



# Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

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Web: [emcofc.org](http://emcofc.org)

April 14, 2016

## *Open House & Homecoming 2016*

### *Eastern Meadows church of Christ*

*May 1, 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 4/10/16

Bible Class: 150  
AM Worship: 197  
PM Worship: 138  
EMBE: \$67

**WELCOME!**

***9:30 – 10:30 AM***

***Worship – Steve Housley - Auditorium***

***10:45 – 11:30 AM***

***Bible Class, Middle School & Up – Charlie Boddy – Auditorium***

***Children's Classes as Usual***

***11:45 – 1:30 PM***

***Dinner & Fellowship – Fellowship Hall and Tea Room (Food Provided)***

***1:30- 2:00 PM***

***Faulkner University Chorus– Auditorium***

***2:00 – 3:00 PM***

***Congregational Gospel Singing – Auditorium (Eastern Meadows' Song Leaders)***

***3:00 - 3:30 PM***

***\* Chorus – Auditorium***

***3:30 – 4:30 PM***

***Worship – David Hester - Auditorium***

***4:30 – 6:00 PM***

***Supper (Leftovers) & Fellowship***

***\* To Be Announced***

## **FROM THE MINISTER:**

**Make Your Plans!** We make personal plans for everything. We make plans for work and play. We often make vacation plans months, even sometimes years, in advance. We might even take out "trip" insurance, just in case! Further, unless it is death or disaster, we are going to make that trip! Please make such plans and be as devoted to the plans for HOMECOMING/OPEN HOUSE, May 1. It will certainly be a special day as we are inviting many, as we hope you are also inviting many, and we can be together, not only in worship, but all day from Worship to Bible Class, to Lunch, to hearing choruses, to an Area-Wide Singing, to Evening Worship, to Eating again. *Make your plans!*

**Thank You!** You have treated our daughter Beth and her new husband Adam with great love and kindness, from the announcement of their upcoming marriage to the wedding last Saturday, April 9. They appreciate it. Tish and I appreciate it. You have been so very kind. Many of you helped in various ways to make the wedding and the reception what it was. Thank you! We love you very much.

**Sunday-Night-Service.** Thank you for your continued participation in helping with writing cards, making phone calls, and now making visits. People need to know we care and Sunday Night Service helps to show we care. Thanks.

**Getting Tired Of Political Season.** If you are like me, you are getting tired of the Presidential Political Season. And it is a season, a hunting season, with all of the verbal shots the remaining candidates are taking at one another. It is the case however, that it is not Trump or Cruz, or Sanders or Clinton who will save this nation. ONLY Jesus can save our country and it is not the Republican Party or the Democratic Party that will take the gospel to our land; it must be, it can only be, the church. What are we doing to take the Gospel to our country? Another consideration: are we paying more attention to the candidates and what they say, or what others are saying about the candidates than what God has revealed in His word, which is certainly the most important thing.



## **Building Update**

The painting continues and is quickly winding down. The VCT tile (primarily in the closets) was waxed and buffed this week. We are at the point where Hagan Construction is cleaning up readying to move out. The construction trailer has been gone for two weeks, and the remaining building materials are quickly disappearing.

The landscape/irrigation continues. Some may question, why the islands?; why so much landscaping? The city requires it. And if, when they inspect our property, it does not conform to the submitted and approved plan, they don't "pass" us. But it does look good. And thankfully, a well was dug, so when we irrigate, the water will come from well water and not city water. The well will

soon pay for itself, especially if we hit a drought period. Thank you to Wayne Johnston for coordinating the landscaping. Soon and very soon, it will all be complete.

**Good News.** We have had significant rains in the past few weeks. I have not seen brown spots on the ceiling in the new building, so hopefully we have a good roof! The only "brown spot" I have seen has not grown larger, so hopefully it is just dirty hands.



**An "Island" in the Front Parking Lot**



**Some of the Beautiful Shrubbery You See When You Enter From The Back**

### ***FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER:***

The Central Alabama Youth Group Area-Wide Devotional for May will be Sunday, the 8th at Eastern Meadows! The topic will follow our 2015-2016 theme of AIM (Attitude, Image, Mind) and will focus on Matthew 7:21-29, a well-known teaching by Jesus about people who will be surprised at the judgment. We will need volunteers to help with set-up, cooking, serving, and clean-up. If you can help, let me know. Thanks!

"Greater than Prom" will be May 6-7 at the Harbor Lodge located on Lake Martin.

Attendees (grades 10-12) will enjoy a formal banquet with a meal and entertainment, a t-shirt, food for the weekend, and a one night stay in a Harbor Lodge cabin (linens will be provided).



The banquet will begin at 7:00 p.m. Friday, May 6 and will conclude by 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 7.

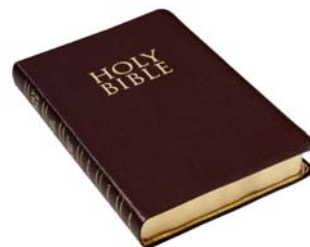
This event provides a spiritually focused alternative to your school prom as well as an opportunity to declare that your passage into adulthood doesn't have to meet the world's expectations.

If you plan to go, ensure that you tell, text, or call Tim as soon as possible!

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

**Last week's question:** Who said that the word of God was in his heart like a fire shut up in his bones? B) Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:9)

**This week's question:** Who said, "You have transgressed and have taken pagan wives, adding to the guilt of Israel. Now therefore, make confession to the Lord God of your fathers, and do His will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the pagan wives." A) Isaiah; B) Jeremiah; C) Ezra



# ANNOUNCEMENTS 4/14/16

April 17, 2016 / Leading the congregation in:

**Announcements:**

A.M.: Tim Gotkiewicz

P.M.: Tim Gotkiewicz

**Opening Prayer:**

A.M.: George Davidson

P.M.: Randy Porterfield

**Closing Prayer:**

A.M.: Jeff Simpson

P.M.: Banks Sewell

**Singing:**

A.M.: Dean Norton

P.M.: Dean Norton

**SICK:** JOY DAVIS had out-patient surgery Tuesday and is recovering at home. Prayers have been requested for GLEN BARRON, Kerry Roberts father, who has been diagnosed with cancer in both lungs and has begun treatments. Prayers have requested for DOROTHY (Dot) STUBBS, sister of Louise Stevens, who suffered injuries in a fall and is now in rehab in Florida. Sick at home Sunday: MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, DOROTHY SULLIVAN, and OPAL SULLIVAN. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Night-Service Prayer List. Shut-ins: SYBIL SCOFIELD, TAM LOWERY, PATSY LOWERY, CATHERINE LEINHEISER, LOURINE BLACK, JACKIE JOHNSTON, and JEWEL BARNES. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN.

**PRAYER REQUEST LIST:** (Health Issues): QUENTIN CROWE, KAY PEARSON and DOROTHY STUBBS. (Battling Cancer) GERMAINE HARDIN, IMOGENE GRACE, MARC MCDANIEL, MARK CHESSOR, GLEN BARRON, and RAELEIGH JANE MCCARTHA.

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is extended to Dan & Alice Farricker and family in the passing of their daughter, MCKENZIE FAITH FARRICKER, last week. McKenzie was a ninth grade student at ACA.

**APRIL 17 NURSERY ATTENDANTS:** HALEY STEELMAN & COURTNEY COCHRAN

**FELLOWSHIP MEAL:** Team 2 (Bush) will host the Fellowship Meal this Sunday, April 17, following the morning worship service **IN THE NEW FELLOWSHIP HALL**. Team 3 (Gotkiewicz) will host April 24.

**THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS:** Thursday's at 10:30 AM—A Study of Hebrews

**CALLING ALL MEN:** There will be an important meeting for all the men of the congregation following the morning service on April 17.

**BABY SHOWER:** There will be a Baby Shower in honor of CINDY MULKEY Sunday, April 24, 6 PM. The nursery colors are aqua and pink. Cindy is registered at Target and Babies R Us. A shower sign-up list is posted at the LadyBUGS Desk.



**SPRING PICNIC:** The YPYF Group is hosting a spring picnic on April 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Ida Belle Young Park pavilion on Vaughn Road. Bring a picnic lunch for your family, lawn chairs, blankets, and outside equipment (football, frisbee, kites, etc.). The pavilion is reserved for Eastern Meadows, and picnic tables will be available. All ages are welcome to attend.

**GRADUATES COOKOUT:** We have six who are graduating from high school this year—MOLLIE BETH DILL, KELSEY EVANS, TURNER JOHNSTON, MIRANDA PORTERFIELD, BANKS SEWELL, and KIM WILSON. A cook-out in their honor is being scheduled and the date will be announced soon.

**TIME CHANGE!** Note the time change for Sunday Services on May 1 **ONLY**. On May 1 Worship will be first at 9:30 AM followed by Bible Classes at 10:45 AM. Evening worship will be at 3:30 PM. Make you plans so you will not miss any of these services!

**MONDAY-NIGHT-MOTIVATION:** April 25, 6:30 PM. The meal is followed by a Men's class and a Woman's Class. All are invited to attend.

**THANK YOU:** Dear Eastern Meadows congregation, A heartfelt thanks is sent to each of you for your generous expression of love and support at the wedding of Beth and Adam. Thanks to everyone who attended the wedding and for those who worked so hard to make their day a special one. We are truly grateful Adam has such a loving and caring church family. Thank you so very much, Elizabeth & Hanley Bass

## LADYBUGS

- ◆ **April 24:** Cindy Mulkey's Baby Shower, 6 PM
- ◆ **April 25:** M-N-M, 6:30/7 PM. Gwen Mann will

be teaching Lesson 5—Our Fight With Worldliness—James 4:1-5:6. *The dinner menu is available at the LadyBUGS Desk to sign-up for.*

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **April 30:** Spring Picnic, 11 AM—1 PM
- **May 6-7:** Prom Alternative

## *Sunday Bible Classes—April 17*

*Auditorium Class: Instrumental Music In Worship (Steve Housley)*

*Young Ladies class: Ephesians Chapter 6*

## 2016 BUDGET—\$12,930.00

4/10/16 CONTRIBUTION: **\$12,616.00** BUDGET: **-\$314.00** YTD: **+\$14,879.29**

## MY MOTHER, TERRI SCHIAVO, AND GOD'S PROVIDENCE

-David W. Hester-

Perhaps it was the image on the video that sparked the memories. As the reporter described the heartrending details of the Terri Schiavo case, her face filled the screen. There she was, her eyes slowly following the balloon her father held above her head. And again, Terri's mother speaking to her; the eyes seeming to light up in response. The reporter was explaining how several doctors had said she was in a "vegetative state." That phrase brought back the anger—the fear—the dread. For, you see, that phrase was used at one point to describe my mother.

In July of 2003, I received news that hit me like a punch in the stomach. My parents—Benny and Mary Anne Hester—had been involved in a terrible automobile accident near their home in Jasper, Alabama; Daddy was injured, but was conscious and able to walk. Mama, on the other hand, was in critical condition. My wife, Brenda, who had first received word, contacted my sister, Sandra Lynch. As soon as Sandra arrived, we all headed to Birmingham.

When we got to the hospital, Daddy was relieved to see us, but was distraught. Oblivious to his own pain, all he could think of was Mama. The brethren from the congregation where he preached were there in a huge show of support and love, for which we will always be grateful. But, when Sandra and I first saw Mama in the ICU, it was a shock.

She was lying on the bed, motionless, her eyes fixed in an emotionless stare, tubes and machines hooked to her body. We called out her name; talked to her; no response. Daddy, through his tears, poured out his love and implored her to fight—to come back to us. No response. My wife, who is a speech pathologist, later told me that when she first saw her, she did not expect her to live. Truth be told, not many people did. Sandra has worked for many years in the health care profession; although her exterior was calm, I could tell that she was very concerned.

Those first few weeks were critical. Prayers from concerned brethren around the world were made for Mama. All the love and support from brothers and sisters in Christ will never be forgotten by our family. The cards, the phone calls, and the visits meant so much to us. Indeed, we eventually saw the truth of the Scripture: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). Yet, in mid-August, we received news that brought us as low as we could possibly get.

It was on a Saturday. The neurologist on call asked to meet with Daddy, Sandra, and me in a small family conference room. Her demeanor was somber; her words measured. After reviewing all that had been done, she said, "Your mother has less than a one-half of one percent chance of ever waking up." At that point, to

me it seemed all of the oxygen had been sucked out of the room. Then, she added something I will never forget: "You all need to be thinking of the plans you need to make." My sister's eyes focused on the therapist like lasers. With a slow-burn intensity, Sandra replied, "What plans?" The young neurologist was taken aback, and stammered that nothing had to be decided just now. By this point, Daddy had regained enough composure to make it clear to the young lady that we would do all that it took to bring Mama back – as long as there was life, there was hope. However, after she had left, he broke down, almost crushed by the sobering news. We all were at our lowest point.

God's providence is a subject that I freely admit to not being an expert. There are many things in connection with providence that fall under Deuteronomy 29:29: "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." Though we do not understand why God allows certain things to happen, we know that all will be revealed after the Day of Judgment, when the saints will have all eternity to find out from the Father Himself. We can be encouraged from the examples of great men like Job and Joseph, as well as righteous women like Esther, who trusted God in spite of difficulties. And, we are emboldened by the life of our Lord, who suffered adversity from his own people to give Himself as the ultimate Sacrifice. In spite of what we go through in this life, nothing can match the pain and heartache He suffered. Yet, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:14-16).

Less than a month after the meeting with the neurologist, Mama opened her eyes. Only now her eyes were alert and responsive. We did not want to get our hopes up too much, but then she began to move her hands and feet ever so slowly, in response to commands. After a few days, the nurses had her sitting up in her bed. A speech pathologist came in to ask Mama a list of questions; I was particularly interested, since this was Brenda's line of expertise. Mama responded to them in a hushed voice, affected by the tube that had been in her throat. The young lady asked, "Who is the President?" After a couple of seconds, Mama replied, "W." (The nickname for George W. Bush.) The startled therapist said, "What?" Mama again said, "W." The speech therapist said, "Why, you're smarter than I am! I wouldn't have thought to have said that!"

After a couple of more months of therapy, Mama finally went home with Daddy. Since then, she has made slow but steady improvement. Though she will never be back to one hundred percent, we are thankful to a gracious God for allowing her to be with us. She has made remarkable progress, given where she was after the accident. She frequently calls me and Sandra on the phone, and talks with us. She can get around the house with a walker, and can do certain things for herself. She is a strong lady, with a determination to live and continue to make a contribution to the Lord's cause.

Which brings me back to Terri Schiavo. I have to wonder – if she had the same love and support from her husband that Mama had from my Dad, would she have made the same kind of recovery? It angered my wife that so little therapy was allowed. Our hearts went out to the Schindler family, and the immense pain they suffered. Though they were not New Testament Christians, they relied on each other for support. I empathized with them.

Just this afternoon, Mama called from her cell phone. Daddy was driving, and they were going to the Post Office. She spoke with the same excitement and intensity I had always known her to have, when aroused to make a difference on an issue. "David, I've written a letter to the President about that girl in Florida. I'm going to tell him about what I went through, and that she deserves to live!" I couldn't help but remember the same intensity many years before, when she and a number of Christian ladies worked hard to keep the Equal Rights Amendment from being approved in Tennessee, where Daddy preached at the time. In fact, Mama not long ago came across some old material from those days, rekindling her desire to make a difference. As she went on describing all she had written, I grinned from ear to ear. Thank you, Lord, for all your blessings. Thank you for your Providence and your Son who died for us. Thank you for blessing us in ways we will never understand.