



# Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

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

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

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

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

April 27, 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!**

## BENEVOLENCE SUNDAY—APRIL 30TH

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

## HOMECOMING & GOAL DAY

Sunday, May 7      Goal: **300**

9 & 10 AM & 12:30 PM

—MAY 14TH—  
**DOUBLE UP!**  
**SUNDAY**

Contribution Goal:

**\$27,000**

# SISTER JACKIE JOHNSTON

1942 - 2017

Sister Tommie Jacqueline "Jackie" Johnston passed away Sunday, April 23, 2017 at the age of 74. The funeral is Thursday, April 27, at Leak-Memory Funeral Home with the burial in Greenwood.



Sister Jackie is survived by her husband Wayne, also a member at Eastern Meadows, and four children. Their second child is Randy and Randy, Vickie and their children are also members at Eastern Meadows. She is also survived by ten grandchildren. To these we extend our sympathy and we pray to God for each of them.

Sister Jackie came to Eastern Meadows along with her husband soon after Eastern Meadows moved to the Vaughn Road location. At the time she was able to come to worship, but due to a stroke she suffered in 1999, life became increasingly difficult and over the years she was able to come less and less and eventually became a shut-in. Before her stroke, Jackie was very active in the churches they attended in the various cities they lived. She served as a Sunday School teacher, an encourager to those discouraged, a helper to those who found themselves in difficult circumstances, a co-worker of Wayne as he assisted with the Youth Group, Bible Camp and etc. She was busy in the church. Much to her good influence, her four children will be in worship every Sunday.

In her personal career she was an award-winning real estate agent in every town they lived. Her passion however, was her Lord, His church, and her family. We will all miss Sister Jackie Johnston.

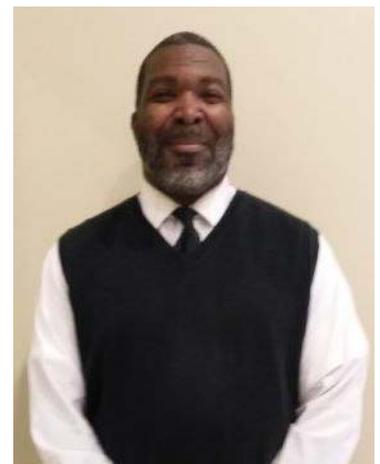
## ***FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:***

**Homecoming/ Goal Day.** Homecoming/Goal Day is coming. May 7. That is NEXT SUNDAY!! 300. That is how many we want to be present at the 10 a.m. service. This is a great time for former members to attend; a great time for you to have family who are not Eastern Meadows to attend; a great time for potential new members to attend; a great time for those you wish to have an interest in further studying the gospel of Jesus Christ to attend; and ...well, just a great time to worship our God! Thank you for what you have done; thank you for what you are doing; thank you for bringing others on May 7!

**Sunday!** We had good numbers at all services and made the budget! And, it is not every Sunday that we announce two people placing membership and a person is baptized.

**Welcome!** A big welcome to TA'NISHA NORMAN and her son GAVIN MARKS! I was unable to get a picture of Ta'Nisha and Gavin so, hopefully, the bulletin next Sunday will have their picture and some information about them so you can get to know them better!

**Welcome!** Sunday morning after worship CHARLES HENDERSON was baptized by Andrew Long. Charles lives in Montgomery, but growing up he lived many places, including the Philippines and Japan when his Dad was in the Marines. He graduated from Charles Henderson High School in Troy (I don't think his teachers had trouble remembering his name!) and attended



**Charles Henderson**

Florida State University where he played football. So, of course he is a Florida State fan. He also attended Troy State University. He is employed by DAS, a Hyundai, Kia supply company. In his spare time he enjoys watching football. Charles, we welcome you to Eastern Meadows!

**Welcome!** Sunday night ELI PORTER placed membership. Eli has been an active part of Eastern Meadows for a *long* time, coming to Montgomery to attend Faulkner University. He has been very involved in all Youth/College activities and regularly participates in various ways. He is always here, and with a smile. Though Eli is not from here, he has attended Summer Youth Camps and Exposure with the EM youth for nearly 10 years. We already knew and loved Eli! Eli is from Mossy Head, Florida. By the way, he is a very talented young man playing the guitar, bass, drums and piano. He writes and performs his own music and is also a member of the Panhandle Opry (<https://www.facebook.com/mossyhead/>) where he has played since he was 11 years old. We are glad it is now official! Eli is a member of Eastern Meadows!



**Eli Porter**

**Jon Timbes.** While our children prepare for the Lads/Leaders in Atlanta, JON TIMBES has been attending the L/L in first in Nashville and then in Memphis



**Jon Timbes**

since he was in high school. The photo on the left is when he won first place in Winner's Circle Speech (not a small achievement!) and then the photo on the right is Jon, this year, as he was one of the three Masters of Ceremony for the Memphis convention. Jon, thank you for your work with Lads to Leaders!

**Double-Up Sunday is Coming!** May 14 is the Sunday our elders want us to "double up" on our contribution. This will be helpful to "catch up" with the current budget deficit and also get ahead in the "cash flow." The budget is set for the year and divided over 12 months, but that does not mean that all expenses neatly come at the "budget" intervals, week to week; month to month. The first of

the year has been a little "top heavy" spending wise, though in line with the yearly budget. Thanks for all you do!

**New (Old) Wednesday Night Schedule.** Beginning NEXT WEDNESDAY, May 3, Eastern Meadows will return to the 6:30 p.m. Bible Study time. We will meet for classes first and then have the devotional at the end. Teachers need to *promptly* end their class at 7:15 p.m. and *immediately* return to the auditorium so the devotional can begin at 7:20 p.m.

**Thank You.** Thanks to all who helped with the Pictorial Directory with Tim Hatch (great job!) as coordinator. Still work to be done, but the biggest hurdle was getting the pictures made. Thanks to all who helped with the Work Day last Saturday. And thanks to Tim Gotkiewicz (great job!) as coordinator of the work day, even though he had had an out-patient procedure just two days before!

### ***FROM THE YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:***

The 2017 Greater than Prom event for high school juniors and seniors will occur on May 5-6, 2017 at Harbor Lodge on Lake Martin.

Our Grad picnic for 2017 is scheduled for Saturday, May 13th at 4 p.m. We will be honoring Ammaly Khantisouriya, Gracie Johnston, Cassidy Brown, and Luke Ferrell. If you need good ideas for gifts, please see Wilma, Sally, or myself as we have a list of needed items.

Thanks so much to the 26 helpful souls who came out last Saturday for our workday! We accomplished a lot of needed work and finished before 11:30. We are going to get together this coming weekend to do

some yard and landscape work for two ladies who need some help. We will meet at the building parking lot and depart at 8:00 a.m. We should be finished within several hours if enough people participate. Thanks again!

The Capital City Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for next Friday, May 5th, 8:30 a.m. Location: RSA Towers in Downtown Montgomery 22nd Floor. Cost: \$10.00 per person. Tips for arriving and Parking: Arrive early to register for breakfast! Parking is free in the parking garage on the southwest corner of Monroe and North Lawrence Streets. Tell the parking attendants that you are arriving for the Capital Prayer Breakfast.

### TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

**Last week's question:** According to Job 41:15, what does God say is Leviathan's pride?  
His rows of scales



**This week's question:** According to Psalm 1:5, Sinners will not: A. Stand in the congregation of the righteous; B. Perish by the way of the ungodly; C. Be driven away like the chaff.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS 4/27/28

**SICK:** MARSHA SUTTON and LINDSEY MULKEY are both home after being in the hospital last week. BECKY BLUE underwent a stress test Wednesday. TERESA LYNN NICHOLS, Ann Milam's daughter, has been in Baptist South. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, SUSAN BROOKS, JOY DAVIS, KALLIE FUTRAL, MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, ARLETTE POSTMA, AND MARIAN SIKES. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Night-Service Prayer List. Shut-ins: CATHERINE LEINHEISER, JEWEL BARNES, and RED & LANETTE TAYLOR. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN and HOLLY THOMASSON.

**PRAYER REQUEST LIST:** (Health Issues): ELIZABETH ENGLEBERT, JEAN WILSON, JACKIE BARBAREE, DONNA KLINE, SUE EDWARDS, DONNY ANGLIN, FRED SMITH, JENNY PATTERSON, ANN KAYE, LANDIS COOK, BLAKE BATCHELOR, NORBERT SCHAEFER, TERESA LYNN NICHOLS, and JERRY WARD, SR. (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, JUDY ALLARD, and WAYNE EDWARDS.

**THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS – 10:30 AM / APRIL STANDBY TEAM—3 (Norton) / MAY STANDBY TEAM—4 (Hatch)**

**6:30 PM**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT ROLL BACK:** Beginning next Wednesday, May 3, we will revert back to our previous time of 6:30 PM with classes first followed by devotional.

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY SUBMISSIONS:** For those members who were unable to have their pictures taken by LifeTouch, you can submit a picture to the church office for inclusion in the upcoming directory. Pictures must be taken in landscape view, six feet away and against a blank wall. Please email all pictures in .jpg format by Monday, May 1, to Wilma Berry at embulletin@emcofc.org.

**BENEVOLENCE PROJECT NEEDS—MAY:** The “Members in the Middle” group will be working on a benevolence project between now and October. They are asking for help with the items. During May, bring one or two travel size toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant. There will be a collection basket in the main foyer. Thanks for your help with the project needs!

**LADYBUGS QUILTING:** Quilting this Tuesday, May 2, 10 AM-2 PM. Bring your lunch and join in!

**HOMECOMING & GOAL DAY FACEBOOK INVITE:** To invite others via Facebook, here is a direct link to the Homecoming Event Page on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1125209494258092/>

**AREA WIDE SINGING:** Redland Road Church of Christ will host the Area Wide Singing Friday, May 5, 7 PM.

**AREA WIDE LADIES' DEVOTIONAL:** Panama Street Church of Christ will host the Area Wide Ladies' Devo on Monday, May 8, 7 PM. This year's theme is, "Encouragement From the Heart" and the devo lesson topic is, "Giving Heart." This year, instead of serving refreshments after the lesson, refreshments will be served first, as ladies enter; so even though the announced time is 7:00 to begin, food will be served as early as 6:45. Prayer for the food will be after 7:00 when most of the ladies have arrived. (This change is due to many coming without eating dinner.) Looking forward to this study and time of fellowship!

**GRADUATE COOK-OUT:** There will be a Cook-out Saturday, May 13, 4 PM, in honor of our four graduates; CASSIDY BROWN, LUKE FERRELL, GRACIE JOHNSTON, and AMMALY KHANTISOURIYA.

**ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL:** For the remainder of April and the month of May, the Elder of the Month / On Call is **TED NORTON**. Ted's contact information: 334-850-5675 (cell); [tnorton@kisaales.com](mailto:tnorton@kisaales.com) (email)

### 2017 BUDGET—\$13,500.00

4/23/17—CONTRIBUTION: \$12,543.37 / BUDGET: -\$956.63 / YTD: -\$4,918.94

#### STATISTICS 4/23/17

Bible Class: 165 / AM Worship: 220  
PM Worship: 146 / EMBF: \$178.50

#### MEMBERS IN THE MIDDLE

- ◆ **Benevolence Project Needs—May:** Travel Size toothbrush, toothpaste, and deodorant. Collection basket in main foyer.

#### La dybugs

- ◆ **Apr. 30:** May Visitation Assignments
- ◆ **May Communion Prep:** Ann Milam
- ◆ **May Baptismal Garments :** Theresa Mulkey
- ◆ **May 2:** Quilting, 10 AM-2 PM
- ◆ **May 8:** Area Wide Ladies' Devo, 7 PM, Panama Street church

#### YPYF

- ◆ **May 14:** Family Devo, PM, hosted by Porterfields and College Group

#### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **May 5-6:** Prom Alternative
- **May 13:** Graduate Cook-out, 4 PM

#### Announcements:

A.M.: Ryan Gotkiewicz  
P.M.: Ryan Gotkiewicz

#### April 30, 2017 / Leading the congregation in:

#### Opening Prayer:

A.M.: David Hester  
P.M.: Tim Hatch

#### Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Steve Sewell  
P.M.: Jeff Simpson

#### Singing:

A.M.: Trent Bailey  
P.M.: Trent Bailey

## Losing Our First Love

As a small child growing up in rural central Illinois, one of my favorite memories was of those Sunday mornings when our family of seven children loaded up in our father's station wagon and he would drive us and our mother to visit one of our sister congregations in the area. Lower Ash Grove Church of Christ was one of those congregations we visited. While driving through the countryside enjoying the beautiful fall colors one recent afternoon, I found myself at the lane leading to Lower Ash Grove Cemetery. I pulled into the lane and I have to admit, I was quite saddened at the spectacle of the old abandoned church building which I saw greet me so forlornly as it stood under the shadows of the trees.

I know the church isn't the building. The Bible makes it quite clear that the church is comprised of

the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 1:24), which is made up of individuals who are immersed, obedient believers (Acts 2:38) whom God adds to His church (Acts 2:47). But I was saddened, nonetheless, by seeing this abandoned building where a once vibrant congregation of the Lord's people used to assemble.

I wish I could say that what has happened with the Lower Ash Grove Church of Christ is the exception for those congregations we used to attend, but unfortunately, it has become the rule. Even the congregation we attended as members when I was a small child long ago abandoned "the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 1:3 [NAS]), and has gone the way of apostasy.

I wish I knew why this happened here in central Illinois, but maybe the answer is found in what Jesus says to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:3-5 [NAS]: "I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place - unless you repent."

Maybe the reason so many of those congregations from my youth are now gone is because they got so caught up in "marking" those whom they felt were false teachers that they lost their first love, like Ephesus, and never repented.

It is true we need to keep the church pure, but as Jesus pointed out to the church at Ephesus, it becomes dangerous if that becomes our primary goal. When our focus is on the deeds of evil men, rather than on our first love, we tend to forget to evangelize the lost around us, which is what our first love, Jesus Christ, demands.

If I had but one wish, I think it would be to be able to go back in time to the 1960s and 1970s and show these photos of what has become of those once thriving congregations in central Illinois to those brothers and sisters in Christ. Maybe then they would have repented of their ways, and returned again to their first love. But since that isn't going to happen, I pray to God that I will not become so focused on the evil men of today that I, too, forget my first love to the point that the Lord will have to remove His lampstand yet again.

--David Ferguson, *via BulletinGold*

## God Is

The atheist and evolutionist hate all of the Bible, but especially the very first verse of this Grand Book. You know what that verse says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Oh, how these God-haters, the humanist and immoral people included, hate the Person who appears as the fourth word in this verse, namely, God! These individuals want Him out of man's thinking, out of anything to do with our nation and totally out of any public life whatsoever. Why? Because the very idea of His presence intimidates them. I am sure that you have already heard this, but it is worth repeating. True scientists know that there are certain elements that must be present for the existence of things. They are: time, force, energy, space and matter. It is interesting that each of these elements are found in that very first verse of God's Word. Notice: "In the beginning [time] God [force] created [energy] the heavens [space] and the earth [matter]." Let the fool be foolish, and let the hater of God deny His existence. He exists, and He rules! The prophet Habakkuk put it this way: "...the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

--Ernest S. Underwood, *via Gospel Gazette Online*