



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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

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

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December 8, 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:

Tim Gotkiewicz, Youth & College
David Hester, Education & 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 12/4/16

Bible Class: 144
AM Worship: 195
PM Worship: 122
EMBF: \$204.00

WELCOME!



Annual Adult's Christmas Dinner
Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016 / 2:00 p.m.
Eastern Meadows Fellowship Hall



PURPOSE CARDS FOR 2017

Prayerfully consider what you can possibly do for next year in regard to your giving. The Elders ask that you fill out and return the cards no later than this Sunday, Dec. 11.

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 _____

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Great Day Sunday. Sunday morning we announced that JAMES and ZOLA JACKSON are now Eastern Meadows members. They had more recently worshipped at University, but about four years ago moved from Jackson, Tennessee. I failed to get a picture Sunday so next week's bulletin will have their picture and information so you might get to know them better. James and Zola, we welcome you to Eastern Meadows!

Sunday Got Even Better! Sunday morning after worship DEONTA KELLY-WHITE was baptized by Tim Gotkiewicz. Deonta is fifteen and in the 10th grade at Park Crossing High School. His favorite subject is Health and his least favorite is Math. Deonta is on the Wrestling Team and will be on the Baseball Team at Park Crossing. He will be playing AAU basketball. He stays busy. Deonta is the first of his siblings to be baptized and looks forward to serving in the church. He joins his parents, James and Latasha Kelly, as members at Eastern Meadows and one day we can look forward to his siblings, when they are older, making the same decision to be baptized. I know James and Latasha rejoice at his decision; that there is rejoicing in heaven; and we can rejoice too! We welcome Deonta as a new brother!



Pictured L to R: Deonta, JP, Latasha, Mya, and Genesis (James not pictured, at work)

Big Day Saturday! The annual Adult Steak Dinner Christmas Party is Saturday. This should be the biggest and best we have ever had. There are more signed up than ever. It will, for the first time in 10 years, be in our own fellowship hall. We have great entertainment from our own Eastern Meadows folks. Billy Creel and his crew always do an excellent job cooking and the youth do an excellent job serving. You have signed up, now don't forget to come!



Pictured L to R: Lawson Futral, Nolan Futral, Aiden Futral, Mason Hatch, Mya Kelley, Lucy Benson, Genesis Kelly, and Cecilia Porterfield

Thankful for Elementary Lads to Leaders. Each Sunday afternoon Cecilia Porterfield meets with our elementary students for Bible Bowl Practice. This past Sunday there was a good group around the table. In this picture they were taking a "cookie break." A well-deserved break after a good study! And there will be another well-deserved break, they will not be meeting until the **4** new year.

Purpose Cards! We are blessed to have elders that challenge us to plan and purpose our giving. This helps us each be better givers. This helps the elders plan for the coming year. Because of purpos-

ing Eastern Meadows has met its budget every year but one in the past 28 years. In looking back, I was able to see purpose cards passed out in 1992 for the budget planning of 1993. I cannot find the history for prior use of "purposing" for the elders to use in budget planning. I am thankful for their work; I am thankful for your help in "purposing." I am thankful to God who blesses.

Sad things happen in this world. This picture is said to be an unverified photo “showing a possible massacre in Kasese, Uganda after Ugandan police clashed with a separatist militia believed to be linked to one of the country’s tribal Kings. According to Uganda’s police spokesman, police stormed the palace of King Charles Wesley Mumbere of the Ruwenzururu kingdom on Sunday, after heavy fighting broke out on Saturday in the western town of Kasese when the King’s royal guards attacked patrolling security forces with an improvised grenade, killing 14 police officers and 41 militants.” (http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2016/11/27/possible-massacre-in-kasese-uganda_c1463291). Sad, but sadder because this is a town where WBI extension school is located - the Rwenzori School of Preaching. (<http://www.worldbibleinstitute.com/index.php/extension-branches/uganda-extension/uganda>) WBI is the World Bible Institute which operates out of the McDunough Church of Christ Campus and is under a board which is composed of elders from the McDunough church and operates schools of preaching and offers an online degree program. We can pray that this good work at the Rwenzori School of Preaching is not impeded due to the present violence.



FROM THE YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

7th grade through college are invited to serve at the Eastern Meadows steak dinner this Saturday, December 10th. Please be at the building by 1 p.m. to help set up.

This Sunday evening - December 11th - Area-Wide for grades 7 - 12 @ Grandview Pines. The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly series continues with a lesson about Solomon. The van will depart the Eastern Meadows parking lot at 4 p.m. and return approximately 7:45 p.m. We also pick up and drop off at the Ann Street Chic-fil-A.

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SSS – Skill Shaping Sunday for 7th - 12th grade Lads to Leaders 2017 convention. Plan to stay after the morning worship and eat at the building. We will then get to work!

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.

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: Which people raided Job's donkeys and oxen? Answer: Sabians (Job 1:15)

This week's question: Which king had the least number of wives?

- A) Saul; B) David; C) Solomon



ADULT BIBLE CLASS NEWS!

Bible classes at Eastern Meadows have always been Biblically informative, spiritually encouraging, and personally challenging. I think now, more so than ever! Take a look at some of the things currently being studied and what will be studied in the near future!

Sunday Morning Auditorium Class: The Gospel of John taught by David Hester. We are currently

in chapter 6 and study about a chapter to two chapters each week.

Sunday Morning Young Ladies Class: The current study is Parables of Jesus. In January the class will begin a study of PRAYER. Terry Bagents teaches this class.

Sunday Morning Experienced Ladies Class: The current study is of N.T. Women. Melanie Bush and Tonna Johnson teach this class, rotating month to month.

Sunday Morning College Age Class: Currently this class is studying 1 Corinthians with Josh Cochran as its teacher.

Wednesday Night Auditorium Class: NEW STUDY beginning December 7! The study will be **MORALITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY**. Jerry Martin preaches Sundays at Lightwood church of Christ and frequently preaches in Gospel Meetings and Lectureships. He is also the Dean of School of Human Services at Amridge University.

4 Wednesday Night Young Adult Class: NEW STUDY begins December 7! The one month study will be about the **Intertestamental Period**. David Hester will be the teacher.
***Beginning the first Wednesday in January a three month study of **Magnificent Marriage** will begin. David Hester will be the teacher.

Wednesday Night College Age Class: This class is currently teaching studying Bible characters emphasizing how to live when away from home. Tim Gotkiewicz is the teacher.

Thursday Class: This class meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Tea Room. We are currently in a study of Genesis and Steve Housley is the teacher and Tim Gotkiewicz is the substitute teacher. This is an "old fashioned Bible class" with opportunity for each class member to discuss and participate. The Thursday Class is on its usual Thanksgiving-New Year's break, and will resume the first Thursday of January.

These classes provide excellent opportunities for you to learn and grow. Additionally it provides more time to spend with the saints. I know that, personally, one of my joys is being with my brethren. Bible Classes provides an additional opportunity for fellowship. I hope that if you have not been attending Bible classes you will begin. Make it your aim to be here every Sunday at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

-Steve Housley

ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/8/16

December 11, 2016 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:	Opening Prayer:	Closing Prayer:	Singing:
A.M.: Alan Norton	A.M.: David Hester	A.M.: Steve Sewell	A.M.: Allen Clements
P.M.: Alan Norton	P.M.: Jeff Simpson	P.M.: Tim Hatch	P.M.: Allen Clements

SICK: CINDY DENDY, GEORGE DAVIDSON, and DAVID WARREN are recovering from surgery. ELVERNICE DEES is scheduled for surgery Dec. 13. NORBERT SCHAEFER, Linda Schaefer's husband, is recovering at home after surgery Saturday, Dec. 3, to install a pacemaker. RUTH ROBERTS is now at Jay & Kerry Roberts' home. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Night-Service Prayer List. Sick at home Sunday: SUSAN BROOKS, VIRGINIA EVANS, MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, ALAN KAYE, JANET MATHEWS, ROY MULKEY, FRANCIS NELSON, DOROTHY SULLIVAN, OPAL SULLIVAN, and MARSHA SUTTON. 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, ELIZABETH ENGLEBERT, RUTH

ROBERTS, JOAN HOSKINSON, LISA GANT, THOMAS WORTHAM, and ZOLA JOHNSON. (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.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS: THERESA MULKEY & CASSIDY BROWN

LEADERSHIP EAT & MEET: There will be a Business Meeting for all the Leadership (Elders, Deacons, & Ministers) next 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 next Sunday, Dec. 11.

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

COLLECTION FOR DAVID MOORE: Donations for David Moore and the family that is caring for him need to be turned in to Ron or Dianne Hoskinson by this Sunday, Dec. 11th. If anyone is interested in sending a brief video message to David, please see Ron.

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 PM, 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 PM 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 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.

ELEMENTARY L2L/L BIBLE BOWL: Practice has been cancelled until Jan. 8.

DECEMBER STANDBY TEAM: Team 5 (Mathews)

NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS: JAMES & ZOLA JOHNSON, 909 Stableway Road, Pike Road, 36064, (334) 398-8347; FRANCIS NELSON, (334) 649-2707.

Sunday Bible Classes—Dec. 11

- ⇒ Auditorium: *Gospel of John*
- ⇒ Young Ladies: *Parables of Jesus*
- ⇒ Experienced Ladies: *NT Women*

2016 BUDGET—\$12,930.00

12/4/16—CONTRIBUTION: \$13,853.25

BUDGET: + \$923.25

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- ◆ **Dec. 11:** Holiday Gift Bag Items Due
- ◆ **Jan. 8:** LadyBUGS Meeting

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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

ELEMENTARY L2L/L

- * **Sunday's, 4 PM:** Cancelled until Jan. 8
- * **Wednesdays, 6:20 PM:** Song Leading
- * **Bible Class:** Know the Books

COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Dec. 30:** Holiday Party, 7-11 PM

I'M NOT HURTING ANYONE!

There are times when a person might say to themselves, or to others, in an attempt to make themselves feel better about the wrong they are doing, "Well, I'm not hurting anyone!" This is most often a concession that signifies that this person realizes that his or her activities are not approved by God.

One who may fall back on the words, "Well, I'm not hurting anyone!" may be addicted to alcohol, illicit drugs, the abuse of legal drugs, pornography or some other activity that interfere with their complete obedience to God's will. Sin is appealing. The desire to escape is strong. The excitement of "a little sin" can be very enticing. But consider the following facts about sin.

Sin hurts! Sin defiles the soul involved in the iniquity. 1 Corinthians 3:17 says, "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." While the pleasure of sin will mask the hurt for a time, eventually it will reveal its true nature of heartache and pain.

Sin (habitual) will change a person's standard of morality. Titus 1:15 says, "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled." After a time God will give this person over to a debased mind to keep on doing the evil they desire (Romans 1:28).

Sin hurts a person's loved ones. Sometimes this is from a divided heart. Sometimes this is from neglect either emotionally, financially, or time. It may be because of a guilty conscience that interferes with a total commitment. It may be from fear of being discovered. Numbers 23:34 says, "But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out." It will surely generate hurt when sin is discovered.

Sin hurts Jesus. Isaiah 53:5 says, "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." One may say, "Yes, but that was 2000 years ago." Also consider that today Jesus is serving as the mediator for all Christians before the Holy God (Hebrews 7:25).

Sin hurts the heavenly Father. Agape love - God's love - is the greatest (1 Corinthians 13:13). God's investment in the souls of all men and women is the ultimate height above which there is none greater. You may have heard the old saying when punishment is about to be administered, "Now this is going to hurt me more than it hurts you." Well, when one of God's children commits sin, it causes the loving Father serious heartache. Hebrews 12:6 says, "For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." When God chastens a child of His it means that the child has sinned against the Father. David said, "Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight..." (Psalm 51:4a). That hurts!

On the other hand, your sin is loved by Satan. It is his goal to lure a person into sin, then to keep that person wallowing in the mire (2 Peter 2:20-22). It brings a big smile to Satan's face when a child of God is addicted to playing with sin. And because he loves it, he keeps whispering that lie, "You're not hurting anyone!"

Do you really, truly believe your sins are not hurting anyone?

--Steve Vice

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