



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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April 8, 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!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR ELDERSHIP

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR ELDERSHIP - On Sunday, April 11, 2021, we will be going to 'Mask Optional' for all services and functions here at the Eastern Meadows facilities. We will still practice social distancing during worship services and the auditorium and classrooms will continue

to be marked and setup that way. Considering the present City Council mandate, we will continue to operate fully within those guidelines just as we have up until now.

There will be a section of the auditorium designated for those that want to continue to wear their masks at all times and isolate themselves from those that may not be wearing masks. This section is the front half of the east side of the auditorium seating which is on the left as you enter from the rear. This section will be clearly marked and no one should enter it not wearing a mask. We appreciate that you have cooperated with us up until now and pray that will continue as we move another step closer to normalcy.



Budget: \$11,500.00 / Giving, 4/4: \$17,307.50

FROM THE PULPIT & EDUCATION MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Taste. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! (Psalms 34:8). Taste. Do you like sweet or salty? It seems like snacks must be one or the other! And how about food? A new food? How many times does a child say, “I don’t like it.” And you then ask, “have you ever tried it” often to hear “No, I just know I don’t like it.” I think many take a childlike attitude toward the Lord. “ I don’t like it. . . . Have you ever tried it. . . .No, I just know I don’t like it. “ It takes tasting to know if it is sweet or salty or bland. It takes tasting to know if you dislike the taste or it is so good it knocks you off your feet. It takes tasting to know if the texture is mushy or chewy. So it takes trusting and obeying the Lord – “tasting” the Lord – to know if you like the Lord. And (a big and) the context of Psalms 34:8 is the man who is troubled in various ways. To taste the Lord is to take refuge in the Lord. So, will you trust and obey the Lord? Will you trust and obey the Lord when times are hard? “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

FROM THE INVOLVEMENT MINISTER – BRANDON BAGGETT:

Remember Your Church’s Address

A few years ago, I preached for a small rural church. Inside our church building, we had a little note pinned to one of our bulletin boards in the foyer. This small note had apparently been supplied by the local 911 services, it contained a list of important phone numbers to remember for emergencies, and it listed our church building’s physical address. This information would have been valuable had there ever been a real emergency. You can imagine how easy it would be to get caught up in the panic of a situation and forget something as simple as the address for the church building. It is incredibly important to remember where your church is located, but I don’t think we should remember our church’s address just for cases where there is an emergency. We should remember our church’s address because that is our mission field!

Do you remember how the book of Acts begins? Before Jesus ascended back to the Father, He echoed His great commission one final time. Jesus told His disciples, “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Interestingly, this passage serves as an outline for the book of Acts, and it charts God’s strategy for the spread of the Gospel. The Gospel would begin in Jerusalem, it would then spread throughout the region of Judea, it would next go to Samaria, and it would finally reach the uttermost ends of the earth. The book of Acts chronicles the expanse of the Gospel message from Jerusalem in Acts 1 all the way to Rome in Acts 28. But don’t miss it – the Gospel was first preached in the city of Jerusalem! The Gospel was preached at home before it was preached abroad!

If we want to see the church grow, then we must realize that the great commission begins next door! Yes, we are called to go “into all the world” (Mark 16:15), but the world doesn’t begin across continents – it begins across the street. Every local church has a unique zip code, each local church sits in its own community, and every congregation has incredible opportunities to reach the lost in their neighborhood. Many churches spend large sums of money to reach the lost overseas, but what about spending funds to reach the lost in our backyard? Most churches send trained missionaries to different parts of the globe, but what about training missionaries to reach out into our local communities? Unfortunately, many churches are keeping their missions overseas and they are neglecting the mission in their own communities! You see, it’s incredibly important to remember your church’s address! God is calling us to be a light in our community, to be a church on a mission for Jesus in our

neighborhood, and to turn this part of the map upside down for Jesus. The location of this church is no accident. God has put us here for a purpose. The time is now to start preaching, helping, ministering, and reaching out where we have been planted!

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BRANDON

1) If you are looking for free weekly access to encouraging Bible content to help you be a better servant of Jesus Christ, then check out my blog called Ministry on Purpose. You can go to yourministryonpurpose.com and check out all of my past posts. Also, if you would like to subscribe via email to receive notifications when a new post is published, just enter your email address at the "follow" section, or you can feel free to send me your name and email and I'll make sure you are subscribed.

2) We have an exciting opportunity for growth coming up here at Eastern Meadows! I'll be teaching a four-week course on sharing your faith during the last four Sundays of May. This class will be held in the auditorium on Sunday mornings during our 9:15 Bible Study time. This will not be your typical evangelism training, but I think it will give you renewed courage and confidence to reach that someone in your life with the Gospel. This class will cover how to set up a Bible Study, how to lead a personal Bible Study, and how to follow up with new believers. You don't want to miss this special opportunity!



ANNOUNCEMENTS 4/8/21

April 11, 2021 / Leading the congregation in:			
Scripture Reading: A.M.: Norton Sewell	Main Prayer: A.M.: Ted Norton	Closing Prayer: A.M.: David Barley	Singing: A.M.: Jon Timbes
Security (During Services): Brad Jackson		Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Steve Housley	

SICK: ADAM BASS is scheduled for out-patient surgery Monday, Apr. 12. JOY DAVIS is recovering from tarsal tunnel surgery on her left leg. BETTY DAVIDSON is recovering at home after a stay in the hospital. MIKE NORMAN has been suffering with a lot of pain. SALLY GOTKIEWICZ is undergoing therapy for continued back pain. TISH HOUSLEY is recovering from a broken wrist. SHIRLEY KAYE and STEVEN HULETT continue to recover from surgery. 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.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: ADELINE HAZEL BAILEY was born Apr. 5 to TRENT & AUTUMN BAILEY. Adeline weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 18.5 in. long. THOMAS is the proud big brother. Congratulations to Trent, Autumn, and Thomas!

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Congratulations to KEN & JOHNNIE GARDNER in the birth of great-grandson, LEVI ABRAM MASON, born Apr. 7. Levi weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21.5 in. long.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR:



ADELINE BAILEY

- MARK BOWERS, Naomi Bowers' son, who is undergoing tests.
- ANNIE GIPSON, Shirley Jones' mother, who is under hospice care.
- CHARLES BUSH, Donna Boutwell's uncle, who is scheduled for back surgery Apr. 21.

CHILDCARE NEEDED: A family has contacted the church office acquiring information on EM members that offer childcare out of their home. If you are interested, contact Wilma Berry for more information.

YOUNG MEN'S SINGING TIME: The Young Men's Singing Time is Sundays, 4:50 PM. See JON TIMBES for more information.

MULTI-PURPOSE GROUPS: Multi-Purpose Groups lists are available at the Front and Midway Foyers.

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 **MIKE NORMAN**. Contact information for Mike: (334) 306-7583; mikenorman7583@yahoo.com.

EMCC FOOD GROUPS FOR APRIL: KAYE / NORMAN

LET'S GO FISHING

The time has come to speak of fishing and fishermen. I will not have anything new to say, but I trust that you will bear with me, nonetheless.

FISHING IS AN ACT OF FAITH. Normally the fisherman does not see the fish. He prepares his line and casts his bait into the water. He's not always successful. He casts over and over again whether he gets a strike or not. If one place proves unproductive, he will move to another, and yet another. He will repeat his casts endlessly. He hopefully expects something to come of his efforts, but he seems perfectly content if he takes one fish every hundred casts (others have tried many more times with less results but keep on fishing).

FISHING REQUIRES DILIGENCE. Real fishermen get up early and stay out late. They don't quit when the weather changes. They don't stop because they run out of bait. They think more of fishing than eating. They will let the sun blister their faces, and mosquitos eat them alive, but they hang in there. Catching the big one requires diligence.

FISHING REQUIRES INTELLIGENCE. A true fisherman knows where the fish are. He knows what kind of fish bite when, and the bait they like. He makes it look easy to those sitting on the bank, but a lifetime of knowledge goes into what he is doing. There is an art in what he is about. Fish are crafty, and the fisherman will have to use his wits.

FISHING REQUIRES WORK. You can't sit in your favorite chair, watch television, drink a coke and catch fish. You have to get your tackle together, change clothes, drive to the lake/river, unload the boat, and tend to a hundred details. Then you are ready to fish. Once there you are liable to get wet, but that's all right. You have been wet a thousand times. Nobody said it was going to be easy. Fishing is hard work.

A long time ago Jesus said to those who were following Him, "I will make you fishers of men." I wonder what he meant by that?

