



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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January 9, 2020

ELDERS:

Tim Bagents
Alan Kaye
Roy Mulkey
Mike Norman
Ted Norton

DEACONS:

Adam Bass
Billy Bush
Allen Clements
John Cole
Michael Crow
Lamon Dees
Ryan Gotkiewicz
Tim Gotkiewicz
Tim Hatch
Steve Housley
Marquez James
Joel Kelly
Andrew Long
Jimmy Mathews
Danny Moore
Lindsey Mulkey
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!

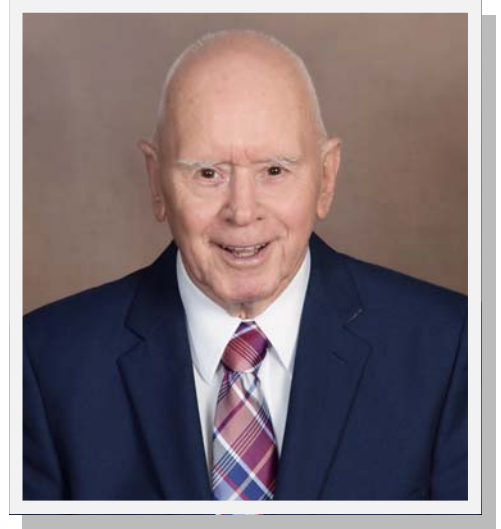


**The Elders will present the 2020 theme,
“Me & You + 1,” this Sunday, January 12.**

**Budget: \$13,890.00 Contribution, 1/5: \$18,456.45 YTD: + \$4,566.45
1/5: Bible Class: 146 / AM Worship: 188 / PM Worship: 131 / EMBF: \$198.50**

Don Brannan

1937-2020



Brother Don Brannan passed from this life last Thursday, January 2. We extend our sympathy to his good wife of 60 years, Dixie Brannan, his children, Reba, and Paul (Charlene), and his granddaughter, Stacy. The funeral was Saturday, January 4, at Leak Memory Funeral Home.

Brother Don Brannan was born in Birmingham and growing up he lived in Morgan County, Cullman, Mobile, and Montgomery. After his family moved to Montgomery, Don began attending the Chisholm church of Christ (Chisholm is Eastern Meadows' predecessor) when he was about 15 years old. Though Don lived away for a bit, most of his life was spent at the Eastern Meadows church, serving in various capacities from Assistant Minister, to Minister, to Deacon, to Elder and of course, a member. Brother Brannan served as an elder 34 years. It was rare that he was not teaching a class (not sure if he ever didn't!) and he was often the fill-in preacher when serving as elder. I believe Don visited in more homes and more often than any man who served Eastern Meadows in any capacity.

Brother Don worked most of his years at Alabama Christian College (Faulkner University) and the State of Alabama. He enjoyed various hobbies, from gardening to photography to music. However, when I think of Don I will always think first of Don as Dixie's husband and Don and his relationship to Eastern Meadows church. I think his relationship to Eastern Meadows defines Don. It was through Eastern Meadows that he served his Lord.

Don suffered in the past few years with bladder cancer and then the debilitating Parkinson's disease. He is now free from cancer and Parkinson's awaiting resurrection day for that resurrected body that is a heavenly body, imperishable body, body in glory, body in power, and spiritual body. We know Dixie and her children will miss Don greatly; we all will be missing Don.

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Back to Normal. I found myself over the past 2-3 weeks longing for things to get back to normal. I enjoyed the Holidays, but I also enjoy our Eastern Meadows family all being at 8464 Vaughn Road on the Lord's Day. I don't recall a time when it seemed so many EM members were out of town or sick on Sundays at Eastern Meadows. But we also had visitors who came to see some of you and that was nice! Normal . . . I hope that means being "stedfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Let that be our normal!

Sunday! I will admit that I would have wished for more in the Sunday morning worship; however, an upside is that the Sunday Morning/Sunday Night ratio was better: 70% (70% of AM came back PM). And what a good way to start off the New Year, with a contribution of \$18,456.45. Thank you for your faithfulness. By the way, the faithfulness is to Jesus Christ; it manifests itself in our work for the Lord through the Eastern Meadows church.

Sunday Nights Better

- * **Jan. 12,** Holidays and Christians
- * **Jan. 19,** Luke
- * **Jan. 26,** Luke
- * **Feb. 2,** Tim Gotkiewicz
- * **Feb. 9,** Killing Babies

Tripp is Going Home! An Update on Patrice McClain's grandbaby, Dexter Hart III

Dexter B. Hart III "Tripp" was born on March 2, 2019, weighing 14.8 ounces and 10" long. This qualified Tripp as a micro-preemie, which is a baby born prior to 26 weeks or under one pound. Tripp had a rocky start; he spent the first few months in an incubator to provide a womb-like environment for him. On day two of life his esophagus got torn during the insertion of a feeding tube. Due to the perforation of his esophagus he began feedings by TPN (IV nutrition). By the end of March, his esophagus was healed enough to begin feedings by a feeding tube. He was also moved from the ventilator to a CPAP due to steroids being given to help develop his lungs.

After two months, Tripp made it to 2 pounds and 9 ounces. Tripp had multiple scares, including pneumonia and going into pulmonary hypertension crisis, which caused him to be re-intubated and put back on a ventilator. He is not a fan of the tubes and would often pull them out!

In July, his parents, Alyssa and Dexter, made the decision to transfer him from Sacred Heart to Children's Hospital of Texas. The hospital has a specialty unit for pulmonary hypertension, ranked #1 and could better care for Tripp's respiratory and cardiac issues. They made a change to his diet and nutrition which helped him reach the 5-pound club by late July! By the time he reached 5 months, on August 2nd, Tripp weighed 6 pounds. Once he started gaining weight, their primary focus was on developing his lungs so he would no longer have to be intubated.



Dexter Hart, III, "Tripp"

Due to the prolonged time on the ventilator, Tripp was diagnosed with bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) which is also referred to as chronic lung disease (CLD). BPD is common in premature babies; their air sacs are "damaged" and can't move air like they should. It was decided that the best course of action to take would be for Tripp to have a tracheotomy and to have a g-tube inserted. It was also decided that he would get his hernias repaired and laser eye surgery due to retinopathy of prematurity. He had surgery on September 6th and unfortunately was only able to withstand two of the four surgeries they had planned. His tracheotomy was completed, and the g-tube was inserted. They were unable to repair his hernias non-evasively as planned due to bleeding and his intestines being too dilated. Having the tracheotomy was a rocky road, but eventually, Tripp gained strength and was able to be bottle-fed for the first time on October 4th!

Shortly after Tripp had another major setback with pneumonia & rhino virus (common cold) which caused him to go into another pulmonary hypertension crisis. Tripp had to be sedated and paralyzed for over two weeks for his lungs and heart to heal during his illness. After he recovered, the team decided to send Tripp to the cardiac catheter lab. While in the lab they ligated (closed) Tripp's PDA to help improve his pulmonary hypertension. The closure of the PDA improved Tripp's heart which also led to an improvement of his lungs.

Tripp graduated from the NICU early December to the Pediatric ICU. Once Tripp was weaned off of some of his sedation medications and his inhaled nitric oxide, they were able to transfer Tripp to the step down unit called the TICU. Tripp is awaiting surgery to repair his hernias and his laser eye surgery for his Retinopathy of Prematurity.

We are so proud of how far Tripp has come and cannot wait to see what his future holds. *His tentative discharge date is the end of January.*

Continue to pray for Tripp. He is not home yet, but closer than he has been in his now 10 months! Perhaps he will be home by the time he is 11 months old!

Thursday Class!

We begin today, a week late, due to bad weather last Thursday. We will be studying 1 and 2 Kings over the next four months. Perhaps it has been a while since you studied this portion of scripture; come join us! We will begin at 10:30 a.m. and have the closing prayer by 11:30 a.m., if not sooner. If we are likely to have bad weather that Thursday, we will not meet. I will send out a calling post to class members in the event we will not be meeting. If it might be bad weather, answer your phone calls! I will do my best for us to study afresh the ups and downs of God's people. I hope we can, along the way, see things that have application to our own lives. Come join us for this study. Thursdays (that is why we call it the Thursday Class) at 10:30 a.m.

—Steve Housley

FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

The Youth Group Area-Wide is being hosted by the University Church of Christ this Sunday (Jan 12th) at 5 PM. Melvin Otey is scheduled to speak on gender identity. The van will depart the Eastern Meadows parking lot at 4:15 PM.

The Youth and Family Devotional for January will be Sunday, Jan 19th, after the evening worship. We will be enjoying soup and sandwiches; there is a sign-up list for food in the midway foyer.

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last question: When Jesus, Peter, James, and John went up on the Mount of Transfiguration, did they stay overnight? Answer: Yes (Luke 9:37)

This week's question: When Jesus appointed seventy to go out two-by-two, where did He send them? A) Every city and town in Samaria; B) Every city and town in Galilee; C) Every city and place where He was about to go



YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

- **Jan. 12:** Area Wide Youth Devo, PM
- **Jan. 19:** Youth & Family Devo, PM
- **Jan 26:** Parent's 10-minute Update, AM
- **Feb. 9:** Area Wide Youth Devo, PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS 1/9/20

January 12 2020 / **Leading the congregation in:**

Scripture Reading:

A.M.: Mike Norman

Main Prayer:

A.M.: Allen Clements

P.M.: Ryan Gotkiewicz

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Roy Mulkey

P.M.: Jimmy Mathews

Singing:

A.M.: Jon Timbes

P.M.: Alan Kaye

Security (During Services) - Sunday AM: Troy Steelman / Sunday PM & 1/15: Danny Moore

Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Jerome Thompson & Steven Hulett

SICK: DOROTHY MCDONALD is in Baptist South after suffering a heart attack. DUSTY POUNCEY is scheduled for another 6-day-round of chemo at UAB next week. ELVERNICE DEES requests prayers to receive good reports on medical tests she recently underwent. HOLLY THOMASSON continues to recover from surgery. HUNTER TIMBES is scheduled for surgery January 20. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, BARBARA COON, BILL EVANS, RYAN & JULIE GOTKIEWICZ, WILMA MILLICAN, CHARLOTTE PATTERSON, DONNA PILGRIM, JAY ROBERTS, SAM SULLIVAN, MARSHA SUTTON, MILLIE THOMAS, NICOLE TIMBES. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Evening-Evangelism Prayer List. Shut-ins: LANETTE TAYLOR, VIRGINIA EVANS, OPAL SULLIVAN, MARIAN SIKES, MARGARET DAVIS, and MARGARET GRAVES. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN, HOLLY THOMASSON, CHARLES

HENDERSON, JAY ROBERTS, ALICE HANDLANG, SARAH HOUSLEY, ANN MILAM, DUSTY POUNCEY.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DEXTER HART III (TRIPP), WAYNE JOHNSTON, ERIN FOLDS, MIKE TIMBES. (Battling Cancer): CAROL ANN WOODALL, CHANDRA JOHNSON, JESSE BARRY, KATY PENICK, DEREK MAY, WILL HICKS, LANISE KIRK, WENDY GRANT, DAVID PEEL. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS – 1/5: AM—KALLIE FUTRAL & BARBARA NORMAN; PM—MICHELE & BRAYDEN BROWN

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: Thursday Bible Class meets at 10:30 AM. We are studying 1 & 2 Kings with Steve Housley teaching.

2020 THEME: The elders will present the 2020 Theme this Sunday, Jan. 12.

INVOLVEMENT KICK-OFF SUNDAY: Involvement 2020 will kick off on Sunday, Jan. 19.

BUDGET SUNDAY: The elders will present the 2020 Budget on Sunday, Jan. 26.

FROM GEORGE DAVIDSON: A note to all Eastern Meadows members — If you have a family member or a friend that would like to study World Bible School lessons, please let me know and I will see that you get lessons. May God bless this work! - George Davidson

BENEFIT CONCERT: Friends For Faulkner presents the upcoming concert - Neil Diamond's Music Comes Alive – with all proceeds benefitting student scholarships. Steve Kelly and Cherry Cherry Band create the award-winning Premier Neil Diamond Tribute and have performed over 600 shows in the United States and Canada. The concert will be Jan. 25, 2020, 7 PM (doors open at 6 PM), on the campus of Faulkner University. Tickets are \$25 and are available at www.faulkner.edu/diamondtribut.

JANUARY STANDBY TEAM—2

ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL: The Elder of the Month for January is **TIM BAGENTS**. Contact information for Tim: (334) 303-3571; tbagents@southlandtransportationgroup.com.

Upcoming Events

2020

- **February 2:** Faulkner Chorus
- **March 1:** Marriage & Family Day (Dan Wheeler)
- **April 5:** Teaching Rocket Seminar with Michael Whitworth
- **May 3:** Homecoming/Goal Day

- **June 1-4:** VBS

2021

- **March 12-13:** Ladies' Retreat

2022

- **Feb. 11-12:** Marriage & Family Seminar (Glenn & Cindy Colley)

Fundamentals of the Faith: HOLINESS

RANDALL BAILEY, speaking Wednesday, January 15

Dr. Randall C. Bailey is the director of the Kearley Graduate School of Theology. He holds an associate of arts degree from Faulkner University and a bachelor degree in biblical studies, a master of arts in biblical studies, a graduate specialist degree in religious education, and a master of theology from Amridge University. He also earned master of philosophy and doctor of philosophy degrees from Drew University. Bailey served as a minister of the gospel for 10 years in congregations in Alabama. He specializes in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, biblical languages, ancient Near East and Archaeology.

In addition to his administrative and teaching duties, Bailey is the co-editor of the graduate school's journal, PINEYMATIKA. Bailey has co-authored one book and authored another, both in the College Press NIV Com-



mentary series – The College Press NIV Introduction to the Old Testament (introductions to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Daniel; 2005), and The College Press NIV Commentary on Exodus (2007).

Randall enjoys studying history, reading adventure novels (e.g., Clive Cusler, Robert Ludlum, Tom Clancy and Daniel Silva), and visiting with grandchildren.

TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR AND BEYOND

With all the problems the world is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind. Today, we share with you ten predictions that are true!

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to remember who is really in control, and that; "the Word of the Lord endures forever." (1 Peter 1:25)

–Copied

*But those who trust in the Lord
will find new strength. They will
soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow
weary. They will walk and not
faint. (Isaiah 40:31).*