



## 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>

September 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:

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 8/28/16

Bible Class: 149  
AM Worship: 208  
PM Worship: 123  
EMBF: \$209.00

**WELCOME!**

# 2016 BUDGET—\$12,930.00

## 8/28/16

# CONTRIBUTION: \$13,643.00

# BUDGET: + \$713..00

# YTD: + \$30,753.42

# Weekly Average YTD Contribution: \$13,808.66

When *God* we put first,  
all other things fall  
into their *proper places*.

## ***FROM THE MINISTER:***

**Welcome Jerome!** Sunday we announced Jerome (Jerry) Thompson placing membership at Eastern Meadows. Jerry's wife, Lillie, had come to Eastern Meadows earlier this year. Jerome was born in Baltimore, Maryland, but was reared in New York City and upstate New York. He spent 28 years in the U. S. Air Force and was stationed in Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, and twice in Turkey. Over the years he continued his education at the University of Maryland, UNLV, University of Wisconsin, and Troy State University. Jerome was baptized at the Airport church in Crestview, FL when Roger Dill preached there. After Jerome and Lillie moved to Montgomery, Jerome has been active at the Southside church of Christ and the Capitol City church of Christ. Jerome and Lillie have 5 children, 5 grand-children and 3 great-grandchildren. Jerome and Lily volunteer for Baptist Hospice. We welcome Jerome to Eastern Meadows and look forward to continued work for the Lord and worship of our great God.



**Jerome & Lillie Thompson**

**Thursday Class!** We begin again this week – by the time you read this it is probably too late to come, but come next week. We will be studying Genesis. If you are like me it has been a long time since being in a class study of Genesis. Actually, I don't know if I have ever been in a class completely devoted to the book of Genesis. When I have studied Genesis in a class it was a part of a survey of the Bible or the class was on the Pentateuch (first five books of the O.T.). Come and let us enjoy the time in God's word together.

**Thanks.** Thanks to each of the song leaders, Alan Kaye, Dean Norton, Allen Clements, and Jon Timbes for helping with August Summer Sunday Nights' emphasis on singing. And thank you for your patience ... singing twelve songs each Sunday Night is a lot of singing, and it was very difficult to get it in the hour. And thanks for your participation in choosing the songs we sang over the month – all of the songs were requested songs.

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

Sally and I thank you all so much for the kind expressions of love since the passing of my mother. The cards, notes, and well wishes have all made the burden much easier to bear. The love you've shown is truly beyond measure!

September 4<sup>th</sup>, following our Sunday evening worship, we will have our first college devo of the 2016-2017 school year. We will meet at Tim and Sally's immediately following our Sunday evening service.

Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> - Lunch, movie, and a devo for the youth group. 12 – 3 p.m. @ the fellowship room.

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, Youth Group Area-Wide at Prattville. Van will depart at 4 p.m. and return approx. 7:30 p.m.

September 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have our first Skill Shaping Sunday for the youth group. All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to stay, eat, and learn skills for providing for and keeping your families. We will also work on other Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes convention skills/projects.

## TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

**Last question:** There are four named rulers in Palestine when John the Immerser began his ministry: Pontius Pilate, Herod Antipas, Herod Philip, and Lysanias, Tetrarch of Abilene.

This week's question: Who put Jesus in the tomb?



## ANNOUNCEMENTS 9/1/16

Sept. 4, 2016 / Leading the congregation in:

**Announcements:**

A.M.: Lindsey Mulkey

P.M.: Lindsey Mulkey

**Opening Prayer:**

A.M.: Alan Kaye

P.M.: Alan Kaye

**Closing Prayer:**

A.M.: James Berry

P.M.: Tim Stevens

**Singing:**

A.M.: Dean Norton

P.M.: Dean Norton

**SICK:** DIXIE BRANNAN is in Baptist East Medical Center. PAUL CLEMENTS is to be scheduled for open heart surgery. BILLIE POUNCEY is scheduled for hip-replacement surgery Sept. 7 at Baptist South Medical Center. DOROTHY HICKS, DIXIE BRANNAN, and MARCIA GRAVES continue to recover from surgery. FRED SMITH, Veotha Smith's husband is in the hospital in Birmingham following surgery, but is to be moved to HealthSouth by the end of the week. Prayers have been requested for KAY PEARSON, Camilla Wates mother, who is St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham. DIANE LINDSEY, former member and sister-in-law of Theresa Mulkey, is scheduled for open heart surgery in Birmingham on Sept. 7. DORIS KISER, former member and aunt of Randy Porterfield, has been very sick, suffered two falls, and is now in HealthSouth Rehab. Prayers have been requested for LISA HANKINS, daughter-in-law of Pete & Ella Hankins, who is battling cancer. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Night-Service Prayer List. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, BARNEY BELL, VI ENGLISH, WILMA MILLICAN, FRANCES NELSON, JAY & KERRY ROBERTS, SYDNEY ROBERTS, and DOROTHY SULLIVAN. Shut-ins: SYBIL SCOFIELD, TAM LOWERY, PATSY LOWERY, CATHERINE LEINHEISER, LOURINE BLACK, JACKIE JOHNSTON, JEWEL BARNES, RED & LANETTE TAYLOR. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN.

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is extended to Tim and Sally Gotkiewicz in the passing of Tim's mother, MARY GOTKIEWICZ, Thursday, Aug. 25. Mary was Ryan Gotkiewicz's grandmother. Please keep Tim and his family in your prayers.

**PRAYER REQUEST LIST:** (Health Issues): DOROTHY STUBBS, KYLE & CAROLE THOMASSON, FRED SMITH, TERESA ANDERSON, BEN MEDINA, Sr., LENDA JOHNSON, DORIS KISER, DIANE LINDSEY, and KAY PEARSON. (Battling Cancer) GERMAINE HARDIN, IMOGENE GRACE, MARK CHESSOR, GLEN BARRON, MICHELLE MITCHELL, WALTER SIEVERS, LINDA STEELE, JAN KELLEHER, MARC MCDANIEL, and RAELEIGH JANE MCCARTHA.

**AREA WIDE SINGING:** University Church of Christ will host the Area Wide Singing this Friday, Sept. 2, 7 PM.

**SEPTEMBER 4 NURSERY ATTENDANT:** CECILIA PORTERFIELD & DAWN CHANDLER

**GOSPEL MEETING:** There will be a Gospel Meeting at Holt Street Church of Christ Sept. 4-7 with Cameron Freeman speaking. Sunday schedule: 9 & 10 AM and 2:30 PM. Monday-Wednesday: 7 PM.

**THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS:** Thursday Bible Class, 10:30 AM. The study will be "Genesis".

**LET'S SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE!:** The LadyBUGS will be sending gift bags filled with treats to brighten some of our members day. Please leave all items in the designated area in the LadyBUGS' Room no later than this Sunday, September 4. We will prepare 15-17 bags. NO PERISHABLE ITEMS PLEASE!

**EASTERN MEADOWS & WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL:** Eastern Meadows has shipped over 10,000 WBS Bible lessons all over the world. Keep this good work in your prayers.



**MOUNT DORA CHILDREN'S HOME FOOD & SUPPLY DRIVE:** Place items in the box in the midway foyer by Sept. 11th. Money and/or gift cards for Mount Dora may be turned in to Wilma Berry.

**TODDLER—6TH GRADE CHILDREN'S CLASS PROJECT:** Don't forget to bring canned foods and paper supplies for Mount Dora to Bible Class on Sunday!

**"CHOOSING THAT GOOD PART" LADIES' FALL RETREAT:** The retreat is scheduled for Oct. 13—15 and the book of Ephesians will be studied this year. If you have any questions, contact Denise Martin at kaydenisemartin@yahoo.com or Tish Housley at tishhousley@gmail.com.

### FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE:



**September 11:** Teams 4 (Simpson) & 5 (Mathews). Both teams are to bring food, drinks, bread, and desserts. Team 4 is responsible for set-up and Team 5 is responsible for clean-up.

**September 25:** Teams 1 (Porterfield) & 2 (Bush). Both teams are to bring food, drinks, bread, and desserts. Team 1 is responsible for set-up and Team 2 is responsible for clean-up.

**Team 3 (Gotkiewicz) - September Standby Team:** The Standby Team is the first responder for the food needs of the congregation (not just their team!) in cases of sickness and death.

## "Jesus Healed The Blind Man"

Last Sunday, the 4 & 5 Year Olds Bible Class, taught by Cecilia Porterfield, studied about Jesus healing the blind man.

*Pictured front row LtoR:* Ella Rose and Lawson.

*Pictured back row LtoR:* Dallas, Clare, Madison, and Aubrey Alice.

**Are YOU in Bible class?**



## LADYBUGS

- ♦ **Sept. 4:** Visitation Assignments
- ♦ **Sept. 4:** Sunshine Basket Items Due
- ♦ **Sept. 6:** Quilting – 10 am until...
- ♦ **Sept. 8:** B-L-D Club Dinner – 6 pm – Newk's
- ♦ **Sept. 12:** Area Wide Ladies' Devo, 7 PM, @ Dalraida
- ♦ **Sept. 13:** Quilting, 1-3 PM

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **Sept. 10:** EMYG Lunch & Movie, 12-3 PM, Fellowship Hall
- **Sept. 11:** Area Wide Youth Devo, PM
- **Sept. 18:** SSS (7-12th Graders)

## COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Sept. 4:** Devo, 7 PM

## *Sunday Bible Classes—Sept. 4*

Auditorium: *Revelation—David Hester*

Young Ladies: *Parables of Jesus*

Experienced Ladies: *OT Women, Lesson 24*

# Stop Dismissing Scripture with, “That’s Just Your Interpretation!”

Occasionally I will have a conversation, or overhear a conversation, where a person is told what the Bible says on a certain subject, but they quickly respond, “Well, that’s just your interpretation!” As if that statement settled the matter once and for all. They seem to believe everyone has a right to their own interpretation of Scripture and one interpretation is just as valid as another. Here are a few thoughts on that line of reasoning.

## Understanding Some Important Words

There are some words we use all the time and we just assume people understand what they mean, but perhaps it would be good to take a moment to define some important terms:

**Translation** – The 66 books of the Bible were written in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). Therefore, in order for English-speakers to read them today, they must be translated into English. There are many reliable English translations of the Bible and they have been translated from the original languages by groups of experts and scholars who have devoted their lives to understanding these languages. The translators primary concern is: **What does the text say?**

**Interpretation** – The books of the Bible were not only written in different languages, they were written thousands of years ago in completely different cultures from our own. So even when a book has been translated to English, it can still be difficult for people today to understand what the author was talking about. We ALL must interpret Scripture, but this simply means we must ask the question: **What does the text mean?**

**Application** – When the biblical text has been translated into English and we have done the hard work to understand what the text means, then we must apply it to our own lives. We must ask the question: **What difference should the text make in my life?**

## Only One Right Interpretation

We need to understand an important principle, a biblical text only has one right interpretation. In other words, **it only means one thing**. The idea that everyone is entitled to their own interpretation and every interpretation is just as valid as another, is completely ridiculous.

If the person who hears or reads a statement can decide for himself what the statement means, and there is not one right meaning, then attempting to communicate with each other becomes pointless. Imagine a policeman pulling a driver over for failing to stop at a stop sign. The policeman says, “Sir, did you see that stop sign?” The driver responds, “Yes sir, I did.” Confused, the officer says, “Don’t you understand **that means you have to stop?**” And the driver smiles and says, “Well, that’s *your* interpretation.”

The meaning of a particular passage might be *difficult* to understand; but rest assured, it only has one correct interpretation. The Bible is not some mystical book that changes meanings depending on who is reading it. **It doesn’t mean different things to different people**. When the prophet or apostle penned those particular words to the original audience, he meant something. Our job is to figure out, **what did he mean by that?**

## Interpretation Requires Hard Work

Understanding what a passage of Scripture means can be difficult. As I said earlier, the books of the

Bible were written by men living in an entirely different culture. On top of that, different books of the Bible must be interpreted differently. For instance, the book of Psalms is a book of poetry and you can't interpret poetry the same way you interpret historical narratives like the book of Joshua.

If we want to know the Truth, we must **do the hard work of interpretation**. We must ask questions like: Who wrote this book? To whom did he write it? When did he write it? What literature style was he using? What was the primary purpose of this book?

The more we understand the answers to these questions, the better conclusions we will reach about **the correct meaning of Scripture**. And this is NOT an impossible task. God wants His people to understand what Scripture means. The Bible was written to be timeless. It was written to be read for centuries. **It was written to be understood.**

### Several Possible Meanings

I will readily admit there are some difficult passages of Scripture to interpret (not nearly as many as some people would have you believe). These passages have various *possible* meanings. In other words, scholars and theologians disagree on what the passage means and they have come up with several different *possible* interpretations. But at the end of the day, there is only one *right* interpretation and all the other interpretations are wrong.

### Let's Stop Being Lazy and/or Disobedient

When a brother in Christ admonishes me, saying, "Scripture says you're wrong for what you're doing," and I respond with, "Well, that's just your interpretation," at the very least I am being lazy and at the worst I'm being disobedient to God.

It could be the person is wrong in his interpretation. In that case, we need to sit down together and **figure out the correct interpretation** of the text and how it applies to the lives of Christians today. If he is wrong in his interpretation and I know he is wrong, it isn't loving or kind for me to leave him with the impression that it's alright for him to continue on with a wrong interpretation; as if we are all entitled to different interpretations.

But it could also be that his interpretation is correct. If so, I need to yield my life to God's will. It's easy to just dismiss something with, "That's not how I interpret that passage," but it's easy because it is often disobedience. Disobedience is easy.

### The Bottom Line

Just because you don't like what a passage of Scripture means, doesn't mean you can just interpret a different way. If you would be a disciple of Christ, you must accept some difficult and challenging truths as revealed in Scripture.

—Wes McAdams, *via Radically Christian*

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

*"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).*

*"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).*