



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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

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

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

October 10, 2019

ELDERS:

Tim Bagents
Alan Kaye
Roy Mulkey
Mike Norman
Ted Norton

DEACONS:

Billy Bush
Allen Clements
Lamon Dees
Ryan Gotkiewicz
Tim Gotkiewicz
Tim Hatch
Steve Housley
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!



TEACHER APPRECIATION BANQUET
This Evening, October 10, 6:00 PM



LifeSouth Blood Drive at Eastern Meadows
October 16, 5:30.- 8:30 PM

Budget: \$13,890.00 Contribution, 10/6: \$13,791.50 YTD: -\$2,857.77
10/6 Bible Class: 152 / AM Worship: 204 / PM Worship: 127 / EMBF: \$146

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Thank You For ALL Who Helped With The Door-knocking! With those who helped prepare for the door-knocking, with those who turned out to go door-knocking, and with those who helped prepare lunch for the door-knocking, we probably had 60+ to help. Special thanks for those who went door-to-door in the heat on Saturday. We had only planned to go for two hours, which is not much, but believe me, the heat made it seem like 4 hours!

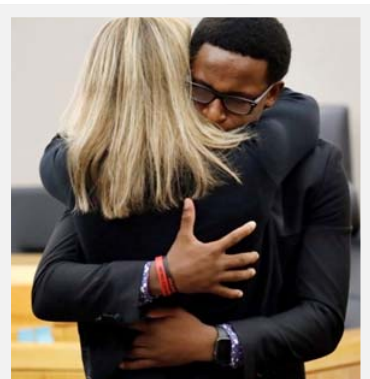


Door-knocking, What Did We Accomplish? I am convinced that we accomplished what God would want us to do. “Go.” That is what He said to do. That is what we did. I would venture that about 20-30% of the homes opened their doors. No one told me that those who came to door were mean or rude. There was one Bible study set up on Saturday for Tuesday this week. I mentioned Saturday that I have heard the saying, “Door-knocking beats nothing, but that is all it beats.” I think that is very pessimistic attitude. Fact is, I know people who became Christians because someone knocked on their door. That started it. A knock on the door. However, is it easy? No. Are there “huge” results? No. However, no one thing we can do yields immediate “huge” results. The reality is that getting into the neighborhood/community cannot be done by doing nothing. However, with door-knocking, House to House/Heart to Heart (an amazing 8-page paper which is sent “direct mail” for a total cost of less than a postage stamp), banners, Facebook, etc. all make a difference. These are all means that allow us to get into the homes of our community. However, no one thing should be considered “This is it!” The MOST effective means of getting into the community? Each person, inviting his friends/acquaintances!

Sunday Nights Better

- * Oct. 13, Various Questions
- * Oct. 20, Back to the Bible #3A
- * Oct. 27, Back to the Bible #3B

Thanks Teachers! The banquet honoring teachers is this Thursday. Many thanks to all the teachers at Eastern Meadows and all they do! By the way, the teachers are likely involved in much more of the Lord’s work at Eastern Meadows than just teaching!



The Hug That Was Seen Around The World

The hug? It was an embrace of 18-year-old Brandt Jean, the younger brother of Botham Jean, a man gunned down in his own apartment, for the Dallas police officer Amber Guyger who killed his brother. If you have not seen it, you can watch it here (Copy the link and past to your browser). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYsMIKCa9EQ>

An interview of Brandt Jean's feelings on the matter can be seen on Good Morning America. (Copy the link and paste in our browser). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PiNdn4IolI&fbclid=IwAR0QjZtVbbbHckDYMYPk-uUTM84uuO85_2LqYbVbrHKNZArf4Tk-yWkXF60

This is not written to commend or condemn the sentencing in the trial. I am sure that there are many opinions about her sentence, even among the Jean family. Brandt acknowledged that he was only speaking for himself when he said to Amber Guyger, "I don't even want you to go to jail." I am writing this to consider the incredible gesture of forgiveness of Brandt Jean. He and his family are Christians. This was Brandt trying to live the life of Jesus in his own life.

Forgiveness? Jesus commanded it. Even the 70 x 7 forgiveness. Forgiveness? Even when Jesus was being crucified he prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (How many of us would have prayed, "God, get 'em.") At the heart of the word forgive in Greek (aphiemi) is the idea of "to let go." Now the word is translated in a variety of ways, depending on its context and usage. The NASB translates it with over 25 words and phrases, once again, depending on the context and usage. Most often it is translated "forgive/forgiven, etc." We know that when God forgives, our relationship is restored with him. For the relationship to be restored the offender must repent.

Repentance? There is the necessary obligation to forgive when the offender repents (Luke 17:3). Forgiveness may not be easy, even if the offender repented. But I *must* forgive as a Christian. No doubt this influenced Brandt's attitude. He had heard her say, "I'm so sorry. I never wanted to take an innocent person's life. I wish he was the one with the gun that killed me." I do believe Brandt's words that day reflected his doing his best to reflect the love of Christ in his own life.

Consequences? In this life, repentance and forgiveness does not always mean the reprieve of the earthly consequences. Sorry or not, Amber Guyger had killed an innocent man. As a result of this crime, she was tried, convicted, and sentenced. In this life, the saying goes, "if you do the crime, you do the time."

Grace? The fact of her guilt . . . the fact of her being convicted and sentenced to 10 years in jail does not mean that she is beyond the reaches of God's grace. This, to me, is what is so amazing about God's grace. No matter the crime, sin, or transgression, if I accept God's grace (remember, we accept it on God's basis), and subsequently live a faithful life, I can be forgiven, and one day have a home in heaven. Brandt had this hope for the woman who killed his brother.

Do we have this much forgiveness in our own hearts?

--Steve Housley

FROM THE YOUTH & COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

On Saturday the 12th, the youth group will prepare freezer meals, which will be sent to our brothers and sisters who need some help. We are to do good and be encouragers; this is a perfect opportunity.

Sunday evening is the Area-Wide worship and fellowship for October. We will depart the parking lot in the van at 4:00pm for the Wetumpka church of Christ. Parents: please stand by in case we need more vehicles. Thanks!

November the 10th – Area-Wide at Eastern Meadows! Brandon Baggett will be our speaker. I am excited and can't wait to worship here with the teenagers and hear Brandon's message!

For those going to Exposure Youth Camp: I need your T-Shirt sizes. See me as soon as possible!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

- **Oct. 11:** ACA 5th Quarter @ Landmark
- **Oct. 12:** Meal Makers Service Project, 10 AM-12 PM
- **Oct 13:** Area-Wide Devo @ Wetumpka
- **Oct. 18:** ACA 5th Quarter @ Vaughn Park
- **Oct. 20:** Family Devo, PM
- **Oct. 27:** 10 Minute Update (for parents)
- **Oct. 30:** Prayer Dinner, 5:30 PM
- **Nov 10:** Area-Wide Devo @ Eastern Meadows
- **Dec 8:** Area-Wide Devo @ Walnut St.
- **Dec 27–30:** Exposure Youth Camp

COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Oct. 27:** College Devo, PM
- **Oct. 30:** Prayer Dinner, 5:30 PM

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: Jesus said, "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, _____ to those who hate you..." Answer: "do good" (Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:27)

This week's question: Jesus said, "But love your enemies, do good, _____, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High."



ANNOUNCEMENTS 10/10/19

October 13, 2019 / Leading the congregation in:

Scripture Reading:

A.M.: Mark Evans

Main Prayer:

A.M.: Karl Strother

P.M.: Troy Steelman

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Tim Hatch

P.M.: Joel Kelly

Singing:

A.M.: Dean Norton

P.M.: Dean Norton

Security (During Services) - Sunday AM: Randy Porterfield / Sunday PM & 10/16: Michael Crow

Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Arthur Harvest

SICK: SARAH HOUSLEY is recovering at home following surgery. JAMES BERRY remains at Rehab First, but is scheduled to go home Friday, as he continues to recover from surgery. SHIRLEY HANCOCK is scheduled for surgery Oct. 24. Sick at home Sunday: MARVIN DANIEL, MARCIA GRAVES. 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, and DON BRANNAN.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to Sheron Campbell in the passing of her mother, JEAN WILSON.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DEXTER HART III (TRIPP), JUSTIN SANKEY, WAYNE JOHNSTON, MARY CORBETT, JENNY PATTERSON, ERIN FOLDS, MICHAEL ADKINS, and GARY MCCLAIN. (Battling Cancer): CAROL ANN WOODALL, CHANDRA JOHNSON, JESSE BARRY, KATY PENICK, DEREK MAY, GENE SULLIVAN, WILL HICKS, ANGELA TAYLOR, LANISE KIRK, AMY BERMAN, WENDY GRANT, MARGAN CARTER, MIKE HENRY, and JANICE TILL. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS - 10/6: AM—MICHELE BROWN & BRAYDEN BROWN; PM—KRISTY HATCH & VICKIE JOHNSTON

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LADIES' BIBLE CLASS—COURAGE! The Wednesday night Ladies' Bible class is off to a wonderful start. We meet at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. This month Sara Clements presented the lesson, Fearless Trust, and Gwen Mann presented Building the Faith Muscle. Books are available for this class. Please continue to invite your friends, pray for our study and our teachers, and encourage others with your attendance. Remaining October schedule:

- October 16 – Cultivating Obedience – Emmy Kelly
- October 23 – How to Develop Self Control – Autumn Bailey

TEACHER'S APPRECIATION BANQUET: The Teacher's Appreciation Banquet is this evening, Oct. 10, 6 PM.

LADIES' DAY: There will be a Ladies' Day at Cedar Grove Church of Christ in Andalusia, Oct. 12, 9-11:30 AM, with LINDA GRAY speaking. Lunch will follow along with door prizes. ALL ladies are invited to attend.

LEADERSHIP EAT & MEET: There will be a business meeting for all the leadership (elders, deacons, & ministers) this Sunday, Oct. 13, 7:30 AM. Breakfast will be served at 7.

HOMECOMING: Narrow Lane Road Church of Christ will have their annual Homecoming Day on Oct. 13, with WILLIAM RANDOLPH speaking. Schedule: Bible Class, 9:30 AM, Worship, 10:45 AM & 2 PM with singing following. Lunch will be served.

GOSPEL MEETING: There will be a Gospel Meeting at Wetumpka Church of Christ Oct. 13-16 with HIRAM KEMP speaking. The theme is "Christianity Today." Sunday schedule: Bible Class, 9 AM; Worship 10 AM & 5 PM. Monday—Wednesday services at 7 PM.

MONTHLY VISITATION PROGRAM LUNCH: The MVP Lunch will be Monday, Oct. 14, 11:30 AM, at Cracker Barrel.

SPEEDERS OCTOBER LUNCH: The Speeders October Lunch will be on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 12:30 PM, at Larry Melvyn's in Tallassee. We will car pool from the church building; leaving at 11:30 on that Tuesday. Melvyn was the cook in the old Tallassee Hotel that burned.

AREA WIDE LADIES' DEVO: There will be an Area Wide Ladies' Devo on Monday, Oct. 14, 7 PM, at University church. ALL ladies are invited to attend.

LIFE SOUTH BLOOD DRIVE: There will be a Life South Blood Drive at Eastern Meadows on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 5:30-8:30 PM.

TEACHERS MEETING FOR CHILDREN'S CLASSES: There will be a Teachers Meeting for all those involved in teaching the Children's Classes, including VBS, on Sunday, Oct. 20, 3:30 PM. See DAVID HESTER for more information.

CHOOSING THAT GOOD PART LADIES' RETREAT - OCTOBER 17 - 19


TRUNK or TREAT: Everyone is invited to our annual Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 27 immediately following the evening worship. We plan to begin about 6:15 or shortly thereafter. Trunk or Treat will be held in the **REAR PARKING LOT** this year. Decorate your trunk (or not), bring your lawn chairs, get your costumes, and don't forget the candy! Make your plans to be a part of this fun evening! *(No costumes in worship please.)*

FIFTH WEDNESDAY SINGING: 5th Wednesday Singing this month will be your requests. Please note your requests on the lists in the front and middle foyers. Final day to make a request is Sunday evening, 27th.

2019 CHRISTMAS PROJECT: The Holiday Projects Committee is kicking off our 2019 Christmas Project! We are adopting families from the Family Sunshine Center again this year. If you would like to have a part in helping provide Christmas for these families, please see Ann Evans, Patty Benson, or Haley Steelman during the month of October. Details about shopping and wrapping gifts for this project will be announced shortly. Please consider how you can help with this project this year. Thank you for your support for our Christmas Project.

OCTOBER STANDBY TEAM—2 (BASS)

ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL: The Elder of the Month for October is **TED NORTON**. Contact information for Ted: (334) 850-5675; tnorton1946@gmail.com.

 <p>2019 LadyBUGS <i>Ladies Being Useful in God's Service</i> TOGETHER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Oct. 14: MVP Lunch @ Cracker Barrel, 11:30 AM ♦ Oct. 14: Area Wide Ladies' Devo @ University church, 7 PM ♦ Oct. 17-19: Choosing That Good Part Retreat ♦ Oct. 27: A Time To Pray, 4:30 PM
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TIP

The **T**raining & **I**nvolvement **P**rogram for Preschool and Elementary age children will meet at **4:30 PM on Oct. 13, 20, and 27**. This is a time to learn and review Bible facts, practice memory work, and sing Bible songs.

*“Every **ONE** to his work” (Neh. 4:15).*

Upcoming Events:

2019

- **October 16:** LifeSouth Blood Drive, 5:30-8:30 PM
- **October 17-19:** Choosing That Good Part Ladies' Retreat @ ICYC
- **October 27:** Trunk-Or-Treat, PM
- **November 25:** Mid-Week Bible Study, 6:30 PM
- **December 14:** Annual Christmas Dinner, 2 PM
- **December 23:** Mid-Week Bible Study, 6:30 PM

2020

- **February 2:** Faulkner Chorus
- **February 15-16:** Marriage & Family Seminar (Dan Wheeler)
- **April 5:** Teaching Rocket Seminar with Michael Whitworth
- **May 3:** Homecoming/Goal Day

GRACE AND OBEDIENCE, AGAIN

There is much fuzzy thinking about grace. Emphasizing grace biblically does NOT deny the necessity of obedience. Emphasizing the necessity of obedience biblically does NOT deny grace.

Salvation is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8). We do not earn it. We do not earn most of it, or part of it, or even a little bit of it! As sinners we deserve death. When a sinner is justified, it is totally unearned and, in that sense, totally of grace.

Some are disturbed anytime “entirely, only or totally” occurs near grace, but grace is the only basis on which a sinner can be saved. Grace implies gift, distinct from what is merited. A gift is not earned; anything earned is not a gift (Romans 4:4-5).

Obedience, however, is necessary. We must walk in the light (1 John 1:7), not after the flesh but after the spirit (Romans 8:4). We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:5) and saving faith is not dead but living and obedient (James 2:14-26).

Obedience is necessary for salvation to occur. We obey from the heart and are then made free from sin (Romans 6:18-19). We **MUST** be baptized to wash away our sins (Acts 22:16). (The Calvinistic idea of “salvation by grace only” is an entirely [!] different thing).

Obedience is necessary to remain in grace. We are kept by the power of God through faith (1 Peter 1:5), a faith which is also active and obedient.

We must not think that being baptized we earn our salvation, or that by living the Christian life we put God under obligation to us. We must not believe we have to achieve our own salvation. We should not shift the focus of our trust from Jesus to our own obedience. In our teaching we need to be careful not to lead others to do these things, which are a denial of the gospel.

On the other hand, we must not think obedience does not matter, that one may be saved without being baptized, or that the baptized believer may rob, cheat, commit fornication, forsake the church, without repentance, and still stand in the grace of God. And we need to be careful not to lead others to believe that! That, too, is a denial of the gospel.

– Cecil May Jr., Preacher Talk, February 1995