



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>

March 30, 2017

ELDERS:

Tim Bagents
Don Brannan
Paul Clements
Alan Kaye
Roy Mulkey
Mike Norman
Ted Norton

DEACONS:

Billy Bush
Allen Clements
Lamon Dees
Ryan Gotkiewicz
Tim Gotkiewicz
Tim Hatch
Steve Housley
Wayne Johnston
Andrew Long
Jimmy Mathews
Danny Moore
Dean Norton
Randy Porterfield
Steve Sewell
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:

6:00 p.m. Bible Study

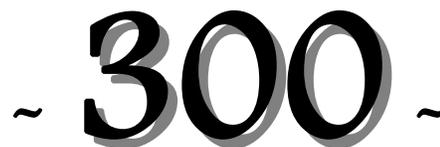
WELCOME!



HOMECOMING

& GOAL DAY

Sunday, May 7



4 Hours!!!!

ETERNAL ASSURANCE

"I resolve to attend every service of the Eastern Meadows church in 2017"

Think Priorities and Commitment

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

May 7. This is the date for Homecoming/Goal Day, 2017. This year we have set an attendance goal of 300. This is a very challenging goal! Yet, I am convinced that if *all of us* do *all we can*, God will bless us to meet the goal. Invite everybody! Invite, friends, relatives, and neighbors. Invite people you know and people you don't know. Don't be shy. Let them know you hope they will help us reach 300 and do invite them to the meal and let them know that after the meal we will have a 12:30 p.m. worship.

Pray for our youth. Eastern Meadows youth have been preparing for Lads to Leaders. They are now working on the Banner and have been studying Job, Ruth, and Esther for months. The convention is in Atlanta, as always, Easter weekend. Pray for their preparation. Pray for their safety.

Worship. Worship is to be in spirit and in truth. (If you were not here, Sunday, March 19, go here and listen to Sunday morning sermon, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUQLQYbAF7s>). Please note concerning truth: When you enter an assembly you can do little about worshipping in truth, as the worship is according to what the leaders have planned. If you find it is not according to truth, you need to talk with the leaders, and if necessary find another place to worship, so you can worship in truth. When you enter an assembly you can do everything about worshipping in spirit! THIS IS TOTALLY ON YOU! No matter the singing, as long as it is in truth; no matter the preaching, as long as it is in truth, you have the responsibility to worship in SPIRIT! At Eastern Meadows, the leadership certainly wants the leaders in worship to lift our hearts toward the throne of God, but they just as well never want to go beyond what the scriptures teach about the truth of worship.

Protect Our Children

Recently two things happened that make us realize how vulnerable our children are in the world we live.

On Thursday, March 16, a student at Lee High School was shot and injured on school grounds, where she should have been. She was initially in critical condition and taken to the Children's Hospital in Birmingham, but has been making recovery. She has a long recovery ahead of her before she will be able to return to school.

Early Thursday morning, March 23, 2017, a 13-year-old girl named Maribel Barrera, was shot and killed in the 200 block of East Park Avenue in the Chisholm community. Maribel was in her own home, where she should have been, when she was struck by gunfire from outside the residence.

What is most disturbing about these two unrelated incidents is they were children and they were where they should have been at the time of the shooting and they were completely innocent victims. Yet, one was seriously injured and the other was killed. So we cannot help but think, how can we protect our children? The truth is we can never be completely sure that nothing will happen to them. Random violence, auto accidents, and illness know no favorites. These things can happen to us all. We just do the best we can and pray.

However, are we doing as much to protect our children *spiritually* as we do *physically*? While these are only two stories of random violence in our communities, there are countless unheard stories of children, teens, and young adults making poor moral decisions that may haunt them the rest of their lives. Even doing all that we can, we cannot completely protect them from poor and sometimes disastrous decisions. No matter how we teach and train, our children do not become robots. Additionally, while small children may be "controlled" by the parents, there comes a day when the children are away from parents control. The child grows up and becomes independent and makes all of his

own decisions. Like protecting our children physically, with protecting our children spiritually we do the best we can and pray. Moms and Dads, are you doing the best you can to protect your children *spiritually*?

FROM THE YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

Lads to Leaders training, practice, and preparation – Every Sunday at 3:30.

The 2017 Greater than Prom event for high school juniors and seniors will occur on May 5-6, 2017. The setting is the beautiful Harbor Lodge on Lake Martin. The event includes a formal banquet with dinner and entertainment. Then, the rest of the evening through the next afternoon offers a range of spiritual, recreational and fellowship opportunities. Contact Tim if your senior or junior wants to attend. Eastern Meadows Seniors cost is 30 dollars; cost for guests is 65 dollars. Sign-up deadline is April 23rd.

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: In Job 13:3, Job states that he would speak to the Almighty and that he desired to do what with God? Reason

This week's question: According to Job 32:1, why did Job's three friends cease answering him? A. Because Job's grief was too great; B. Because Job shut his ears against them; C. Because Job was righteous in his own eyes



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

- ◆ April 5: **David Warren**, “Lifting the Veil From the Understanding of 1 Cor. 11:2-16”
- ◆ April 12, 19, 26: **David Hester**, “Explanation and Refutation of the A.D. 70 Doctrine”

ANNOUNCEMENTS 3/30/28

SICK: KELSEY EVANS is in Baptist East Medical Center. HOLLY THOMASSON has been diagnosed with cancer and will be treated by UAB doctors. BRENDA HESTER and JIMMY MATHEWS continue to recover from surgery. JOY DAVIS is scheduled for back surgery Apr. 4. FRED SMITH, Veotha Smith's husband, is scheduled for knee surgery Apr. 4 at UAB. SUSAN BROOKS is scheduled for hip-replacement surgery Apr. 5 in Pensacola, FL. NORBERT SCHAEFER, Linda Schaefer's husband, is in L.V. Stabler Hospital in Greenville. Sick at home Sunday: DAN EVANS, MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, LORI HAGAN, JACQUE HAGAN, and CHARLOTTE PATTERSON. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Night-Service Prayer List. Shut-ins: TAM LOWERY, PATSY LOWERY, CATHERINE LEINHEISER, JACKIE JOHNSTON, JEWEL BARNES, and RED & LANETTE TAYLOR. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Health Issues): ELIZABETH ENGLEBERT, JEAN WILSON, JACKIE BARBAREE, DONNA KLINE, SYBIL DAVIS, SUE EDWARDS, INGRID HATCH, DONNY ANGLIN, ORAN BARRY, FRED SMITH, GINGER GRIESING, JENNY PATTERSON, and ANN KAYE. (Battling Cancer) RAELEIGH JANE MCCARTHA, GERMAINE HARDIN, IMOGENE GRACE, JAN KELLEHER, ANDULA CURD, ALAN BROWN, SHERRY WADSWORTH, RANDY POST, DEBBIE GUTHRIE, A.J. CARPENTER, LARRY KIMBREL, and JUDY ALLARD.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to Roy Mulkey and family in the passing of his uncle, JOE NALL, on Monday. Joe worshipped with Dalraida church of Christ.

MEMBERS-IN-THE-MIDDLE MOVIE & SNACKS FELLOWSHIP: The M-I-T-M Group will watch the movie "War Room" in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. Please bring snacks. AARON FERRELL will lead a brief devotional on prayer following the movie.

ELDERS MEETING: There will be an Elders Meeting Wednesday, Apr. 5, 4:45 PM, in Room 201.

LEADERSHIP EAT & MEET: There will be a meeting for all the Elders, Deacons, and Ministers Sunday, April 9, 7:30 AM. Breakfast will be served at 7 by JEFF SIMPSON and ALLEN CLEMENTS.

LADYBUGS SUNSHINE BAGS: We have several of our members that are recovering from surgery, injuries, or serious illness. We will be sending gift bags filled with treats to brighten their day and remind them that we miss them. In addition to the items listed below, please take a minute to write each of these people a note that can be included in each bag. A list of names is available in the LadyBUGS' Room where you will also find index cards available that can be used to write these notes if you wish. Please leave all items in the designated area in the LadyBUGS' Room no later than **Sunday, April 9th**. We will prepare 12 to 15 bags, Apr. 9, 4 PM. **NO PERISHABLE ITEMS PLEASE!** Suggested Items: Puzzle Books, Pens, Note Pads/Cards, Reading Materials (books, magazines), Hard Candy (individually wrapped), Chewing Gum, Salty Snacks (individually wrapped), Socks, Hand Lotion, Tissues, Lip Balm (chap stick), Stamps, and reusable Gift Bags.

PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY: Pictures for our new church directory will be taken April 19-23. There are only a few sessions available, so sign-up as soon as possible at the Welcome Desk in the Front Foyer. See Tim or Kristy Hatch for more information.

HOMECOMING & GOAL DAY: This year we will celebrate Homecoming and Goal Day on Sunday, May 7th. Service times will be 9 & 10 AM and 12:30 PM. Lunch will be provided after the 10 AM service. Our goal is **300!** We need your help in making this day a success by being here and inviting others!

THANK YOU: Dear Members, I understand that I was mentioned in prayer during your Sunday night service. I just want to say how much I appreciate being prayed for by you all. I believe strongly, the scripture in James 5:16 that reads . . ."the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," and I am especially thankful for prayers from Christians at Eastern Meadows. I know the Lord hears your prayers and I have benefitted greatly from them. Thank you so much. In Christian Love, Jenny Patterson (Monica Dill's mom)

THANK YOU: Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy. We deeply and sincerely appreciate your thoughts and prayers. The Whitaker Family

THANK YOU: I would like to thank your church family for the lovely quilt sent for folks that lost their homes in Gatlinburg. I am happy and honored to have it. With appreciation and much gratitude, Joel B. Cox, Sevier County Schools Bus Driver, Gatlinburg, TN

NEW ADDRESS: NAOMI BOWERS, 120 Pinebark Court, Wetumpka, 36093; Cell—(334) 324-3830

STATISTICS 3/26/17

Bible Class: **153** / AM Worship: **201** / PM Worship: **126** / EMBF: **\$567.00**

2017 BUDGET—\$13,500.00

3/26/17—CONTRIBUTION: **\$12,693.00** / BUDGET: **-\$807.00** / YTD: **-\$2,957.56**

FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE:

April 9: Teams 4 (Hatch) & 5 (Milam/Kelley). Both teams are to bring enough food to feed own family plus some. Tea provided. Team 4 is responsible for set-up and Team 5 is responsible for clean-up.

April 23: Teams 1 (Futral/Norman) & 2 (Hester). Both teams are to bring enough food to feed own family plus some. Tea provided. Team 1 is responsible for set-up and Team 2 is responsible for clean-up.

April 2, 2017 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:

A.M.: Blaine Benson
P.M.: Blaine Benson

Opening Prayer:

A.M.: Ted Norton
P.M.: James Berry

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Jeff Simpson
P.M.: Jeff Simpson

Singing:

A.M.: Mike Norman
P.M.: Mike Norman

La dybugs

- ◆ **April Baptismal Garments:** Bonnie Warren
- ◆ **April Communion Prep:** Bonnie Warren
- ◆ **Apr. 4:** Quilting, 10 AM—2 PM
- ◆ **Apr. 9:** Sunshine Bags—Items Due & Assembly
- ◆ **Apr. 17:** Visitation Team Salad Lunch, 11:30 AM, Tea Room. Sign-up List in LadyBUGS Room
- ◆ **Apr. 24:** M-N-M, 6:30/7 PM

MEMBERS IN THE MIDDLE

- ◆ **Mar. 31:** Snacks & Movie, 7 PM

YPYF

- ◆ **Apr. 9:** Help with Youth Devo, PM

COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Apr. 2:** Devo, PM, at the Hilyer's home

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **Apr. 9:** Area Wide Youth Devo, PM
- **Apr. 13-16:** L2L/L Convention
- **May 5-6:** Prom Alternative

ELEMENTARY L2L/L

- * **Sunday's, 3:30 PM:** Bible Bowl Prep
- * **Bible Class:** Know the Books
- * **Apr. 13-16:** L2L/L Convention

SOMETIMES IT TAKES A BRICK

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street in his new car. Out of nowhere, a brick smashed into the car's side door. He slammed on the brakes, spun around, and jumped out of his car. He saw that a kid was likely responsible and felt his anger starting to boil up. He confronted the kid, "Was that you?!? What in the world are you doing? This is a brand new car! Where are your parents?" "Please mister," the boy replied, "I'm sorry, but I didn't know what else to do." Tears were now rolling down the child's cheeks. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop." The boy began sobbing now. "It's my brother. He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair, but I'm not big enough to lift him. Would you please help us?" The young businessman took a moment to let this all sink in. Then he saw the crying, scraped up boy who fell out of his wheelchair. The young man was moved beyond words. He tried to swallow down the emotional lump forming in his throat. He quickly walked over and carefully lifted the brother back into his wheelchair. Using his own tie, he wiped away the tears and softly dabbed the cuts and scrapes to help soothe the child. The boys thanked the man with overwhelming gratitude and left. As this young executive walked back to his car, he no longer cared about the dent. In fact, he never did repair the door. Instead, he decided to leave the dent as a reminder not to go through life so quickly that someone has to throw a brick to get his attention.



Chances are pretty good that you're a busy person. You've probably even mentioned in conversation with people this week about your busy schedule. Thinking back, my own "busyness" has come up in several of my conversations. Which makes one wonder, are we too busy to see those who are in need around us?

Philippians 2:3-4 instructs us, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

Work. School. Sports. Kids. Band. Choir. Homework. After work projects. Overtime. Cooking. Grocery shopping. Doctors visits. Worship and Bible class.

These events hardly scratch the surface of the enormous load we put on our plates. It's so easy to be focused on everything we have going that we forget we're supposed to be looking out "for the interests of others."

Let's not get so bogged down with our busy lives that it's going to take a brick to get us to notice those who are in need. Chances are, there's someone needing help right now. Let's have the humility and selflessness to look outside ourselves to assist someone else.

— Brett Petrillo

Y

Today, I will live as if it is the most important day I possess, because it is actually the only day I have.

A

Today, I will whine and complain less. I will be thankful more, because I know that gratitude makes a better person out of me.

Today, I will criticize less and praise more, because the people I love need to know that I love and approve of them.

D

Today, I will take more time with God my Father and less with earthly pleasures. I know that I need His strength and guidance.

Today, I will pray more and play less. I want my heavenly Father to know my heart, to hear my concerns, and to realize how thankful I am to be His child.

O

Today, I will remember my brother more and myself less. I will consider his feelings, his needs and wants more and my own a little less.

Today, I will speak of Jesus more and my other interests less. Today, He must increase, and I must decrease (John 3:30).

I

Today, I will remember the souls of all men. I will remember the person who is rude to me still has an eternal soul. I will remember the youth and the weak might see me do something wrong and imitate it. I will remember that my good may encourage another to do right.

Today, I will remember that I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. Today I will live by faith in the one who loved me and gave Himself for me.

— Copied