



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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July 13, 2017

ELDERS:

Tim Bagents
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!

THE LORD IS MY
STRENGTH
AND MY SHIELD;
My heart trusts
in Him,
& He helps me.
My heart
leaps for **JOY**
& with my song
I **PRAISE** Him.
Psalm 28:7

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Sunday. This past Sunday we had one of the best attendances and contributions in several weeks. *There were less people on vacation!* Seriously, I don't remember a summer when it seems like *everyone* (Ok, a bit of an exaggeration) went somewhere between Memorial Day and July 4. Maybe it is because "summer" vacation for school children ends earlier than ever. Hopefully, last Sunday's attendance will become more of a "rule" than an "exception!"

Grace. In my study of grace in preparation for this series of sermons I am fascinated at the many and diverse ways the word grace is used. The word grace is not *only* used in the sense of "we are saved by grace." Now we *are* saved by grace. That has been the one thing we establish *each week*. **I hope you never forget it!** The next two Sundays we will be moving beyond the use of the word simply as "for by grace are you saved" to seeing the many and varied ways God's grace helps us with our living. To me it is fascinating. But one of the verses that point out a truth I love is found in 1 Peter 1:10. The verse itself does not necessarily "fit" in any specific sermon I have preached; yet "fits" every sermon I have preached on grace. Peter said, "Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully," (1 Peter 1:10 ESV). Ok, we could consider how the prophets were fascinated by this! But what I am fascinated by is perhaps what they were fascinated by, "the grace that *was to be yours*." This grace is not to be studied in the abstract. It is not in theory. It is in truth and it is MINE. And it can be YOURS. *Amazing grace how sweet the sound.*

Undo

I use Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint a lot. A whole lot. I have also decided that my favorite icon on the toolbar at the top is the "undo" icon/button. Wow. It really saves me when I accidentally move something to the wrong place. I hit "undo" and it is an automatic fix. And sometimes (No! No! No!) something in the document gets deleted. Not to worry. I hit "undo" and it comes back. If you use Microsoft products much, you are very aware of this icon/button!

What I really wish is that life had an "undo" button. You know, you said the wrong thing. You said it the wrong way. You *did* the wrong thing. Of course, this is assuming you have the humility to realize you could say or do the wrong thing, or the "examine yourself" mentality to give yourself a "check up." If so, you wish you had an "undo" button. But there is no such thing in life. By the way, some in the Apostle John's day thought they did not need an "undo" button; they thought they *never* did anything wrong (1 John 1:8, 10).

So what can we do without an "undo" button. There is repentance. And the Bible requires it, all along the way. Before I become a Christian (Acts 2:38) and as I am living the Christian life. (Acts 8:22). And all of us - admit it - need to repent, as we continue to fall short (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8,10). If I repent, I will have a change of heart, which *demand*s a change of what I am doing or saying that was wrong. It may also mean "fixing" things to the best of my ability. But this is still no "undo" button. What we have said or done can't really be undone. It also may mean confession (James 5:16; 1 John 1:9). Of course, as is implied, the confession should be to the extent of the wrong. Sometimes it may mean I tell a person "I'm sorry." Maybe it means telling the entire church "I'm sorry." Even that is still not an "undo" button.



This is why I appreciate Grace so very much. Grace is God, saying to me, in spite of my sin; in spite of the fact that I cannot fix it...remember, no undo button!, "I forgive you." Yes it requires me complying with God's commands, but my obedience does not erase my past. It is God, in his goodness

and grace that erases my past.

But I still wish I had an “undo” button for life.

Steve Housley

FROM THE YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

Jerry Martin’s week at ICYC is close! Sunday, July 23rd. Those riding the van will stay for the fellowship meal and depart as soon as we are done eating. Please pray for a successful camp week.

Almost immediately following our return from ICYC, the youth group will be off on another adventure called “Live to Serve.” On Sunday, July 30th, immediately following the morning worship service, 6 of us will be headed to Childersburg with the youth groups of Dalraida, Prattville, and Wetumpka to conduct a one night VBS. We will stay at the Childersburg Camp and then spend Monday working at Rainbow Omega. We will spend Tuesday serving brothers and sisters in the Childersburg area who need help. We will return sometime late Wednesday afternoon. Please pray that God grants us opportunities to grow, opportunities to encourage, and opportunities to glorify God in what we do. We also ask your prayers for safety and health.

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last question: According to 1 Corinthians 1:6, the _____ of Christ was confirmed in the Corinthians. Answer: Testimony

This week's question: According to 1 Corinthians 1:9, God is _____.

A. Gracious; B. Faithful; C. Loving



ANNOUNCEMENTS 7/13/17

SICK: It was good to have ANN EVANS back with us Sunday as she continues to recover from knee-replacement surgery she underwent July 3. JAMES JOHNSON had cataract surgery July 12. BETSY YATES is scheduled for a heart cath July 18 and open-heart surgery July 19. NICOLE TIMBES did not undergo a stress test as originally expected, but will have it on July 25, and is also being scheduled for other tests. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, PHYLLIS ALLEN, CARLA ARMSTRONG, CHARNER CLEMENTS, ELLA ROSE CLEMENTS, SARA CLEMENTS, MARGARET GRAVES, ALICE HANDLANG, WILMA MILLICAN, JERRY & CHARLOTTE PATTERSON, MARSHA SUTTON, and BURT TURNER. 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, DONNY ANGLIN, FRED SMITH, JENNY PATTERSON, NORBERT SCHAEFER, EMILY ROBERTS, JERRY WARD, SR., SYBIL DAVIS, BOB MCCLURE, PAUL GARDNER, and HOUSTON ROY. (Battling Cancer) RAELEIGH JANE MCCARTHA, GERMAINE HARDIN, IMOGENE GRACE, JAN KELLEHER, ANDULA CURD, ALAN BROWN, SHERRY WADSWORTH, RANDY POST, A.J. CARPENTER, WAYNE EDWARDS, and CAROL ANN WOODALL.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to Jerry Martin and family in the passing of his brother-in-law from Arkansas.

THANK YOU: Your many acts of thoughtfulness, especially your prayers, have meant so much to me as I have been down in my back. I have had some improvement and hope to be able to be back soon. Love, Burt Turner

AREA WIDE SINGING: Alexander City Church of Christ will host the Area Wide Singing this Friday, July 14, 7 PM. Menu: BBQ Sandwiches, chips, desserts, & drink. Please RSVP at (256) 234-6494.

GOSPEL MEETING: There will be a Gospel Meeting at Panama Street Church of Christ July 16-20, with Charles

Box speaking. Sunday services at 9 & 10 AM and 1 PM. Monday – Thursday Services at 7 PM.

VBS: Redland Road Church of Christ invites you to VBS July 26-30. Wednesday–Saturday, 7-8:30 PM. Sunday, July 30: Bible class 9 AM; Worship 10 AM & 1 PM; Lunch, 11:15 AM.

LADYBUGS SUNSHINE BAGS: Thank you so much for all the items you have brought for the Sunshine Bags. We have enough to fill the bags and will not need any more items at this time. The bags will be assembled this Sunday, July 16, 4 PM. See LILLIE THOMPSON for more information.

PANAMA MISSION “CHRISTMAS IN JULY” PROJECT: Boxes for the project may be picked up from the LadyBUGS Room. You will be able to choose the gender and age to shop for and instructions will be included. Be sure to sign-out your box/es. August 27 is the deadline to return the filled boxes. You can see Sally Gotkiewicz or Barbara Norman for more information.

BENEVOLENCE SUNDAY - JULY 30

JULY STANDY TEAM—1 (Futral/Norman)

ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL: The Elder of the Month / On Call for the month of July is **ALAN KAYE**. Alan’s contact information: 334-322-7363 (cell); nantahalan@gmail.com.

2017 BUDGET—\$13,500.00

7/9/17—CONTRIBUTION: **\$14,185.21**

BUDGET: + **\$685.21** / YTD: + **\$5,868.61**

STATISTICS 7/9/17

Bible Class: **183**

AM Worship: **232** / PM Worship: **124**

EMBF: **\$133.50**

In Appreciation

There will be a Reception in honor of

Don & Dixie Brannan.

Date to be announced.

Everyone is invited to attend.

**BENEVOLENCE SUNDAY
—JULY 30TH—**

FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE:

July 23: Teams 4 (Hatch) & 5 Milam/Kelley). Both teams are to bring enough food—a meal—to feed their family plus some. Tea is provided. Team 4 is responsible for set-up and Team 5 is responsible for clean-up.

LADYBUGS

- ◆ **July 16:** Sunshine Bags Assembled, 4 PM
- ◆ **July 24:** M-N-M, 6:30/7 PM
- ◆ **July 30:** August Visitation Assignments

MEMBERS IN THE MIDDLE

- ◆ **Benevolence Project Needs—July:** Lip balm and pair of socks from the dollar store. Collection basket in main foyer.
- ◆ **Aug. 6:** Pizza & Ice Cream Social, PM

YPYF

- ◆ **Aug. 13:** Second Sunday Family Devo, PM

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **July 23-28:** ICYC Jerry Martin Week
- **July 30-Aug. 2:** “Live to Serve” Trip

July 16, 2017 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:
A.M.: Alan Norton
P.M.: Alan Norton

Opening Prayer:
A.M.: Tim Stevens
P.M.: Dean Norton

Closing Prayer:
A.M.: Austin Brown
P.M.: Tim Gotkiewicz

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

4 Hours!!!! ETERNAL ASSURANCE

Blast From the Past: February 5, 1970

“FEAR AND TREMBLING”

Most of us have experienced the howling winds of a great storm, or the screaming sirens in the night racing to some horrible accident, and almost immediately we can feel the fear of severe damage, and the loss of human life.

When we think about the possibility of a push-button war, with giant rockets loaded with destructive bombs zooming through the sky, directed to some designated target, half around the earth, it is hard to imagine the fear and, yes, trembling that we would experience.

Yet, we know that this earthly fear is nothing compared to falling into the hands of a just God, who is able to destroy both the soul and the body in hell, and there to be punished forever, (Matt. 10:28).

Jehovah says: “To this man I will look even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and that trembleth at my word,” (Isa. 66:2).

I cannot imagine the fear, trembling and shock that a human being would go through, standing before God on that great judgment day, unprepared, and not even knowing what the will of the Master is.

We are told, in Philippians 2:12, to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. This is an obedient fear of God. To work out our salvation with fear and trembling is to fear God with such reverence, that we seek to do His will in all things, and tremble lest we should fail to stand and do His will daily.

Jehovah says: “To this man I will look even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and that trembleth at my word,” (Isa. 66:2).

This fear is not altogether the fear of God, but of the greatness of the task and the possibility of failure. “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12).

Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, let us take heed to so live in accordance with God’s word that we will be a prepared people when we meet Him face to face and we pray that we may hear those precious words, “Well done my good and faithful servant,” (Matt. 25:23).

“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life,” (Rev. 2:10).

-John Barganier, (*John was Becky Neuenschwander’s father*)

The Christian’s Fire

In Acts 17, Paul went to Mars Hill to declare the truth of the resurrection. There were many listeners who gathered who were not spiritually minded. Luke, who wrote the Book of Acts by inspiration, recorded that they spent their days simply wanting to discuss the latest new ideas with little

interest in action on what they learned (v. 21). Too much information can be dangerous. All the ideas can blur together and become incoherent, leaving us unchanged by what we know.

Centuries ago, the historian Plutarch (ca. 46 – 120 A.D.) warned of the danger of living on a purely informational level. He wisely said, “The mind is not a jar to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.” The two disciples on the road to Emmaus would have agreed (Luke 24:13-32). They grieved the death of Jesus, but the risen Christ Himself joined them, yet He hid His identity. He began instructing them on the ancient prophecies of those events found throughout the Old Testament. Later that day, Christ revealed Himself to them and then departed.



After His departure, they marveled at what they had heard. The things taught were not sterile facts, but a fire that burned within them with devotion for the Lord. We are told in Luke 24:32 “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” Until we have a fire burning within our hearts, we cannot start a fire in someone else’s heart. We must trust the Shepherd of our souls to kindle our fire as we grow in His Word.

--Russ Vickers, via *Gospel Gazette Online*

Reason to Hope

Robert Ingersoll, an atheist, paid tribute to his deceased brother, Ebon C. Ingersoll, in Washington, D.C. on May 31, 1879. He said,

Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the heights. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry. From the voiceless lips of the unreplying dead there comes no word; but in the night of death hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.

He who sleeps here, when dying, mistaking the approach of death for a return of health, whispered with his latest breath, “I am better now.” Let us believe, in spite of doubts and dogmas and tears and fears that these dear words are true of all the countless dead.

Contrast Ingersoll’s baseless longing for hope with Peter’s words to Christians confronting persecution.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Peter 1:3-5).

The word “blessed,” according to Thayer, means “praised.” God is particularly to be praised because of his great mercy that leads to men being born again (John 3:1-8). Christians are born into a hope that lives with promise because Christ is alive from the grave (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

The Christians’ hope is an inheritance since they are born as children into a family (Romans 8:13-17). It is undefiled because no impurity will be allowed in heaven. It never fades, like a flower perpetually in beautiful bloom. It is “reserved,” like being guarded by a military guard, kept for those who faithfully pursue God’s will (1 John 2:25).

Christians are guarded by God as long as they remain true to the faith and keep it constant until the last time when the ultimate salvation in heaven will be revealed.

--Gary C. Hampton, *Gospel Gazette Online*