



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

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Website: <https://www.easternmeadows.org>

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EasternMeadows>

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

December 19, 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!

From the Elders:

There is a lot going on for Eastern Meadows members currently. In addition to our holiday events, there are the usual seasonal family, friends and business activities that are happening almost daily.

There are 2 very important things with which we need your cooperation.

- ◆ First, if you are a member here and have not already, please complete your Involvement 2020 survey that you received via email on December 1st. This takes less than 2 minutes to complete. Planning and organization in all Involvement 2020 Areas of Service is happening now and we need your ideas and input.
- ◆ Second, Sunday morning you received via email your Planned Giving survey form. Please prayerfully consider what you plan to give in 2020 and fill in this survey. It takes less than 1 minute to do so. You can also do this by phone/text (334-850-5675) or email (tnorton1946@gmail.com) or simply tell me when you see me.

Thank you for your continuous loyal and loving support of the Lord's work here at Eastern Meadows.

MAKE NOTE OF CHANGE!

Mid-Week Bible Study Wednesday to Monday

The "mid-week" Bible study the week of Christmas has been moved from Wednesday, Dec. 25 to Monday, Dec. 23. We will have Bible classes as usual. Make note of this change!

Budget: **\$13,890.00** Contribution, 12/15: **\$16,022.74** YTD: **-\$3,006.62**
12/15: Bible Class: **137** / AM Worship: **201** / PM Worship: **134** / EMBF: **\$745**

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Keep Praying. Last Wednesday evening CHRISTIAN WILLIAMS asked for prayers of the Eastern Meadows church. Let us keep praying for Christian.

Great Christmas Dinner Last Saturday. Thanks to Ted and his crew for cooking. Thanks to Tim and Sally Gotkiewicz and the teens for helping serve. Ted, Tim, and Sally, and all who helped them worked very hard so that the rest of us could enjoy a wonderful afternoon. Thanks to Alan Kaye for providing entertainment. Alan played the guitar and sang some songs and then invited others to come sing a song. We had three volunteers! They all did a great job. *I can't imagine though why Karl Strother chose to sing Rocky Top!* Just kidding. He is a UT graduate and a loyal fan. And he did a good job. Now we can look forward to next year. Perhaps someone next year will sing, "War Eagle" or "Yea Alabama."

Sunday Nights Better

- * Dec. 22, *Back to the Bible, 3B*
- * Dec. 29, *Down in the Valley*

The Elders Have Challenged Us! To prepare as a church for 2020, the elders have not challenged us with both Involvement and Planned Giving. If you have not yet responded to either the Involvement or Planned Giving, please do so soon! Eastern Meadows needs you involved and the elders need your input so they can plan for the Budget in 2020. There is *much* to do in 2020. As the elders and deacons think about the areas they work with, everyone I hear from wants to do more. This is their taking their area of work seriously. However, budgeting often precludes their doing more. So, the elders need to know. *Can we do more?* If you did not get the email about SurveyMonkey, please let the office know. BTW, at least one person told me they did not get it, but when checking their "spam" folder, they had it. If you prefer you can respond directly to the elders and Ted has given instructions for this on the front page.

100% Participation in Planned Giving. By the way, there is already 100% participation from the Elders, Deacons, Ministers, and Staff of Eastern Meadows church, which is as it should be. Now for the congregation to have 100% participation or "virtual" 100% participation! Thank you for your participation.

Two More Sundays. Thankfully we have met the budget for three Sundays. Our deficit for the year is just a bit over \$3,000. Hopefully the next two Sundays can bring us over the budget for the year. Thank you for your faithful giving.

First Things First. The very first theme/challenge our elders presented for the year was First Things First. The theme/challenge has changed each year, but the need for "First Things First" is as great as it ever has been. I hope that in your own personal life, you will be asking, "Am I putting first things first?"

FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER – TIM GOTKIEWICZ:

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: When Jesus was transfigured on the mountain, a voice came out of the cloud and said, "This is my beloved Son. _____!" A) In whom I am well pleased; B) In Him are my blessings; C) Hear Him

This week's question:



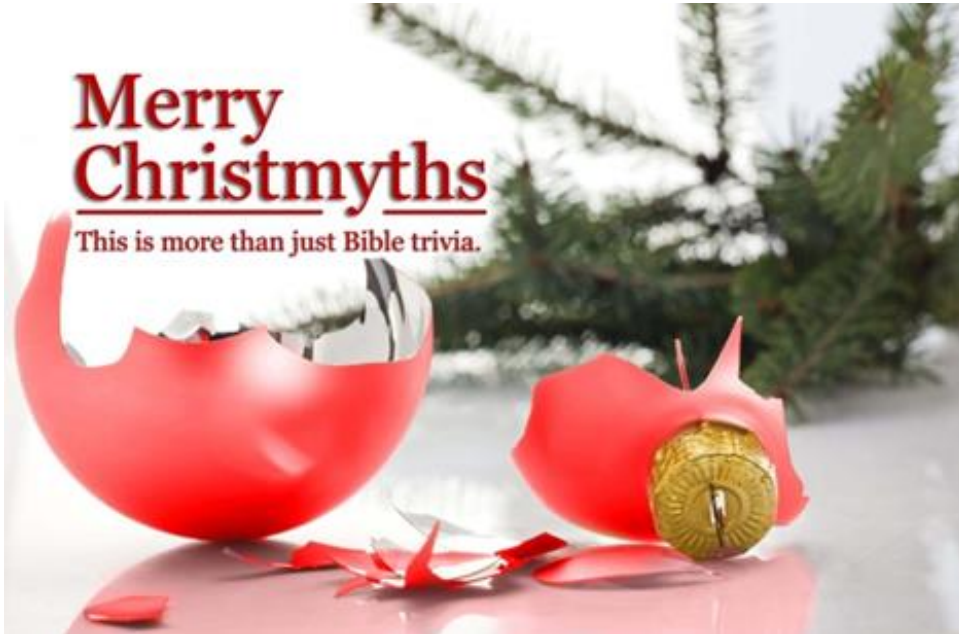
YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

• **Dec. 22:** 10 Minute Update

• **Dec 27–30:** Exposure Youth Camp

COLLEGE EVENTS:

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



Any time our culture talks about Jesus, God's people have an open door to enrich the conversation. As you know, during this holiday season, much will be said about Jesus that is inaccurate. These inaccuracies are not just spoken by the world, but by Christians as well. God's own children, the "people of the Book," even struggle to discern between fact and fiction concerning this pivotal, historical event.

May I challenge you to a short quiz? The purpose of this quiz is not just an "I gotcha" Bible trivia game, but rather has a weighty purpose for you to consider at the end of this article.

Give it a try. See how well you do.

- **True or False** The Bible says the angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph to inform him that Mary was with child.
- **True or False** The Bible says that three wise men came to the manger to worship and give gifts to Jesus.
- **True or False** The Bible says that an unknown number of wise men came to the manger to worship Jesus.
- **True or False** The Bible says a bright star appeared in the sky and led the shepherds to the manger.
- **True or False** The Bible says a bright star appeared in the sky and led the wise men to the manger.
- **True or False** The Bible says the shepherds and the wise men were present on the night of Jesus' birth.
- **True or False** The Bible says an innkeeper told Mary and Joseph that there was no room in the inn, thus Jesus was born in a manger.

Okay, so how did you do? Did anyone get them all right? Did you get a passing grade? Well, if you answered any of the questions with a "True," you were mistaken. Every statement is false for one reason or another. Open your Bible and check it for yourself.

What I have discovered through the years is that it is surprisingly easy for us to believe as fact, what is in reality, fiction. Furthermore, this “fiction” is sometimes propagated by religion. How many church lawns and “Christmas” re-enactments will portray a nativity scene that inaccurately portrays the biblical account?

But now here’s the point of my article: This article really isn’t about “gotcha trivia,” surrounding the birth of Jesus. It has a much more important purpose that is this: *If we can be misinformed about something as fundamental as the birth of Jesus, what’s to make us think we cannot be misled regarding other religious matters?*

Friends, make sure your faith is not based on what others have told you is true, but rather make sure your faith is based on what you know to be true from your own personal study. Let the “fiction” you see perpetuated on church lawns and in church pageants this holiday season be a reminder and a warning to you to do your own Bible study and to never be content with what others say.

Furthermore, let this short quiz cause you to stop saying things like, “I don’t know how in the world, [such and such denomination] can believe that doctrine?” Sure you do! They are guilty of doing what we, ourselves sometimes do. We take someone else’s word for truth, and we are content to perpetuate what has been handed down to us.

Maybe this little quiz will cause us to stop impugning the motives of the religious people with whom I disagree, and realize that they may love the Lord as much as we do, but have simply not done their research. May we be tools in God’s hands to help them better understand.

“Prove all things; Hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Steve Higginbotham Tags; <https://preachinghelp.org/merry-christmyths?fbclid=IwAR1ufRVQrDKysECGoIdFKkXxNGEL8fbETUepzA4pj-oFgsjDicXKT-WWeqc>

December 22, 2019 / Leading the congregation in:			
Scripture Reading:	Main Prayer:	Closing Prayer:	Singing:
A.M.: Landon Evans	A.M.: Ryan Gotkiewicz	A.M.: Jimmy Mathews	A.M.: Allen Clements
	P.M.: Alan Kaye	P.M.: Josh Cochran	P.M.: Allen Clements
Security (During Services) - Sunday AM: Ron Hoskinson / Sunday PM & 12/23: Brad Jackson			
Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Ron Hoskinson			

ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/19/19

SICK: DUSTY PONCEY is in UAB Hospital and undergoing cancer treatments (No visitors, please). ANNEGENE DAVIS is undergoing medical tests. HUNTER TIMBES is to be scheduled for surgery. DEIDRE COLE is recovering at home following a C-section. HOLLY THOMASSON is having surgery today, Thursday, in Birmingham. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, BONNIE CROW, DAN EVANS, RYAN GOTKIEWICZ FAMILY, MARCIA GRAVES, MARGARET GRAVES, WILMA MILLICAN, MARSHA SUTTON, HUNTER TIMBES, JAMES 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, DON BRANNAN, SARAH HOUSLEY, ANN MILAM, DUSTY PONCEY.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to Barbara Norman in the passing of her uncle, PAUL GARDNER, Dec. 17. Paul was from Daphne, Alabama. The visitation and funeral are Friday in Daphne, Alabama with interment at the Alabama State Veterans Cemetery at Spanish Fort.

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

NEW PRAYER REQUEST: Prayers have been requested for MIKE TIMBES, Jon Timbes' father, who is in the hospital in Memphis, Tennessee after suffering a stroke. (Mike Timbes; Room 4426; Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis; 6019 Walnut Grove Road; Memphis, TN 38120)

NURSERY ATTENDANTS - 12/22: AM—HALEY STEELMAN & TERRY BAGENTS; PM—JANE SEWELL & MARY VANDER SEWELL

WIDOWS LUNCHEON: JAN HILYER invites all the Eastern Meadows widows to lunch at 12 noon on Friday, Dec. 20, at her home, 615 Pine Hill Road. Please park at the front of the house. All widows planning to attend need to RSVP Jan at 356-3784.

STORY ROAD HOUSE CHRISTMAS LUNCH: There will be a Christmas Lunch at the Story Road House this Saturday, Dec. 21, 12 noon. MIKE & BARBARA NORMAN will provide the meats. See Barbara Norman for more information.

HERE-WE-GO-A-CAROLING: Here-we-go-a-caroling will be on Sunday, Dec. 22. Those interested will meet after the PM worship service, eat, and then go caroling. See TISH HOUSLEY for more information.

BENEVOLENCE SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday's have been designated "Benevolence Sunday". On Benevolence Sundays a special contribution will be taken for the EASTERN MEADOWS BENEVOLENCE FUND. This is to be separate from the regular contribution. Checks for this effort should be made out to: Eastern Meadows Benevolence Fund. Envelopes marked "Eastern Meadows Benevolence Fund" will be provided for those who wish to contribute in cash. All contributions made to this fund are tax deductible as are regular contributions. —Tim Bagents, for the Elders

DECEMBER STANDBY TEAM - 1 (DEES)

Upcoming Events

2019

- 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)



2019 LadyBUGS
Ladies Being Useful in God's Service
TOGETHER

◆ **Dec. 29:** A Time To Pray, 4:30 PM

"Go ye therefore, and teach nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world." Matthew 28:19-20

*Annual
Christmas
Dinner
December 14th*



