



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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August 13, 2020

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:

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!

Elder Led Worship

Sunday, August 16

Theme: *Shelter in the Time of Storm*



Mike Norman, Ted Norton, Roy Mulkey, Alan Kaye

Budget: **\$12,000.00** Contribution, 8/9: **\$11,263.00** YTD: **-\$1,671.00**

The guidelines for keeping worship safe are still in effect. Please come Sunday for 10 a.m. worship. Remember it will be a sanitized, masked face, social distanced worship assembly. I look forward to seeing you then!
-Steve

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Elder-Led Worship this Sunday. Eastern Meadows elders will be leading us in all aspects of worship this Sunday. They have settled on a fitting theme for 2020: *Shelter in the Time of Storm*. While we have not been the subject of a literal “storm” in Montgomery in 2020; the word storm aptly describes what we are going through this year. Many things about this year have been unlike anything I have seen in my lifetime. *2020 feels like one long storm!* I appreciate the elders calling our attention to the One we can hold on to in this storm!

Are you a One-, Two-, or Five-Talent Man or Woman? This should remind you of the parable of the talents. Last Sunday we looked at the one-talent man. While I had preached on the Parable of the Talents more than once, I had never spent the entire time on the one-talent man. So what are you? What are your talents/abilities/ opportunities? I hope you have done a personal inventory to determine how you can of service to the Lord. However, what may be the most important question is, “**Are you using your talents/abilities/opportunities?**” Are you?

Sunday Evening Evangelism. Each Sunday morning packets of 5 cards along with the Sunday Evening Prayer List are to be found in the wire basket on the foyer counter. Some are also on the round table in the midway foyer. Though there is no card assignment within the packet you can choose those you think need encouragement and drop them a note. Thank you for your help with this good work.

Safe Sunday Worship. An observation. Several times I have seen a news article on the safest/ most dangerous places in these Covid times. Most of the time “church” is rated as one of the most dangerous. Frankly, when I see this, I am frustrated, believing that this is NOT true, *the way Eastern Meadows is worshipping now*. I believe that this assumes church is handshaking, hugging, passing trays, no masks, no social distancing – the way it used to be. You can also see articles where documented infections have spread from church assemblies. It has always been the case (when the article discussed “how” they were having church) that these churches were not taking the precautions they should have, and the way Eastern Meadows is taking precautions. I truly believe we are being safe, with the no-touch, no hand-shake, no hug, sanitized, social distanced, masked worship assembly. Now that being said, we must not “let down our guard” or become complacent about these matters. *We must keep things safe*. Will it get back to the old way? I truly believe so. And the sooner the better! But for now, take these precautions in the assembly and be safe.

WORLD’S GREAT FOOL

A great king once awarded his favorite jester a golden sash inscribed with the words, ‘World’s Greatest Fool.’ The clown received the honor because he delighted the king with his antics. He was told, however, that if he ever found a greater fool than himself, he should turn the sash over to that man.

Many years later, the great king lay dying. As his sorrowing subjects came by to say a final word, the old jester appeared. “Where are you going, my king?” he asked. “I am going on a long journey,” replied the king. “Will you ever return?” questioned the clown? “No, I am leaving forever,” answered the king. “Have you prepared for your journey?” was the last question of the jester. “I have

made no preparation," answered the king. With that the jester sadly handed the king his golden sash. With tears streaming down his cheeks, he told the dying king, "You are going on a final journey, a journey from which you will never return; and you have made no preparation. You, O king, are the world's greatest fool."

All of us are soon to embark on a great journey which will lead us to the shores of eternity. It is a journey from which we can never return. In view of this, Jesus said, 'Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.' Surely, life's most foolish mistake is to neglect to prepare for death.

—Ron Stough

I'M NOT THE MAN I USED TO BE

There is a religious song that is often sung by different quartets, groups and individuals, emphasizing how that one's life has been changed, "by Calvary", noting the death of Jesus Christ who died on the cross for the sins of the world. Regardless how a person has lived previously, when a person believes in Jesus Christ as being the Son of God, is penitent of sins and obeys the gospel of Christ, his/her sins are forgiven and forgotten (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Hebrews 8:12).

Mankind is not so merciful and forgiving. Recently, I read that "*Boeing's communications chief, who was forced to resign because of an article he wrote criticizing women in combat in 1987 - more than 30 years ago - when he was a Navy fighter pilot.*" The gentleman explained he no longer held the same views about women serving in the armed services as he did when he was a young man. Nevertheless, he was forced to resign his position with the company. This is a prime example as to the extremes we are now witnessing in our nation.

What if God treated mankind in like fashion as those responsible for pressuring this person to resign from his work with this company? Consider the following men who said or did something that was not in harmony with the will of God, the Lord forgave them and used them in His kingdom.

Abraham, the 'father of the faithful', was not perfect. In two incidents he intended to deceive rulers in order to protect his life. When Abram "went to Egypt", because of the beauty of Sarai, his wife, he said to her, "Please say you are my sister that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you." Thus Pharaoh and others believed that Sarai was only a sister to Abram and not his wife (Genesis 12:10-20). While this statement was partially true, it was not the whole truth. Then there was the time when Abraham and Sarah went to Gerar. While there, he told others, "She is my sister". King Abimelech took Sarah. God intervened and the king did not touch her. (Genesis 20). David, after much time and many obstacles, became King of Israel. God richly blessed him abundantly with power and material things. Yet, he lusted after a woman, committed adultery with her, and had her husband killed (2 Samuel 11) Peter denied his Lord three times (Matthew 26:69-75). The apostle Paul, prior to his conversion, persecuted the church of the Lord (Acts 9). He referred to himself as being the "chief" of sinners (1 Timothy 1:12-15)

Abraham matured in his faith in God and his belief "was accounted to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3,5). King David was truly penitent of his sins (Psalm 32; 51). The apostle Peter was truly sorry for his denial of Jesus Christ (Matthew (Matthew 26:75). Saul (Paul) believed in Jesus, repented and was baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 9:9-11; Acts 22:16).

These individuals were not the men they used to be. He did not hold their past mistakes, faults and sins against them. Have we not all thought, said or written something that displeased God and sought His forgiveness? We should be thankful for the infinite mercy of our Heavenly Father. God

has given His children this blessed assurance: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins" (Isaiah 43:25).

—Raymond Elliott

ANNOUNCEMENTS 8/13/20

August 16, 2020 / Leading the congregation in:

Scripture Reading:

A.M.: Elders

Main Prayer:

A.M.: Elders

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Elders

Singing:

A.M.: Elders

Security (During Services): Henly Khantisiouriya / Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Allen Clements

SICK: KALLIE FUTRAL is scheduled for surgery today, Aug. 13. WILMA MILLICAN has returned to Encompass Rehab. RENEE JAMES has tested positive for Covid-19. MILLIE THOMAS is recovering from a broken foot. GEORGE DAVIDSON is recovering from fall. BETTY DAVIDSON is scheduled for an out-patient procedure this week. TA'NI-SHA NORMAN is down in her back. LEIGH SANDLIN, PHYLLIS ALLEN and MARSHA SUTTON continue to recover from surgery. STEVEN HULETT'S hip-replacement surgery has been postponed. Sick at home Sunday: ADDIE BASS, SHIRLEY HANCOCK, GENEVA JOHNSON, JANET MATHEWS, THELMA WOOLFOLK. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Evening-Evangelism Prayer List. Shut-ins: LANETTE TAYLOR, OPAL SULLIVAN, MARIAN SIKES, MARGARET DAVIS, and MARGARET GRAVES. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN, HOLLY THOMAS-SON, CHARLES HENDERSON, JAY ROBERTS, ALICE HANDLANG, SARAH HOUSLEY, DUSTY POUNCEY. *With the restrictions caused by COVID-19, it is difficult to have an accurate report of our members who are ill.*

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DON SIMMONS, KATHRINE LESTER, LINDA DOBYNS, JUDY MILLER, MARTHA HUGGINS (Battling Cancer): LANISE KIRK, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN, PAT NORMAN, SANDRA MISSILDINE, ANDY MULLINS, DANNY MOORE (*This is the Sutton's nephew, Not EM's Danny Moore*), CHRIS HETHCOX. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

NEW PRAYER REQUEST: Prayers have been requested for MARTHA HUGGINS, Donna Boutwell's aunt, who is recovering from surgery for a broken hip suffered in a fall.

PANAMA MISSIONS OPERATION CHRISTMAS JOY: The empty shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Joy, Panama Missions are available for pickup in the Resource Room. Please indicate the number of boxes taken as well as your name on the sign-up sheet. If you would like to donate money to purchase candy or to have someone else purchase items to fill a box, please do so. The filled boxes are to be returned to the Resource Room no later than Sunday, September 13, 2020. Please indicate that you have returned your filled box(es) in the space indicated on the sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, please see Sarita Strother, Latasha Kelley, or Sally Gotkiewicz. Thank you so much for your willingness to brighten the life of a child!

SONGS & OUTLINE FOR SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: The songs and sermon outline for Sunday's worship will be emailed on Saturday to EM members.

AUGUST STANDBY TEAM—#3 (GOTKIEWICZ)

ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL: The Elder of the Month for August is MIKE NORMAN. Contact information for Mike: (334) 306-7583; mikenorman7583@yahoo.com.

BENEVOLENCE SUNDAY—AUGUST 30:

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. All contributions made to this fund are tax deductible as are regular contributions.

—Roy Mulkey, for the Elders