 Samuel 15).

**This week's question:** Which people raided Job's donkeys and oxen?



# ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/1/16

December 4, 2016 / Leading the congregation in:

**Announcements:**

A.M.: Ryan Gotkiewicz

P.M.: Ryan Gotkiewicz

**Opening Prayer:**

A.M.: Alan Kaye

P.M.: Josh Cochran

**Closing Prayer:**

A.M.: David Barley

P.M.: Tim Hatch

**Singing:**

A.M.: Jon Timbes

P.M.: Jon Timbes

**SICK:** HUNTER TIMBES is sick with mono. SALLY GOTKIEWICZ is suffering with a kidney stone. JIMMY ALLEN, CINDY DENDY, and GWEN MANN are recovering from surgery. GEORGE DAVIDSON underwent surgery Tuesday, Nov. 29. DAVID WARREN is scheduled for shoulder surgery today, Dec. 1. ELVERNICE DEES is scheduled for surgery Dec. 13. RUTH ROBERTS and JOAN HOSKINSON have returned home. Prayers have been requested for Zola JOHNSON, who is recovering from cancer. Prayers have been requested for THOMAS WORTHAM, father of Kristy Hatch's sister-in-law and an elder at Crestview church of Christ, who is in the hospital. Sick at home Sunday: NAOMI BOWERS, BRENDA HESTER, MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, JAN HILYER, DIANNE HOSKINSON, FRANCIS NELSON, CHARLOTTE PATTERSON, DOROTHY SULLIVAN, and NICOLE TIMBES. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Night-Service Prayer List. Shut-ins: TAM LOWERY, PATSY LOWERY, CATHERINE LEINHEISER, LOURINE BLACK, JACKIE JOHNSTON, JEWEL BARNES, and RED & LANETTE TAYLOR. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN.

**PRAYER REQUEST LIST:** (Health Issues): KAY PEARSON, BRIAN & ERIN WAITS, RUTH ROBERTS, JOAN HOSKINSON, JAMES JOHNSON, and LISA GANT. (Battling Cancer) RAELEIGH JANE MCCARTHA, GERMAINE HARDIN, IMOGENE GRACE, MARK CHESSOR, WALTER SIEVERS, LINDA STEELE, JAN KELLEHER, MARC MCDANIEL, LISA HANKINS, KYLE PURVICAL, ANUDLA CURD, and DIANE LINDSEY.

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is extended to Deidre Cole and family in the passing of her grandfather, ELMER UTLEY. The visitation will be Saturday, Dec. 3, with the funeral at 3:15 at Burnt Hickory church of Christ in Marietta, Georgia.

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is extended to David Phillips and family in the passing of his father, JESSE PHILLIPS. David is the minister with the Redland Road church and his father was a preacher for many years. Jessica Oakley, former EM member, was Jesse's granddaughter. The funeral was Tuesday, Nov. 29, in Vernon, Alabama.

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS:** MIRANDA PORTERFIELD & JINNY KHANTISOURIYA

**AREA WIDE SINGING:** Wetumpka church of Christ will host the Area Wide Singing this Friday, Dec. 2, 7 PM.



**CHRISTMAS PROJECT:** The LadyBUGS are planning to help provide Christmas for some children this year. If you would like to participate in our Christmas Project, please see Melanie Bush or Shirley Kaye by Wednesday, December 7. If you would like to help shop or wrap gifts, please see Terry.

**HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS:** The LadyBUGS are planning to prepare holiday bags for those members of our family who are shut-in. Please leave all items in designated area in the LadyBUGS' Room no later than, Sunday, December 11. Bags will be assembled Sunday afternoon (12/11) before evening worship. We will prepare 15-20 bags. NO PERISHABLES please!

**LEADERSHIP EAT & MEET:** There will be a Business Meeting for all the Leadership (Elders, Deacons, & Ministers) Sunday, Dec. 11, 7:30 AM. Breakfast will be served at 7 AM by Roy Mulkey & Jimmy Mathews.

**SHEPHERD'S TALK:** Our Shepherds will give a brief update on business and current events immediately following the morning worship service on Sunday, Dec. 11.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Your family is invited to spread some holiday cheer on Friday, December 16. If you and your family would like, bring your favorite fast food at 5:30 p.m., and we will eat together in the tea room of the church building. If you can't be there for the food and fellowship, join us at 6:15 p.m. in the back parking lot, and we will caravan to each location. Please sign the list in the front foyer if you plan to participate. This is an excellent opportunity for our youngsters to lift the spirits of our "young at heart." All ages are welcome to come, and we hope to see you there! While we encourage families to

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participate together, children, first grade and up, may attend without parental supervision. We will end the evening in the fellowship hall with hot chocolate and cookies for all. Parents are to be at the church building by 8:30 p.m. to pick up your children.

**DECEMBER STANDBY TEAM:** Team 5 (Mathews)

**NEW ADDRESSES:** LINDSAY ALEXANDER, 1511 Iverness Cove Lane, Birmingham, AL, (205) 617-3883; AUSTIN CHANDLER, 2631 Capstone Drive, 36106, (334) 207-9351.

### ELEMENTARY L2L/L

- \* **Sunday's, 4 PM:** Bible Bowl
- \* **Wednesdays, 6:20 PM:** Song Leading
- \* **Bible Class:** Know the Books

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **Dec. 11:** Area Wide Youth Devo, PM
- **Dec. 18:** SSS, Lunch until...
- **Dec. 30:** Holiday Party, 7-11 PM

### COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Dec. 4:** Devo, PM, @ Steve & Tish Housley's
- **Dec. 30:** Holiday Party, 7-11 PM

### La d ybugs

- ◆ **Dec. 6:** Quilting, 10 AM & Covered Dish Lunch @ 12 noon
- ◆ **Dec. 7:** Deadline to contribute to our Christmas Project. See Melanie Bush or Shirley Kaye to contribute. See Terry Bagents if you can help shop and/or wrap presents.
- ◆ **Dec. 11:** Holiday Gift Bag Items Due
- ◆ **Jan. 8:** LadyBUGS Meeting



### *Sunday Bible Classes—Dec. 4*

**Auditorium:** *Gospel of John—David Hester;*  
**Young Ladies:** *Parables of Jesus; Experienced Ladies: OT Women, Lesson 37*

**2016 BUDGET—\$12,930.00**

**11/27/16—CONTRIBUTION: \$10,898.18**

**BUDGET: - \$2,031.82**

**David Moore Update:** Dianne and Ron Hoskinson were able to visit David Moore and his caretaker's family while they were in Ohio recently. David worshipped at Eastern Meadows for many years before moving to Ohio. They are happy to report that things are going well for him. He misses the Eastern Meadows family and hopes to return one day.

In an effort to show our love and to encourage David, we are asking people to participate in a brief video recording on an individual basis or in a group format, whichever you prefer. Please contact Ron Hoskinson if you would like to send David a video card.

Additionally, we will be sending David and the family he is staying with a care package. We will accept gift cards (Walmart, Applebee's, Olive Garden) or cash if you prefer. We would also like to send some spiritual material (used books, dvd's, tracts or anything else you can think of) to help them on their journey. **Please contact Dianne or Ron Hoskinson for donations.**

We hope that you can find it in your heart to help provide something for David and his caretaker's family.



**David Moore**