



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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March 4, 2021

ELDERS:

Alan Kaye
Roy Mulkey
Mike Norman
Ted Norton

DEACONS:

Adam Bass
Allen Clements
John Cole
Michael Crow
Ryan Gotkiewicz
Tim Gotkiewicz
Tim Hatch
Steve Housley
Marquez James
Joel Kelly
Jimmy Mathews
Danny Moore
Lindsey Mulkey
Dean Norton
Randy Porterfield
Steve Sewell
Jeff Simpson

MINISTERS:

Brandon Baggett,
Involvement
Tim Gotkiewicz, Youth
& College
Steve Housley, Pulpit
& Education

SCHEDULE:

Sunday:

9:15 a.m. Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

WELCOME!



Budget: \$11,500.00 / Giving, 2/28: \$13,255.00

FROM THE PULPIT & EDUCATION MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Model Prayer. Ok, Matthew 6:9-15 is usually called the “Lord’s Prayer.” However, it was really a model of how the disciples should be praying. After all Matthew 6:9 begins with “Pray then like this.” So it was not really Jesus praying but Jesus giving an example of how we ought to pray. The “Lord’s Prayer,” is Jesus’ prayer in John 17. No, the John 17 prayer is not usually called the Lord’s prayer, but the entire chapter is a prayer of Jesus; a prayer Jesus prayed; hence, the “Lord’s Prayer.” Sunday night we will be studying the Model Prayer found in Matthew 6. *We will be doing a little study, then a little singing, then and little praying.* Three main ideas; so three times we will be singing and three times we will be praying. I hope the study, singing, and prayer will honor God and build you up.

Minute Meditations. The One Minute Meditations are to be found on the Eastern Meadows church Facebook page as they are posted on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They can also be found on Youtube. All of them can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvhyL5XqyANUagsREw8fjY3LnxFG4qO8L> Let me encourage you to share this one minute with us and then to share it on Facebook. (BTW, why not let Facebook be a medium to point people to Jesus rather than just a place to have the opportunity to express your opinion about the world!)

Coming Back. It was great to see some folks Sunday that had their “two shots” and were back in worship. I have not yet had my shots yet, but when Tish and I have the opportunity, we will get ours, too. Great to see folks back!!

FROM THE INVOLVEMENT MINISTER – BRANDON BAGGETT:

Revive Us Again

What comes to your mind when you hear the word “revival?” For many people, their mind immediately envisions those old fashioned Gospel Meetings of yesteryear. During these revivals, a visiting preacher would travel in from miles away, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a plain and powerful way, and lead many souls to Christ. Such revivals were occasionally held in a tent or an old block church building, and they often lasted for weeks on end. It could be that you remember attending a revival much like this when you were young, and it may well be that you are a Christian today because of an old fashioned Gospel revival. But that’s not the only meaning attached to this word – it relates to being restored, refocused, and revitalized.

We often sing a beloved hymn that says, “revive us again!” Did you know that this phrase is taken directly from the Scriptures? It’s found in Psalm 85:6 where the psalmist asks, “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?” When we look even closer at the contents of this passage, we notice that it’s part of a prayer for a full-scale revival among God’s people. Many scholars believe Psalm 85 is a post-exilic psalm (i.e. a psalm that was written after Israel’s deportation from their land). God, you see, punished Judah for her sins and idolatry by sending her away into Babylonian captivity for 70 years. At the end of those years, though, God revived the nation by sending the faithful remnant back home to their promised land. However, they soon fell back into sin and needed a revival from God all over again. The language of Psalm 85 matches these historical realities. It would seem that God previously revived His people by forgiving them, relenting from His anger, and sending them back to their homeland (vv.1-3), yet they have digressed and angered God all over again (vv.4-6). Therefore, the inspired penman passionately prays for God to do what He has been done before – revive us again!

This Old Testament text reminds us that the psalmist understood and confessed the need for a revival in his day, but will we confess and acknowledge our need for the same? If the truth be told, the church is in desperate need of a revival! Many once faithful saints have lost their focus and their commitment has waned. Fear has gripped the hearts of many Christians, and they need to be resuscitated and brought back to greater spiritual health. As well, many churches are deadlocked in neutral, declining, and flatlining. Such churches look little like their surrounding community, not much effort is being ex-

erted to reach the lost, and the congregation is drifting further apart than closer together. COVID-19 has certainly not helped any of these troubling trends! Is God pleased with the state of His church right now? Truly, the church is in desperate need of a revival! God's people ought to be echoing the prayer of the Old Testament scribe for Jehovah to revive His people again! Can I challenge you to pray for a full-scale revival in the church today? May I challenge you to reawaken to God's purposes, revive your personal commitment to God and His work, and experience a revival in your own spiritual life? I am convinced God can do incredible things through us! He has restored and revived His people before, and He can do it again! Lord, please revive us again!

Before You Say No

— Alan Kaye —

About 30 years ago, there was a men's meeting of the Cairo (GA) church of Christ to determine who would take on several tasks. Going by my prior experience in other congregations, I thought these assignments might be a once a year thing, and if we wanted to change what tasks we took on, we could do it later. Instead, that meeting set the organization of the Cairo church for most of the 17 years we were there.

We needed an education coordinator. They asked if I could handle it, and I said I would think about it. Over the next two weeks I compared the potential teachers in the congregation with the list of classes for all ages. I asked nearly every baptized believer if they would consider teaching a class at some point. These days, I can't remember if anyone said yes. All I remember is that, time after time, I got a flat no.

Next time we met I went in with my list of classes and no teachers to go with it. I declined the opportunity to coordinate the education program of the church on that basis. I regret it now, because I would never again be asked to do that in Cairo. What I did instead was to say yes myself and, like others who taught in the children's classes, took a class knowing that I could never find a substitute teacher or hand it off and take a break.

All these years later, I am privileged to be serving as a shepherd with general responsibility for the education program of our congregation, with the assistance of three good deacons and a Bible faculty that is second to none. Because of my reluctance and glass-half-empty response all those years ago, I have no experience working with an education program except what I am getting now. Yet, I have to believe that God has given me another chance and a great opportunity to work in this capacity.

I am writing this to tell you what I think I should have done instead, all those years ago. I could have made a great impact on the Cairo church by taking the job, no matter how hopeless it looked. It is always good to scout around for sound, uplifting Bible teaching materials and guides. Churches need to know what's out there and what's good. I'm not saying I didn't do any of that, but I could have done so much more if I had been motivated by that purpose.

I now believe that the education coordinator calls on a lot of the same skills as an effective involvement minister, using relationships to help others in the church realize that they are qualified and very much needed in front of a Bible class. I realize there could be huge adverse circumstances keeping some people from teaching, but I must cling to the idea that obstacles can be removed and prospective teachers can be developed from among those who ordinarily would never think of themselves as teachers.

Whether you're talking about classroom space, materials, teachers, or adequate leadership, the saying holds true: As the Bible classes go, so goes the congregation. The church will prosper because of teachers who say yes, now and in the future. As I look at the task we have, I agree with the apostle in I Cor. 15:58, and I encourage our education deacons, ladies' education chairs, and teachers to be steadfast and unmoveable in their commitment, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our

work is most definitely not in vain.

So, if you are coordinating a class and have been turned down by someone, do not be discouraged. Build relationships that will change hearts going forward. Any no answer is a no right now, but I can't imagine that very many of those are a permanent no. Even my iconic no that I've since regretted might have simply been a cry for some extra encouragement and support, rather than an absolute. And folks, if you're asked to teach, think long and hard about those nail scars before you say no. That's what I've learned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS 3/4/21

March 7, 2021 / Leading the congregation in:

Scripture Reading:

A.M.: Austin Brown

Main Prayer:

A.M.: Marquez James

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Blaine Benson

Singing:

A.M.: Paul Clements

Security (During Services): Danny Moore / Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Steve Sewell

SICK: GENEVA JOHNSON is in Baptist East. Hospital. STEVEN HULETT continues to recover from surgery. Sick at home Sunday: PHYLLIS ALLEN. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Evening-Evangelism Prayer List. Shut-ins: LANETTE TAYLOR, OPAL SULLIVAN, MARIAN SIKES, MARGARET GRAVES, LEON & CHARLOTTE JACKSON. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN, CHARLES HENDERSON, JAY ROBERTS, DUSTY POUNCEY.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DON SIMMONS, JUDY MILLER, MYRA HUGHES, JAY CONNELL, RICHARD BURLESON. (Battling Cancer): LANISE KIRK, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN, PAT NORMAN, SANDRA MISSILDINE, CHRIS HETHCOX, LEIGH BROWN. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

THANK YOU: Dear Eastern Meadows Members, Your love, thoughtfulness, cards and prayers were so appreciated at the loss of my brother. What a wonderful church family you are! Thank you so much! Michael Crow and family

NEW LADIES WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: The new Ladies' Bible Class began last night, March 3rd, with an 18-week study about "The Life of Abraham". Please see Emmy Kelly or Caitlin Baggett for more information or to sign up to teach a class.

COME-AND-GO BRIDAL SHOWER: There will be a Come-and-Go Bridal Shower in honor of JINNY KHANTISOURIYA on Sunday, Mar. 14, 2021 from 1:00-2:30. Jinny (Ben Singleton) is registered is at Amazon and Target.

YOU & ME + ONE BAGGETT TEAM: The Baggett Team will meet again on Sunday, Mar. 21, 4 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Team members are encouraged to participate.

SUNDAY-EVENING-EVANGELISM: Packets containing SEE Prayer List and cards are posted at the front and mid-way foyers. Be sure to pick up a packet and send cards to the ones you choose.

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



THE LIFE SAVING STATION

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a crude little lifesaving station. The building was just a hut and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought of themselves went out day and night, tirelessly searching for the lost. Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous.

Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding area, wanted to become associated with the station and gave their time, money and effort for the support of the work. New boats were bought, and new crews trained. The little life-saving station grew. Some of the members were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt a more comfortable place should be provided as a first refuge for those saved from the sea. So, they replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building.

Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it beautifully and furnished it exquisitely because they used it as a sort of club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The lifesaving motif still prevailed in the club's decoration, though, and there was a symbolic lifeboat in the room where club initiations were held.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet, half drowned people. They were dirty and sick, and represented every skin color under the sun. The beautiful club was considerably messed up. So, the property committee immediately had a shower built outside the club where victims of the shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside. At the next meeting there was a split in the club's membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon lifesaving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were called "LIFESAVING STATION." But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked, they could begin their own lifesaving station down the coast. They did.



As the years went by the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. The same things happened again, and . . .

Go back and read the story and compare the changes that took place with what often happens in a congregation as it grows from a small struggling group to a large, contented congregation.

As the lifesaving station turned into a social club, many in the church today are trying to turn the church into a club rather than what the Lord made it to be - a gospel preaching community that shares the gospel with friends and neighbors (please note - the church does not save anyone. It is only the place where those who have been saved by God are placed).

A small congregation struggles to work and build a church building and have a fulltime preacher. The members, all of them, are busy. They visit, they invite their friends and neighbors, have bible studies in their homes, give out tracts, and bring friends to gospel meetings. They are willing to do whatever it takes to reach lost souls.

They then build a church building - they have a good bible school program, a visitation program, and, as a result, the building is filled to capacity (excluding Sunday and Wednesday evenings). Soon they are talking about building a bigger building, with all of the newest fads. They have "arrived." The building must be paid for, so they keep up the good work for a while.

But, sadly, the zeal of evangelism dwindles. They sit back and enjoy "going to church." They don't

worry about attendance unless something happens that causes it to dwindle.

We have to ask the question (by looking deeply in our hearts and priorities) – is the church a gospel preaching “soul saving” body (see above) or just a social institution?

– Adapted J.V Copeland, Jr.

NO FRUIT

One of the greatest personal evangelism directors of our day, brother A.D. Wright, made the following observations concerning the idea of “no fruit:”

“This describes most of us today. No fruit. Some have not brought one soul to Christ. No, not one. This describes those who come to worship when the door is open but do nothing more.

We have sung 10,000 songs. We have listened to 7,000 sermons. We have prayed 20,000 prayers. But we have not convinced one soul, not even ourselves.

“We have been “setting” in the same nest for twenty years and have not “hatched” anything yet.

“No personal work program at all. Let the preacher do it or someone else or let the work go undone. We are dead as far as saving the lost we have leaves but bear no fruit at all. . . just holding worship – a church house religion. Brush arbor days are gone. Some have no plans for saving the lost. Hardly a visitation program. No program at all for saving the lost from house to house.

“One billion dollars in church buildings, seven million dollars in custodian services, from fifteen to fifty-nine members are required to convert one person.

“In Mark 11:12-14 the Bible says, ‘Now the next day, when they had come from out from Bethany, he was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When he came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, ‘Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.’ And his disciples heard it.”

“I am afraid, that for many who profess to be members of the body of Christ, when the Lord comes again, he will find only leaves. There are far too many Christians who have not born fruit. Why? Is it apathy or indifference? Have we forgotten the Great Commission? Think about it!”

– Mark Aites

A SOUL WINNING CHURCH?

A soul winning church is one who is convinced that all of those who are outside of Jesus and His church are lost.

A soul wining church is one who uses all of its available resources to seek those who are lost and give them every possible opportunity to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

A soul winning church is one where all of the members are involved in the overall work and life of the church and dedicated to its growth and development.

A soul winning church is one whose members are devoted to Christ to the extent that they will sacrifice everything else to honor their commitment.

A soul wining church is one who will not tolerate sin as the lifestyle of believers but reprovcs, rebukes, and exhorts them to faithfulness and commitment.

A soul winning church is led by men who have devoted their lives to Christ and His people and who are setting an example of godliness so that all who follow will be secure in their steps.

A soul winning church is not satisfied with temporary successes nor frustrated by momentary failures, rather she corrects her mistakes and give God all of the glory for her growth.

– John Massie