



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>

May 4, 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:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

WELCOME!

HOMECOMING & GOAL DAY

This Sunday, May 7



Goal: **300**



Eastern Meadows' Home-coming and Goal Day is this Sunday, May 7th. We have an attendance goal of **300** for the 10 AM worship hour. David Hester will present the 10 AM lesson titled, "The Greatest Story Ever Told." The schedule is 9 & 10 AM, lunch (provided), and 12:30 PM. We hope to see **YOU** Sunday!

—MAY 14TH— DOUBLE UP! SUNDAY

Contribution Goal:
\$27,000

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Welcome! The newest member to be introduced to Eastern Meadows was BRAD JACKSON. Brad is a native of Montgomery, Al. Brad received his High School Diploma from Success Unlimited Academy. He is now pursuing an Associate Degree in Bible/Ministry from Amridge University, expected to conclude in June 2018. Brad's hobbies are: studying the Bible, watching movies, and basketball. Brad, has been a longtime faithful member of Holt Street Church of Christ, where he's been for nearly 20 years. Brad's parents and brother still attend the Holt Street church. Brad was active in the Holt Street church in song leading, serving at the offering and communion table, technology, mission work, presenting lessons at devotions, and volunteering with the food bank. Brad, is looking forward to a new start at the Eastern Meadows congregation, where he plans to be even more active. Get to know this young man! Brad, we welcome you to Eastern Meadows!



Brad Jackson

Homecoming/ Goal Day. Homecoming/Goal Day is coming, May 7. That is THIS 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!

Parking Sunday. Since getting the new parking lot to the east of the auditorium, parking has not been a problem. But I hope we have a problem with parking this Sunday! To make it easier on our visitors if you are able-bodied please consider parking in the lots of McDonald and Hagan Wealth Management or EyeCare Associates. If we fill up these two parking lots, it will make it much easier for our guests who attend. By the way, these businesses know that they can use our parking lots Monday - Friday and though McDonald and Hagan have had little reason to do so, EyeCare Associates do on a daily basis.

Speak. Don't let it be said "the cat's got your tongue!" If you don't know that expression, it means you are very quiet and might not say a word. This Sunday, speak up. Greet all you see. GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO GREET PEOPLE YOU DO NOT KNOW! Don't be shy. I have been places to worship and can recall NOTHING from the sermon or Bible class, but I remember if the congregation was friendly or not. Let all our visitors leave thinking, "that is one of the friendliest places I have ever been."

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!

You have got to see this! Several years ago, Stan Neuenschwander made replicas of the last two Eastern Meadows buildings. He has now made replicas of all of the buildings that housed Chisholm/Eastern



Meadows church and even the predecessor of those who started the Chisholm church who came down from Pond Creek church in Tennessee to the Montgomery/Wetumpka area. You need to see these! They are on the table at the west end of the foyer. You will also see something there that explains which is which. By the way, the Eastern Meadows church met at the FU rotunda on two occasions, while the Fair-ground building was in construction and while the Vaughn Road building was in construction.



See this too! A few weeks ago, as we were studying from Job, we noticed what the book said about the Behemoth and the Leviathan, two might creatures that your read of in Job. I personally think that the way they are described that they are likely two different dinosaurs, the Behemoth being a land dwelling dinosaur and the Leviathan being a sea dwelling dinosaur (or dinosaur-like). So Stan Neuenschwander carved me this replica of a Behemoth. Well, you would have to say, as best as you might consider what a Behemoth might look like based on the description. Thanks Stan.

FROM THE YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

Several of us will be attending The 2017 Greater than Prom event this weekend at Harbor Lodge on Lake Martin. Please keep us in your prayers.

Our Grad picnic for 2017 is scheduled for next Saturday, May 13th at 4 PM. We will be honoring Ammaly Khantisouriya, Gracie Johnston, Cassidy Brown, and Luke Ferrell. If you need good ideas for gifts, pick up a registry list in the foyer or midway foyer. If you cannot obtain one, please contact Wilma, Sally, or myself as we have a copy of the list of needed items. We will provide hamburgers and and tea. We ask that you bring a side dish that goes with hamburgers. Thanks!

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: According to Psalm 1:5, Sinners will not: Stand in the congregation of the righteous.



This week's question: According to the Law of Moses, what would you do if you knock out your slave's tooth? A. tooth for tooth; B. offer a bull as a burnt offering; C. set him free

May 7, 2017 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:

A.M.: Billy Bush
P.M.: Billy Bush

Opening Prayer:

A.M.: Ted Norton
P.M.: Josh Cochran

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Tim Bagents
P.M.: Tim Hatch

Singing:

A.M.: Allen Clements
P.M.: Allen Clements

ANNOUNCEMENTS 5/4/17

SICK: MARSHA SUTTON is home after being in the hospital for a couple of days. Prayers have been requested for PAUL MARTIN, Jerry & Denise Martin's son, who is in the hospital in Decatur recovering from surgery. JOY DAVIS and SUSAN BROOKS continue to recover from surgery. FRED SMITH, Veotha Smith's husband, is scheduled for knee surgery June 2 at UAB. TERESA LYNN NICHOLS, Ann Milam's daughter, is in Baptist South. Sick at home Sunday: ANNEGEN DAVIS, MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, JANET MATHEWS, and CHAROLTE PATTERSON. 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.

6:30 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT ROLL BACK: Wednesday night services have reverted back to our previous time of 6:30 PM with classes first followed by devotional.

MAY BUILDING SECURITY: Responsible for the Building Security for the month of May is DEAN NORTON and CHARLES BROWN (sub).

CAPITAL CITY PRAYER BREAKFAST: There will be a Capital Prayer Breakfast this Friday, May 5, 8:30 AM, at the RSA building on the corner of North Lawrence and Monroe Streets, 22nd floor in the Capital City Club . Cost is \$10 per person. Free parking at the garage diagonally across from the building.

SUNDAY'S FELLOWSHIP MEAL: Teams 5 (Milam/Kelley) & 1 (Futral/Norman) will be responsible for the set-up, Team 5 is to serve drinks, and Teams 2 (Hester) & 3 (Norton) will be responsible for the clean-up of this Sunday's Fellowship. The meal will be provided.

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

CLASSES: All classes will meet as usual Sunday. We want visitors to have an opportunity to experience a typical class period, albeit, we hope with more people attending!

AREA WIDE LADIES' DEVOTIONAL: Panama Street Church of Christ will host the Area Wide Ladies' Devo on Monday, May 8, 7 PM, in the Annex located in the back. Patricia Russell will present the lesson, "Giving Heart." Refreshments will be served first, as early as 6:45. ALL ladies are invited to attend!

GRADUATE COOK-OUT: There will be a Congregational Cook-out Saturday, May 13, 4 PM, in honor of our four graduates; CASSIDY BROWN, LUKE FERRELL, GRACIE JOHNSTON, and AMMALY KHANTISOURIYA. See Tim or Sally Gotkiewicz or Wilma Berry for gift ideas.

YPYF FAMILY DEVO: The YPYF Family Devo is Sunday, May 14, following the PM worship service, hosted by Randy & Cecilia Porterfield and the College Group. The menu is spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and desserts. A sign-up list is posted at the front welcome center.

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE: George Davidson, along with several other EM members, continues to use WBS materials to spread the gospel. George reports that over 11,000 have now been reached and recently had six students ready to be baptized into Christ.

ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL: The Elder of the Month / On Call for May is **TED NORTON**. Ted's contact information: [334-850-5675](tel:334-850-5675) (cell); tnorton@kisales.com (email)

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS - 10:30 AM / MAY STANDBY TEAM—4 (Hatch)

2017 BUDGET—\$13,500.00

4/30/17—CONTRIBUTION: \$13,132.10 / BUDGET: -\$367.90 / YTD: -\$5,286.84

STATISTICS 4/30/17

Bible Class: **148**

AM Worship: **217** / PM Worship: **142**

EMBF: **\$2,317.00**

YPYF

May 14: Family Devo, PM, hosted by Porterfields and College Group. Sign-up sheet in foyer.

MEMBERS IN THE MIDDLE

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

LadyBUGS

May 8: Area Wide Ladies' Devo, 7 PM, Panama Street church

May 29: M-N-M, 6:30/7 PM. Breakfast for Dinner—sign-up list posted in LadyBUGS Room.

May Communion Prep: Ann Milam

May Baptismal Garments : Theresa Mulkey

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

May 5-6: Prom Alternative

May 13: Graduate Cook-out, 4 PM

The following article was written by Cecil May appearing first in Magnolia Messenger and now in the Eastern Meadows' Bulletin at the request of our elders. It will appear in two parts, today and next week.

QUESTION: Why do I need to go to church Sunday morning, and especially Sunday night and Wednesday night? I have been baptized. I love the Lord and trust Him for my salvation. Seeking to abide in Jesus, I try to walk even as he walked.

RESPONSE: "Why go to church?"

Some would quarrel with that wording and, if the questioner is using "church" to mean the building or place in which the church meets, their quarrel is valid. We need to realize and reflect in our speech that "church" is people; not the building in which the people meet. When it is remembered, however, that *ecclesia*, the word Jesus used for what we call church, actually means "assembly," "go to assembly" is a perfectly biblical phrase.

Thinking biblically about the question to which we are responding, there are actually two different questions here. "Why go on Sunday morning?" or at least some time during the first day of the week needs one response. "Why go to additional services?" and for most congregations that means Sunday night, Wednesday night and Sunday morning Bible classes, calls for a different response.

Why Sunday?

When Jesus introduced the Lord's Supper to His apostles, He commanded them to eat the bread as a commemoration of His body and to drink the cup, the fruit of the vine, in remembrance of His shed blood. He promised to drink it anew with them "in my Father's Kingdom" (Matthew 22:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20). The saved are added to the church (Acts 2), the redeemed are transferred into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). So, when we partake of the Lord's supper "in church," in assembly, He is with us in some special sense. What faithful child of God, understanding that, would want to miss out on breaking bread and drinking the cup with the Lord and in His special presence?

He commanded, "This do, in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19).

The apostle Paul received the same commands from the Lord and repeated them to the Corinthian Church and added, "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Corinthians 11:25-26).

That Paul, with apostolic authority, addressed this to a church in the context of correcting abuses that had developed concerning the Lord's supper, implies the supper is to be observed in all congregations. Saying "as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup" implies continuous repeated observance.

In Acts 20 at the beginning of a journey in which "he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost," he came to Troas "where we stayed for seven days. On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight" (20:6-7). Note it was "on the first day of the week" that the church "gathered together to break bread." That Paul, though in a hurry, stayed seven days implies that he must have arrived in Troas the day after the first day and, knowing they would be meeting again on the next first day, he waited to be with them then.

What significance does the first day of the week have? All four gospels specifically mention that Jesus' resurrection was on the first day of the week. The unusual word translated "the Lord's" in the phrases, "the Lord's supper" (1 Corinthians 11:20) and "the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10) occurs only those two times in Scripture. The Lord's supper and the Lord's day are connected. "No Lord's day without the Lord's supper; no Lord's supper without the Lord's day" (Willy Rordorf, *The History of the Day of Rest and Worship*, quoted by Everett Ferguson in a lecture at Abilene Christian University.). It seems certain that the reason the supper that commemorates the Lord's death, resurrection and coming again is cele-

brated on the first day of the week is that the first day of the week is the day of the Lord's resurrection.

Just as the Troas church assembled on the first day of the week to break bread, the Corinthian epistle shows the Corinthian church assembled for the same reason (1 Corinthians 11:20), though their purpose was thwarted by their abuses of the supper. The same epistle implies that their regular time of meeting was "on the first day of every week" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

As we appropriately seek to restore the worship of the New Testament church, we partake of the Lord's supper on the Lord's day in each congregation and by each member of each congregation.

Why Assemble?

The Lord knew we needed one another and so urged, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

The story is told of an elder who made a trip to the country one dark winter evening to visit a member who had missed assembling with the saints for several weeks. He found the member in his living room in front of a roaring fire in the fireplace. They passed a few pleasantries and then both got quiet. The elder reached for a poker and used it to push a red hot ember out of the glowing fire and onto the hearth by itself. They both watched as the glowing ember faded, turned gray, then black. It died. The member looked at the elder and said, "I see your point. I'll be back Sunday."

It is indeed commendable that the questioner can say, "I love the Lord and trust Him for my salvation. Seeking to abide in Jesus, I try to walk even as he walked." Loving and trusting Jesus and His sacrifice for our sins is essential for initial salvation and, as you know, the apostle John said, "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked" (1 John 2:6).

Loving Jesus is keeping His commandments; trusting Jesus is accepting the manner of life to which He calls us, and walking as He walked is following His example.

Even He, Son of God, recognized His need for prayer, corporate worship and encouragement. It was his custom to attend synagogue services every Sabbath (Luke 6:46). He urges us to follow a life style that is very different from that of pagans in generosity, sexual purity, attitudes and concern for others. The Christian life also calls for regular periods of prayer, worship, singing and edifying one another. 1 Corinthians 11 and 14 describe an assembly, almost certainly a first day of the week assembly, in which there is singing, prayers, exhortations and the Lord's supper. Because miraculous spiritual gifts were the experience of the church in those days, they played a part in their assemblies, but in order for anything to be appropriate for the assembly it needed to be useful for edifying (chapter 14 throughout). So we assemble to praise God, but also to encourage and edify one another. When we choose not to assemble, we miss the blessings God intended us to receive, but others also are deprived of the comfort and encouragement we are supposed to be giving them.

A morning Bible study, a second assembly on Sunday and a mid-week service give added opportunities for Bible study and encouragement. Elderships use them to help fulfill their responsibility to feed the flock. Congregations of all sizes and demographics have found such services helpful for those willing to take advantage of them and have included them in their congregational schedules. Obviously there are some who, because of infirmities, age, temporary illnesses and work schedules, cannot take advantage of some of those services.

For those who can, however, it is difficult to establish a case that we meet, encourage one another, sing, pray, praise God and study His word too much or too often. The Jerusalem church met daily (Act 2:26-47). The church in Troas met just once a week, but continued until past midnight (Acts 20:7). Christians then, many of whom were slaves, met when they could, without the convenience of eight-hour days or week-ends off. We do not know how often or how long the Corinthian church assembled, but the Corinthian epistles show that it was a vital part of the life of the church.

Continued next week...