



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

Phone: 334-273-0001 / Fax: 334-273-0375

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

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

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

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

January 26, 2017

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 1/22/17

Bible Class: 157
AM Worship: 215
PM Worship: 134
EMBF: \$110.50

WELCOME!

BENEVOLENCE SUNDAY

January 29th

Fifth Sunday's have been designated "Benevolence Sunday". On Benevolence Sundays a special contribution will be taken for the **EASTERN MEADOWS BENEVOLENCE FUND**. This is to be separate from the regular contribution. Checks for this effort should be made out to: Eastern Meadows Benevolence Fund. Envelopes marked "Eastern Meadows Benevolence Fund" will be provided for those who wish to contribute in cash. All contributions made to this fund are tax deductible as are regular contributions.

—Don Brannan, for the elders



TEACHER'S MEETING

January 29, 3:30 PM

This meeting is for **ALL** teachers, both those presently teaching or who would like to teach.



4 Hours!!!!

ETERNAL ASSURANCE

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Coming Up. There are some significant things coming up! This Sunday is Benevolence Sunday. Also, this coming Sunday there is a Teachers meeting at 3:30 p.m. And, last but not least, there is a great opportunity for the Young Professionals/Young Families on Sunday night following worship with eating, fellowship, and devotional. This Sunday will be a busy day for some! The next Sunday, February 5, the Faulkner Chorus will be singing after the evening worship. Sunday, February 12, Eastern Meadows will have “Marriage Enrichment Sunday,” where all of the services, 9 and 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. (note the change from 5 p.m. to 1 p.m.) will be about Marriage with David Hester speaking. On the 12th, “Marriage Enrichment Sunday” we will have a Fellowship Meal where the food will be cooked in the kitchen and you do not have to bring anything!

Great Opportunity. While every Sunday is a great opportunity to invite someone to worship with you, Feb. 12., is particularly a great opportunity to invite someone to worship with you! All the lessons are about Marriage and there is a MEAL! Make good use of this opportunity. Invite! I hope we have one of our largest crowds for this significant day.

Prayers. Sunday, January 15, was involvement Sunday. Be praying that we at Eastern Meadows will do a better job of doing the Lord’s work. Some things may be “mundane” and not so exciting, but nevertheless, are necessary to the carrying on of the work at a church. By the way, if you men have not yet turned in your involvement card, there are some on the desk in the foyer. Get one and fill it out and give to Tim Bagents. Thanks for all you do now. Thanks for what you will be doing in the future.

What Would Your Letter Be?

I found the events of last week of great interest. I was happy to see once again the peaceful transition of power. While there were some protests in the street, President Obama and his staff and President Trump and his staff were civil and acted by the rule of law with the best interest of our country. This has happened since the first President, George Washington. Many, many places in this world there is no change of power or leadership without violence and upheaval.

One particular thing I found of interest is the tradition of each President, leaving office, writing a short letter to the incoming President and leaving it on the desk in the Oval Office. I don’t know how long this has been a tradition, but long enough now to be called a tradition. You can read the content of the letters of President Clinton to President Bush and the letter from President Bush to President Obama. Just go to, <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/obama-leaves-letter-for-trump-in-oval-office/ar-AAm3SwQ?li=BBnb7Kz>. From there you will find links to see photographs of the letters. It was especially interesting to read the letter from President Bush 1 to President Clinton. After all, it was Clinton’s defeat of Bush that made Bush 1 a one term President. You can read that here: <http://www.today.com/news/george-bush-s-letter-bill-clinton-lesson-dignity-respect-t104168>. Each of these letters is gracious, written with a sense of “I’m wishing the best for you.” President Obama continued the tradition of leaving a letter on his desk, but the contents are not yet known as I write this.

But what would you write? No, I am not speaking of a letter from outgoing President (your name) to someone else who would be the incoming President. I think I can safely say that you, nor I, will be inaugurated President. How many years have you been a Christian? So someone becomes a Christian. If you were going to sit down and write a letter to them, what would you write? What would you write to this new Christian? Would there be a paragraph expressing glory and thanksgiving to our God? Would you reflect upon the joy you have had as a Christian? Would you reflect upon the challenges and temptations you have dealt with as a Christian? Would you be honest and forthcom-

ing about your failures with advice on how to avoid the same failures? Would you give a list of the “dos” and “don’ts” as a Christian? What would you write?

Now you could say that the New Testament is the letter written to us to tell us about the Christian life. But more specifically, I think you could go to Colossians 3, which is the most “Now that I am a Christian” chapter in the New Testament. Look how it begins, “If then you have been raised with Christ . . .” no doubt reminding the reader of Colossians 2:12 that says, “having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.” To be “raised with Christ” (Col. 3:1) implies that they have been “buried with him (Christ) in baptism” (Col. 2:12). So Colossians really is a “Now that I am a Christian” chapter! Read it! Colossians 3 is what Paul would write. What would you write?

My second nomination for the “Now That I Am A Christian Chapter” is Romans 6. Romans 6 begins by calling attention to the baptism of the readers. Romans 6:4 says, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” Clearly this points to a putting off the old and putting on the new with the “walk in newness of life.” And again, I say, read it! Romans 6 is what Paul would write, what would you write?

So what would your letter be?

- Steve Housley

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: Why did Boaz not immediately declare himself as kinsman redeemer to Ruth at the threshing floor? A) There was a closer relative than he to Ruth (Ruth 3:12)

This week's question: Ruth's son was named: A) Jesse; B) Salmon; C) Obed



FROM THE YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

Please complete and return the EM Lads to Leaders registration forms by this coming Sunday. I will be registering the Youth Group teens (7th - 12th grade) next week and reserving motel rooms. If you are interested in going as a chaperone, please contact me; thanks!

Lads to Leaders training, practice, and preparation – Every Sunday at 3:30 p.m. except on Sundays when we go to Area-Wide worship. Have your songs ready, your speech in work, and your Bible Bowl questions rehearsed.

January 29, 2017 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:

A.M.: Jimmy Mathews

P.M.: Jimmy Mathews

Opening Prayer:

A.M.: Tim Gotkiewicz

P.M.: Paul Clements

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: David Barley

P.M.: Tim Gotkiewicz

Singing:

A.M.: Alan Kaye

P.M.: Alan Kaye

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE: Beginning the first Wednesday in March (March 1), everyone will meet in the auditorium at **6:00** p.m. for the Devotional *before* going to class. We will dismiss from the devotional to go to class and dismiss from class to go home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS 1/26/17

SICK: JEROME THOMPSON is scheduled for surgery today, Jan. 26. MARSHA SUTTON is scheduled for surgery Feb. 7. RUTH ROBERTS, Jay's mother, has returned home to Elba and is under hospice care. Prayers have been requested for SYBIL DAVIS, Donna Boutwell's aunt who suffered a fall recently. Sick at home Sunday: TERRY BAGENTS, RUSS CHANDLER, FUTRAL FAMILY, MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, DOROTHY SULLIVAN, OPAL SULLIVAN, and MARSHA SUTTON. 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, ELIZABETH ENGLEBERT, RUTH ROBERTS, JEAN WILSON, DONNA KLINE, and SYBIL DAVIS. (Battling Cancer) RAELEIGH JANE MCCARTHA, GERMAINE HARDIN, IMOGENE GRACE, JAN KELLEHER, KYLE PURVICAL, ANUDLA CURD, ALAN BROWN, SHERRY WADSWORTH, and RANDY POST.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS - 10:30 AM

YPYF FAMILY DEVOTIONAL: The YPYF Family Devotional will be held in the fellowship hall following evening services this Sunday night. The devotional will be geared toward children, ages birth through sixth grade. If you can bring a food item, see Tish Housley, or sign up on the sheet in the front foyer.

AREA WIDE SINGING: Panama Street Church of Christ will host the Area Wide Singing Friday, Feb. 3, 7 PM.

LADIES' DAY: There will be a Ladies' Day at North Lowndes Church of Christ Feb. 4 with Clydetta Fulmer speaking on the theme, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." Begins at 9 AM with Registration. Lunch will be provided.

YOUNG AT HEART BANQUET: Folks who are attending the Young at Heart Banquet are encouraged to submit one or two old photographs to Sarah Housley by Sunday, February 5. Photos should be clearly labeled and will be returned following the banquet.

MOUNT DORA CHILDREN'S HOME BENEFIT DINNER: The Mount Dora Children's Home Montgomery Area Benefit Dinner will be Feb. 9, 6 PM, at Faulkner University (Rotunda Building). Tickets are required for the dinner but may be obtained for free by contacting Dianne or Ron Hoskinson.

HELP NEEDED WITH FAMILY DEVOTIONALS: Help is needed hosting quarterly family devotionals after evening services on May 14 and August 13. The devotional time will be geared toward children ages birth to sixth grade. See Sarah Housley for more information.

THANK YOU: Our Thanks to You. This extra special thank you note sent to you today holds more appreciation than any words can say. For you're among the nicest people we have ever known, and you'll never be forgotten for the thoughtfulness you've shown. With sincere love, The Dees (Lamon, Elvernice, Lloyd, & Lawrence)



Marriage Enrichment Sunday *February 12 / 9 & 10 AM and 1 PM* *David Hester speaking*



9 AM: "Six Keys To Have A Fantastic Marriage!"

10 AM: "What Have They Seen In Thine House"

Lunch provided.

1 PM: "Does Your Home Abide In The Doctrine Of Christ"



4 Hours!!!!

ETERNAL ASSURANCE

2017 BUDGET—\$13,500.00

1/22/17—CONTRIBUTION: **\$11,748.00**

BUDGET: **-\$1,752.00** / YTD: **-\$2,289.47**

Sunday Bible Classes—Jan. 29

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

COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Feb. 5:** Faulkner Chorus, 6 PM
- **Feb. 12:** Marriage Enrichment Sunday

La dybugs

- ♦ **Jan. 29:** Visitation Assignments
- ♦ **Feb. 7:** Quilting, 10 AM – 2 PM. Bring lunch!
- ♦ **Feb. 27:** M-N-M, 6:30/7 PM
- ♦ **Mar. 13:** Area Wide Ladies' Devo, 7 PM, @ Eastern Meadows

YPYF

- ♦ **Jan. 29:** The YPYF Family Devotional will be held in the fellowship hall following evening services Sunday night. The devotional will be geared toward children, ages birth through sixth grade. If you can bring a food item, see Tish Housley.
- ♦ **Feb. 11:** Help with Young at Heart Banquet
- ♦ **Feb. 12:** NO 2nd Sunday Night Fellowship

ELEMENTARY L2L/L

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

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **Jan. 29:** L2L/L Prep, 4 PM
- **Feb. 12:** Area Wide Youth Devo, PM

FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE:

February 12: Food is provided. Teams 2 (Hester) & 3 (Norton) are responsible for set-up. Teams 4 (Hatch) & 5 (Milam/Kelley) are responsible for clean-up.

Team 1 (Norman/Futral) - February 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.



MIKE WILLIAMS, president of Faulkner University, will be speaking Sunday, Feb. 5, at the PM worship service. After services are dismissed, the Faulkner University Chorus, directed by our own ALLEN CLEMENTS, will perform.

60 Seconds For A Visitor After Services Are Dismissed

A visitor comes to worship services for the first time. This person is searching for meaning, purpose, and answers, perplexed and troubled by life and wanting to know the way. The services have already started, and the visitor slips into the first vacant seat available. This one is intrigued and engaged by what has gone on, benefiting from the preaching, appreciating the singing, and eventually standing with everyone else for a final, uplifting prayer. The visitor has experienced enough to consider returning. The prayer concludes, and the visitor, with everyone else, begins to head for the aisle.

So much, good or bad, can happen in these next 60 seconds.

- The visitor, not knowing a soul, either stands or slowly walks out of the auditorium, hoping for a friendly face, a smile, or words of kindness and encouragement.
- The family seated next to the visitor have wrestled their baby throughout services. Exhausted and flustered, they hurry past the visitor never making eye contact.
- Several members, each on an important “mission,” walk past the visitor to talk to that person or do that thing that, if they don’t hurry, they’ll forget or miss.
- The visitor does make it to the preacher, shaking his hand and thanking him “for the service.” While standing with the preacher, the visitor notices a handful of those who are apparently members warmly greeting the preacher but feeling the full force of being treated as if invisible by them. These folks are good folks, but they just aren’t observant (or accustomed to being “on the lookout” for visitors).
- Moving past the preacher, the visitor encounters the eye contact of a few people who politely smile or even say hello. These good people wonder if this is a member, someone they should know, and, afraid to offend this one, do not follow up with conversation.
- The visitor walks past a shy member, one who would like to greet the visitor but who is afraid of being embarrassed in some way. As the visitor departs, ignored by and large and concluding that while the services were unique and intriguing the people were cold and unfriendly, God looks down from heaven. He has seen that last minute unfold. He knows the tagline under this church’s bulletin masthead asserts that this is the friendliest church in town. He watches members who know one another and are comfortable with each other laughing and talking together, wanting to be together, but are oblivious to the precious opportunity embodied in that visitor. God sees that visitor as a soul precious enough to give His Son for, an impressionable person reached or rejected by the reception (or lack thereof) made by His people. He knows this visiting one has heard truth and experienced worship in spirit and truth, but that this one also believes that the participants are exclusive and disinterested.
- The devil has to be delighted that this visitor leaves dejected and resentful, determined not to visit that unfriendly congregation again.

Though I would like to say that the scenario above is far-fetched and purely fictional, it is one I have seen play out repeatedly over a quarter-century as a preacher. Our efforts (or lack thereof) to engage and show interest in those who visit our assemblies is our only opportunity to make the first impression redeemed, soul-conscious Christians should make. We must never assume that it’s others’ job to or that others are doing the job of making our visitors feel appreciated and welcomed. What if every Christian present would take every opportunity presented to make every visitor feel as though they’ve “come home” when they come to our services? Will you consider what you do with your first minute after the last “amen”? Who knows the eternal difference it will make, especially with some soul searching for the Savior?

--Neal Pollard