



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>

February 23, 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 2/19/17

Bible Class: 155
AM Worship: 200
PM Worship: 141
EMBF: \$122.50

WELCOME!

2017 BUDGET—\$13,500.00

2/19/17—CONTRIBUTION: \$14,352.51

BUDGET: + \$852.51

YTD: - \$3,841.41

Avg. Contribution YTD: \$13,060.41

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

MARCH 1st—6:00 PM

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 class to go home.

Sign up for your photo session begins this Sunday for the new Pictorial Directory immediately after Morning and Evening Services at the Welcome Desk.

Lifetouch[®]

CHURCH DIRECTORY

THE NEED FOR AN ELDERSHIP IN EVERY CHURCH

What is the most pressing need of any congregation? A better meeting place? Better trained Bible teachers? A faithful gospel preacher? Perhaps more money to support more work for the Lord. If you could do one thing for the church where you worship, what would it be?

Though these things are pressing needs, there is a need far greater than any and all of these, a faithful, godly eldership in every congregation! Men who are unqualified can never be elders, (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-11). With a good eldership, these other needs will be taken care of.

Jesus did not intend to leave His church to be a formless, leaderless group of unguided people. God intended the church to be an "ekklesia." His church will be a thoroughly ordered body of people, not a chaotic, self-willed sect. The church of Christ is made up of people who are obedient to God's will.

ELDERS HAVE THE OVERSIGHT

Elders have the responsibility of seeing to it that God's will is obeyed. They do not make laws where God has made none. They simply carry out those God has commanded! God has given them authority to do this.

Elders are to "TAKE HEED" to themselves and to the flock. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). The word "heed" means to "hold to... turn one's attention to..." The Holy Spirit made them overseers and they have the right to turn their attention to every member and see to it that what they are doing is pleasing unto the Lord.

They are to "TEND" the flock. In 1 Pet. 5:1-3 we read, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God, which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." The word "tend" or "feed" means to "shepherd, to nourish, promote the interest of, direct, superintend, to rule."

Elders have the "RULE" over the congregation. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief" (Gen. 13:17). "Rule" means "to go before, to be a leader, to rule, command, to have authority over, leading in respect to influence, controlling in counsel." They must give the congregation organization and direction. They must communicate with them, evaluate the work, and always be alert for ways to use every member to the fullest of their ability.

Elders have the duty to keep the church "PURE." In doing so they teach the word (1 Tim. 3:2). They are able by sound doctrine to "convict the gainsayers" (Tit. 1:9). "Convict" means to "bring to light, expose, demonstrate, convince, reprove, and correct those who speak against or contradict the truth." They are to "warn the unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all" (1 Thes. 5:14). They take the lead in church discipline (2 Thes. 3:6).

Though they are responsible for each of the souls entrusted to their care and have authority from God in carrying out their tasks, they are not to be lords over God's heritage (1 Pet. 5:3). This means to rule with an iron hand or dictatorial spirit. They are not to love the preeminence as Diotrephes (3 John 9). Instead, they are to be gentle and not self-willed.

Elders are the "key" men in the church. Their function is to oversee, superintend, harmonize, and integrate the work of evangelists, teachers and the whole membership. A strong faithful eldership in every congregation is one of the surest ways to stand before the Lord one day and hear Him say, "well done thou good and faithful servant." On the other hand, an unqualified eldership is a sure way to fail in God's work and destroy the local congregation.

Why do so few churches have qualified overseers? Several questions must first be answered. How many churches really want elders? How many Christians want elders? Would the average church's membership tolerate real New Testament elders? It is sad, but many Christians are in such a state that it is doubtful they would tolerate someone watching for their souls. Who would submit their spiritual life in the care and keeping of the pastors?

ELDERS ARE NOT OPTIONAL

Congregations must realize that elderships are not optional. We do not have the liberty to have leaders or not. We do not have the option of forming another system to oversee the flock on a permanent basis (such as the general men's business meeting)! The men's business meetings are attended by the faithful and unfaithful, the novice and experienced, the learned and the unlearned. Such meetings are generally characterized by friction, strife, and division. They are usually dominated by a small minority or sometimes a single individual who can maneuver and manipulate others to vote the way he desires. The work of the Lord is not carried on by popular (majority) vote! Nor is it carried on by minority vote! Nothing will ever work successfully when everyone is in charge yet no one is in charge! (In the absence of qualified men, the arrangement of a general meeting of the men seems only logical.)

WHY SHOULD EVERY CONGREGATION WANT AND HAVE ELDERS?

Because it is the will of God! Paul said to Titus, "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee" (Tit. 1:5). Paul and Barnabas "ordained elders in every church... and commended them to the Lord on whom they believed" (Acts 14:23). A congregation will never be truly organized until the will of God is carried out in this area. The number one reason why every congregation should have elders is that it is the will of God.

--Garland M. Robinson

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Welcome. Eastern Meadows welcomes Mary Anne Hester to Eastern Meadows! Mary Anne is David Hester's mother and has moved to Montgomery to live with David and Brenda. Mary Anne was born at Oakman, Alabama (this is very near Indian Creek Youth Camp). Her father was a preacher. She married when she was 15 years old to Benny Hester and was widowed after 54 years of marriage. Benny attended Freed-Hardeman University after they married and then they lived, as he preached, at various places, Jasper, Alabama; Henderson, Tennessee; Luxora, Arkansas; Booneville, Indiana; Paducah, Kentucky; Vernon, Alabama, Jasper, Alabama (again), Cordova, Alabama, and Irondale, Alabama. Sister Hester graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education at Austin Peay University. She worked at various jobs, but was primarily a homemaker and preacher's wife. She enjoys growing house plants, and calligraphy. In the various places her husband's preaching took them, she taught children's classes and Ladies' classes. We welcome Marry Anne to Eastern Meadows!



Mary Anne Hester

Prayers. At the beginning of this year our elders announced that they were looking to add to Eastern Meadows' leadership in 2017. They immediately began working on that, meeting with various men of the congregation and discussing the possibility of their serving as an elder or deacon. It was for this reason that we studied about elders this past Sunday. It is for this reason that we will study about Deacons this coming Sunday. Now pray. Pray for our elders as they take the lead in adding new elders and deacons. Pray for the men of the congregation who may be considered for serving in such capacity. Pray for the future of Eastern Meadows. Leadership - elders, deacons - is Biblical. I believe that it is Biblical because God saw the need for leadership in each congregation. Pray that Eastern Meadows will have men working in the capacity of Elder and Deacon doing the Lord's Will. Pray that we will be the sheep God would have us be in the Eastern Meadows flock.

Preachers' Challenge for Faulkner University Bible Department. Thank you for your help with the Faulkner University's Preachers' Challenge. Ten families have contributed \$1,140. By the way, donations to the Preacher's Challenge are still being accepted.

Good News To Share! Last week ANDREW LONG baptized his mother Ida Brown and his sister Annie Brown. We rejoice with Andrew and his family! When they are able they will likely attend the Crenshaw Road church in Wetumpka, however, they are not in good health, particularly Andrew's mother. If you wish to send them a card or note, their address is 621 North Bridge ST; Wetumpka, AL 36092.

FROM THE YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

The Bible Bowl written test will be given THIS SUNDAY, Feb 26th. We will stay after worship, eat, review, and test. If you are unable to be there, let me know and we will make arrangements to fit your needs.

Lads to Leaders training, practice, and preparation – Normally, every Sunday at 3:30 except this Sunday when we'll stay all afternoon taking the Bible Bowl written exam and on Sundays when we go to Area-Wide worship. Have your songs ready, your speech in work, and your Bible Bowl questions rehearsed.

Reminder: Registration payments are due for each person attending the convention. Contact me if you have any questions; thanks!

The College devo for March will be Sunday, March 5th at the home of Barney and Shirley Bell after the evening worship assembly.

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: In Job 6:1-3, how did Job describe his grief at his calamity?
Heavier than the sand of the sea

This week's question: According to Job 7:6, how does Job describe his days? A. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle; B. Slower than a tortoise; C. Faster than a raging fire; D. Sweeter than a honeycomb



February 26, 2017 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:

A.M.: James Kelley

P.M.: James Kelley

Opening Prayer:

A.M.: Tim Bagents

P.M.: Jeff Simpson

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Blaine Benson

P.M.: Austin Brown

Singing:

A.M.: Alan Kaye

P.M.: Alan Kaye

ANNOUNCEMENTS 2/23/17

SICK: MARSHA SUTTON continues to recover from surgery. WILMA MILLICAN underwent a heart procedure last week. Sick at home Sunday: BECKY BLUE, MELANIE BUSH, BARRETT EDWARDS, HALEY EDWARDS, MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, JACQUE HAGAN, JAN HILYER, CHARLOTTE PATTERSON, VEOTHA SMITH, 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, MILO WAITS, ELIZABETH ENGLEBERT, JEAN WILSON, JACKIE BARBAREE, DONNA KLINE, SYBIL DAVIS, INGRID HATCH, and TYLER CHANEY. (Battling Cancer) RAELEIGH JANE MCCARTHA, GERMAINE HARDIN, IMOGENE GRACE, JAN KELLEHER, KYLE PURVICAL, ANDULA CURD, ALAN BROWN, SHERRY WADSWORTH, RANDY POST, DEBBIE GUTHRIE, A.J. CARPENTER, LARRY KIMBREL, JUDY ALLARD, and ANGIE WHITAKER.

THANK YOU: Thank you Eastern Meadows family for all your prayers, cards, home visits, phone calls and goodies! I sincerely appreciate all your thoughtfulness. Keep me in your prayers. In Christian Love, Jerome Thompson

MARCH CALENDAR: All events for the March calendar must be turned in by this Sunday, Feb.26, to Wilma Berry.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS - 10:30 AM / FEBRUARY STANDBY TEAM—Team 1 / MARCH STANDBY TEAM—Team 2

AREA WIDE SINGING: Grandview Pines Church of Christ will host the Area Wide Singing Friday, Mar. 3, 7 PM.

FAULKNER LECTURES: The 2017 Faulkner Lectures are scheduled for Mar. 5-9 with the theme, "The Holy Spirit." Our own Steve Housley and David Hester will be speaking at the lectures. Steve Housley—Tuesday, 2:30 PM, "Your Body Is a Temple of the Holy Spirit." David Hester—Tuesday, Mar. 7, 11:00 AM, "The Holy Spirit and Conver-

sion." David will moderate a panel discussion Wednesday, Mar. 8, 3:30 PM, "Indwelling of the Spirit." You may pick up a lecture program at the Front Welcome Center or go to <https://www.faulkner.edu/undergrad/academics/college-of-biblical-studies/faulkner-lectures/>.

LADIES' DAY: There will be a Ladies' Day at Grandview Pines Church of Christ Saturday, Mar. 11, 9 AM, with Cindy Colley speaking on the theme, "The Church: The Bride of Christ." Continental breakfast and lunch provided.

AREA WIDE LADIES' DEVO: Eastern Meadows Church of Christ will host the Area Wide Ladies' Devo Monday, Mar. 13, 7 PM. This year's theme is "Encouragement from the Heart." DENISE MARTIN will present the first lesson titled, "Weary Heart." This year the schedule is changing. We will eat first at 7:00 and then have our devotional. ALL ladies are invited to attend and bring a friend!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES: Faulkner University would like to announce the following open positions: Academic Secretary - Criminal Justice/Legal Studies and Director for Faulkner Online - Montgomery/Main Campus. These positions are being advertised to internal and external candidates. The complete position announcements can be viewed on our website at <http://www.faulkner.edu/about-faulkner/human-resources/current-openings/>.

NEW ADDRESS: MARY ANNE HESTER, 7585 Forest Edge Lane, 36117; (205) 919-8855.

LA DYBUGS DINNER & DEVO

Our former individual events, including "BLD Club," "Ladies Night Out," and "Time to Pray" have recently been combined into one quarterly event. The topic for 2017 will be "Tuning Our Hearts as Christian Women." Each event will include a brunch, devotional/topical presentation, prayer, and fellowship. You will be reminded of the time of each event, and a sign-up sheet will be placed in the LadyBUGS room to give an approximate number of ladies who will be planning to attend.

The following is the 2017 schedule for the new ladies' event - "Tuning Our Hearts":

March 4:	"Relationships"	Brunch - 10AM - (casseroles)
June 17:	"Hearts Like Children"	Brunch - 10AM - (catered)
Sept. 9:	"Refilling our Teacups"	Brunch - 10AM - (finger foods)
Dec. 1:	"Giving Back to Others"	Evening - (Christmas finger foods & ornament swap)

Sunday Bible Classes—Feb. 26

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

4 Hours!!!!

ETERNAL ASSURANCE

La dybugs

- ◆ **Feb. 26:** March Visitation Assignments
- ◆ **Feb. 27:** M-N-M, 6:30/7 PM
- ◆ **Mar. 4:** Dinner & Devo—Brunch, 10 AM
- ◆ **Mar. 7:** Quilting, 10 AM-2 PM. Bring your lunch.
- ◆ **Mar. 13:** Area Wide Ladies' Devo, 7 PM, @ EM
- ◆ **Mar. 26:** April Visitation Assignments

COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Mar. 5:** Devo, PM, at the home of Barney & Shirley Bell

MEMBERS IN THE MIDDLE

- ◆ **Mar. 31:** Snacks & Movie

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **Feb. 19 & 26:** L2L/L Prep, 3:30 PM
- **Mar. 12:** Area Wide Youth Devo, PM

YPYF

- ◆ **Mar. 12:** 2nd Sunday Night Fellowship

ELEMENTARY L2L/L

- * **Sunday's, 3:30 PM:** Bible Bowl Prep
- * **Wednesdays, 6:20 PM:** Song Leading
- * **Bible Class:** Know the Books

FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE:

March 12: Teams 3 (Norton) and 4 (Hatch). Both teams are to bring food, bread, and desserts. (Sweet & unsweet tea provided.) Team 3 is responsible for set-up and Team 4 is responsible for clean-up.

March 26: Teams 5 (Milam/Kelley) & 1 (Futral/Norman). Both teams are to bring food, bread, and desserts. (Sweet & unsweet tea provided.) Team 5 is responsible for set-up and Team 1 is responsible for clean-up.

Team 2 (Hester) - March 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.



ABC SCHOOL

Kramatorsk, Ukraine

Eastern Meadows supports Oksana Pazyi in her work with the ABC School operated by the church of Christ in Kra-

matorsk, Ukraine. They teach the Bible and English. The school has progressed over the years to over 140 students studying the Bible and English with several teachers. Over the years several students have become Christians, some

going on to study the Bible at the Bear Valley Bible Institute in Ukraine. Some have even become preachers. While the parents' interest is their children learning English, it is the Bible that they are learning. During the classes parents will often wait on their children in the church foyer, where there is always good Bible literature they can read. There are almost always several adults learning the Bible and English as well. At this time four of Oksana's students' parents are also studying. Vladimir Pazyi is teaching the adults. What a joy it was to see the progress of the gospel in Kramatorsk, Ukraine.

