



# 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>

November 25, 2019

## 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!**

## —“MID-WEEK” BIBLE STUDY TONIGHT—

The Wednesday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> mid-week Bible study has been moved to **TONIGHT, Nov. 25**, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will have classes as usual. See you tonight!

## —FROM THE ELDERS—

**INVOLVEMENT** this year is being “reinvented” in hopes of making it a Bottom up effort instead of a Top down process as it has been previously, in order to make it more inclusive and manageable, giving everyone the opportunity of which to be a part.

We encourage you to be prayerfully considering your participation and making plans to include yourself in **INVOLVEMENT 2020!** Be in attendance on Sunday morning, **December 1st for the INVOLEMENT 2020 kickoff.**

**ME & YOU + 1**

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Saturday, December 14, 2 PM

The Annual Christmas Dinner is scheduled for December 14, 2 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$15 per person. See Michele Brown, Dianne Hoskinson, or Wilma Berry to sign-up and pay by Sunday, Dec. 8. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Budget: **\$13,890.00** Contribution, 11/24: **\$11,787.04** YTD: **-\$7,643.30**  
11/24 Bible Class: **146** / AM Worship: **182** / PM Worship: **112** / EMBF: **\$132**

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

**Let Us Pray.** The Eastern Meadows' elders have spent much time individually, collectively, and with deacons, praying about, thinking about, discussing, and planning for 2020. It is their desire that Eastern Meadows church be that vibrant, growing church of the New Testament without compromise. Let us follow their leadership in these upcoming matters of INVOLVEMENT, and PURPOSING. Be praying for the elders and considering how you can be involved.

**Involvement Sunday.** Sunday, December 1, our Elders will be presenting opportunities for you at Eastern Meadows. This is not how you can serve Eastern Meadows, it is how you can serve THE LORD at Eastern Meadows!

**Thank You To The 2019 Team Leaders.** Thanks to leaders, Lamon & Elvernice Dees, Adam & Beth Housley, and Joel & Emmy Kelly. The work of the Teams is largely behind us. The only congregational fellowship we have at Eastern Meadows from Thanksgiving to the New Year is the Christmas Dinner. Leaders thank you for your work with the meals on Sunday and your help with helping with congregational food needs.

**Thanks to Fall Quarter Teachers.** Fall Quarter has ended. New classes/teachers will begin Sunday. Many thanks to the Fall Quarter teachers for a job well done! An outstanding class was taught on Spiritual Growth by Paul Clements on Wednesday nights. Thankfully this was in the auditorium so in the future you can go to YouTube to view the class if you missed it. A new dimension was brought to Wednesday nights with the Adult 2 class taught by David Hester. The design of the class is discussion and each Wednesday a different topic was tackled. This class, with different topics, continues. And adding to the Wednesday night lineup was the Wednesday Ladies Class. This proved to be a popular class with a variety of Ladies teaching. This class continues. We have had wonderful Bible Study opportunities. This continues! Thank you to all our teachers.

**Thursday Class.** Thanks to Tim Gotkiewicz for teaching Thursday Class for a job well done. This class is now on hiatus and will begin again in January. We will be studying 1 and 2 Kings.

**Thanks to Dorcus Deeds Ladies.** Sunday evening we had an excellent lesson and presentation from Don Williams about the North Alabama Christian Children's Home. Eastern Meadows has been a supporter of NACCH for several years now. What you may not know is that the Eastern Meadows Dorcas Ladies have provided the Children's Home with quilts for the children at the home. As Don was leaving Sunday night he was loading more quilts into his automobile. I can only imagine the comfort and hope that a child feels when he comes to a strange place with different people, but he is presented with his very own quilt. Thanks Ladies!

## **FROM DAVID'S DESK:**

Located below is the list of teachers and topics for the Winter series:

Sunday AM Auditorium – David Hester (Pentateuch)

Sunday AM Experienced Ladies – Melanie Bush, Sally Gotkiewicz, & Tonna Johnson (“How Shall I Be Remembered”)

Sunday AM Young Ladies – Various Teachers (Divided Kingdom)

Sunday AM College – Blaine Benson

Sunday AM Teenage – Tim Gotkiewicz (Luke)

Wednesday PM Auditorium – Winter Series; Faulkner Bible professors & Eastern Meadows men

### **Sunday Nights Better**

- \* **Dec. 1**, Tim Gotkiewicz
- \* **Dec. 8**, *Woman at the Well*
- \* **Dec. 15**, *Back to the Bible, 3A*
- \* **Dec. 22**, *Back to the Bible, 3B*
- \* **Dec. 29**, *Down in the Valley*

(Fundamentals of the Faith)

Wednesday Adult II – David Hester (Contemporary Issues)

Wednesday Ladies – Various Ladies (Courage)

Wednesday College – Tim Gotkiewicz (While You Are Away From Home)

Wednesday Teenage – Trent Bailey (Hidden Gems of the Old Testament)

Winter Quarter Wednesday Auditorium Class by Date:

December 4: David Hester – "Hear"

December 11: Jimmy Gee – "Believe"

December 18: Bruce Morton – "Repent"

December 23: David Hester – "Confess"

January 1: David Hester – "Baptism"

January 8: Terry Edwards – "God's Perspective on the Church"

January 15: Randall Bailey – "Holiness"

January 22: Karl Strother – "Singing as Worship"

January 29: Blaine Benson – "Prayer as Worship"

February 5: Trent Bailey – "Giving as Worship"

February 12: Andrew Long – "Preaching as Worship"

February 19: Tim Hatch – "Lord's Supper as Worship"

February 26: David Hester – "What Shall We Do?"

### TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

**Last week's question:** The demon(s) named Legion begged Jesus to not send them to:

**Answer:** the abyss (Luke 8:31)

**This week's question:** In Luke, Chapter 9, Jesus told the twelve as He sent them out to take what for their journey?

A) money and bread; B) Staff and bag; C) nothing



### YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

- **Dec 8:** Area-Wide Devo @ Walnut St.
- **Dec. 14:** Serve Christmas Dinner
- **Dec. 15:** Youth & Family Christmas Party
- **Dec. 22:** 10 Minute Update
- **Dec 27–30:** Exposure Youth Camp

### COLLEGE EVENTS:

- **Dec. 16-Jan. 3:** Faulkner Christmas Break

## MY THOUGHTS ON THANKSGIVING

*"I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your Testimonies"* (Psalm 119:59). A thoughtful person is a thankful person. Blessed is the person who meditates on God's testimonies. To think on the blessings of God, is to thank Him for His infinite grace. Thankfulness to our Heavenly Father produces 'thanksgiving'. We cry out, *"Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits..."* (Psalm 103:1,2). Therefore, we are to *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

As a late night television personality was often heard to say, "I hark" back to the days of my youth. I have memories of some small communities having 'Thanksgiving dinner' together in a

school building. One of the songs we used to sing was, "We Gather Together". It was a religious song, one that is seldom sung today. But, the lyrics are so meaningful:

*"We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing cease them from distressing,  
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.  
Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning,  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, - the glory be Thine!"*

Almost every year there would be a "Thanksgiving Play" in the schools. The song usually sung was, "Over The River And Through The Woods." Here are a few of the lyrics:

*"Over the river and through the woods,  
To grandmother's house we go;  
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh,  
Through (the) white and drifted snow!  
Over the river and through the woods,  
Oh, how the wind does blow!  
It stings the toes and bites the nose,  
As over the ground we go.  
Over the river and through the woods,  
To have a first-rate play;  
Oh, hear the bells ring, "Ting-a-ling-ling!"  
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!"*

How fortunate you are, and how grateful you should be, if you have your family together on this, our national holiday, "Thanksgiving"! *"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."*

—Raymond Elliott

<b>December 1, 2019 / Leading the congregation in:</b>			
<b>Scripture Reading:</b>	<b>Main Prayer:</b>	<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	<b>Singing:</b>
<b>A.M.: John Cole</b>	<b>A.M.: Mike Norman</b>	<b>A.M.: Lindsey Mulkey</b>	<b>A.M.: William Dill</b>
	<b>P.M.: Joel Kelly</b>	<b>P.M.: David Hester</b>	<b>P.M.: William Dill</b>
<b>Security (During Services) - Sunday AM: Randy Porterfield / Sunday PM &amp; 12/4: Danny Moore</b>			
<b>Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Danny Moore</b>			

## ANNOUNCEMENTS 11/25/19

**SICK:** ANN MILAM is in Baptist South Hospital and has been diagnosed with cancer. SHIRLEY HANCOCK continues to recover from surgery. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, MONICA DILL, BROOKS HOUSLEY, and MARSHA SUTTON. 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, DON BRANNAN, SARAH HOUSLEY, and ANN MILAM.

**PRAYER REQUEST LIST:** (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DEXTER HART III (TRIPP), WAYNE JOHNSTON, JENNY PATTERSON, ERIN FOLDS, JEAN BAILEY, and DALE MILES. (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, and MARGAN CARTER. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

**THANK YOU:** Dear Eastern Meadows, Thank you so much for the calls, cards, and encouraging messages over the last several weeks. Most of all, thank you for the prayers offered on behalf of Brooks and me. Your care and concern has meant a great deal to us, and we are grateful to be a part of the church here. Love, Sarah Housley

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS - 12/1:** AM—GWEN MANN & VICKIE JOHNSTON; PM—PATTY & LUCY BENSON

**NO CHURCH-EAT-CHURCH FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH:** This Sunday, Dec. 1, will be the first Sunday of the month, but we will not have a fellowship meal and the evening worship service will be at 5:00 PM PM.

**NEW WEBSITE:** The new Eastern Meadows web site is open and available to the public. An enthusiastic team of contributors has trained on the updating and editing technology. Dean Norton and Joel Kelly, newly named deacons for public information and outreach at Eastern Meadows, who also trained in site maintenance, will have direct input into the design and content. They will work with the contributors to keep the site current and engaging. Dalraida's John Kachelman of Christian Tech Solutions of Montgomery built the site and provided the training. To see the new Eastern Meadows web site, go to [easternmeadows.org](http://easternmeadows.org).

**2019 CHRISTMAS PROJECT:** Thank you so much for your participation in our Christmas project this year. The next phase of this project is shopping and wrapping. If you can shop or wrap, please sign the appropriate list available in the LadyBUGS' room. Details will be announced shortly.

**LADYBUGS ANNUAL ORNAMENT SWAP:** The Annual LadyBUGS Ornament Swap will be Friday, Dec. 6, 6 PM, at the home of JANE SEWELL. See the sign-up list posted in the LadyBUGS room. All ladies are invited to participate. See Jane for more information.

**MENS EAT & MEET:** There will be a Men's Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 8, 7:30 AM. This is for ALL the men of the congregation. Breakfast will be served at 7.

**GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING:** There will be a short meeting for the Grounds Committee immediately following the AM worship service on Sunday, Dec. 8.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER:** Our Annual Christmas Dinner will be Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 PM. Cost is \$15 per person. See MICHELE BROWN, DIANNE HOSKINSON, or WILMA BERRY to sign-up and pay. The deadline to sign-up is Sunday, Dec. 8. Be sure to mark your calendars and make plans to attend!


**DECORATE A TABLE:** This year all interested ladies are invited to decorate ONE individual table for the Annual Christmas Dinner. Hunter green table coverings will be provided for each table. If you would like to decorate ONE table for the dinner, please sign the list available in the LadyBUGS' room. Eastern Meadows plates, flatware, and glasses will be used for all tables. You will be able to decorate your table from Thursday, December 12, until Saturday, December 14. All decorations need to be completed by 1:00 pm on December 14. If you need more information, please see TERRY BAGENTS.

**STORY ROAD HOUSE CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** There will be a Christmas Lunch at the Story Road House on Saturday, Dec. 21, 12 noon. Mike & Barbara Norman will provide the meats. A sign-up list for sides and desserts will be posted. See Barbara Norman for more information.

**DECEMBER STANDBY TEAM - 1 (DEES)**

**ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL:** The Elder of the Month for December is ALAN KAYE. Contact information for Alan: (334) 322-7363; [nantahalan@gmail.com](mailto:nantahalan@gmail.com).

*Happy Thanksgiving!*



**2019 LadyBUGS**  
*Ladies Being Useful in God's Service*  
**TOGETHER**

- ◆ **Dec. 6:** Ornament Swap @ Jane Sewell's, 6 PM
- ◆ **Christmas Service Project**

## Upcoming Events:

- 2019**
- **December 14:** Annual Christmas Dinner, 2 PM
  - **December 23:** Mid-Week Bible Study, 6:30 PM
- 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)

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

# COME OUT OF THE STANDS

We are in the middle of college and professional football, then basketball, then baseball, and now soccer as well. We cheer on our teams; we rejoice when a touchdown, goal, basket or home run is made. It has been said that there is one man that who could play every position perfectly, make no mistakes, never makes an error . . . but there is no way to get him to lay down his hot dog, come out of the stands and play the game. We all know that person. They are always ready to tell us about how the play should have been played, and how they could have done so much better. But it is SO much easier to talk a perfect game than it is to play one.

The Hebrew writer compares the Christian life to a race, and we are to run it and not just sit in the grandstand looking on. “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

According to Hebrews 12 why should we be involved, and what should motivate us? Consider the ones who went before us, and what they did to please God! They got rid of the things that would hold them back as they run the race - specifically the sin. Run with endurance - They did not quit. We cannot as well. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Follow him! Realize that he set the great example of keeping our eyes on the goal. He looked for the cross. He prepared himself to endure the cross. He despised the shame - and because he did this, he reached the goal of sitting down at the right hand of God! The world will always tell us that we can't make it! It will always try to drag us back into agreement with them. It will do all it can to keep us from our goal of being with the Father. We are to be participating in the race! We can't be onlookers. Sitting in the grandstand being critical of those who run does NOT entitle us to the prize. The church needs you - there is plenty to do.

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