



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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September 3, 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, Involvement
Steve Housley, Pulpit

SCHEDULE:

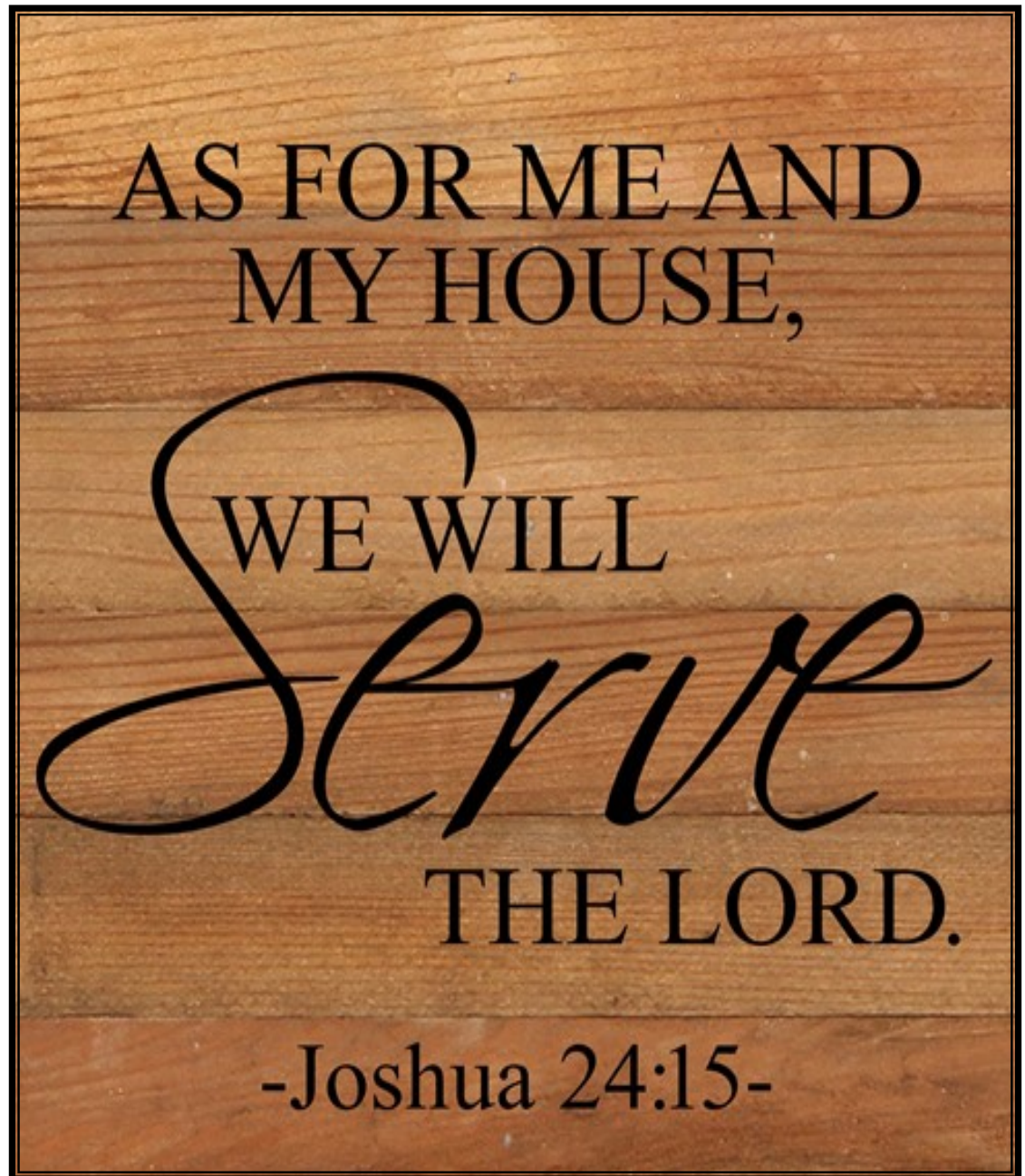
Sunday:

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

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

WELCOME!



Budget: **\$12,000.00** Contribution, 8/30: **\$12,148.00** Revised YTD: **-\$3,248.00**

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

Sunday's Statement from David Hester:

Almost five years ago, I was asked to become a part of the ministry team at Eastern Meadows. I came onboard in June 2016. The four years I and Brenda have been here have been tremendous. There is an old saying, "All good things must come to an end." Thus it is with me. At the end of September, I will be stepping down from my position here and begin working with the Elmore church of Christ, as an assistant to Scott Gleaves—who is the preacher there. As you know, Scott is also my immediate boss at Faulkner in the V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies. Recently I was promoted to Associate Professor, which means that my responsibilities with the university have increased. I have more classes to teach, and I will be directing the Kearley Conference for Biblical Scholarship, as well as Leaders Connect. On top of all that, I'm in the initial stages of writing another book. In addition, Scott is going to begin to send me to congregations across the state and beyond as a spokesman for the Bible College and Graduate School—when the COVID crisis subsides.



David & Brenda Hester

It has been a joy to work under the godly and good men who have served and serve as elders at Eastern Meadows. I and Brenda have a great relationship with these men and their families.

The godly men who serve as deacons are dedicated to the Lord, and they and their families are fabulous examples of those who walk in the light. I truly love and appreciate every one of them for the roles they fill.

Steve and I have grown very close as brothers in Christ and as friends. We confide in each other, and have had many enjoyable, profitable, and LONG conversations! Tish is a gem, and you are immensely blessed to have her and Steve with you. Steve is sound in the faith, and he is a good man. Tim G. and I have a great relationship; his humor and down to earth personality have been refreshing to me during the time I've been here. Sally is truly an asset to him and the congregation. Tim and Sally are doing a wonderful job with the youth and college students. In this day and time, having a sound man as a youth and college minister is a tremendous help to a congregation. You have that in Tim G.

Even though I won't be here on ministry staff after the end of September, you will still be seeing me and Brenda! We plan to support any and all events that happen here. Brenda will still be sending cards like she's already been doing, and when I'm out of town on behalf of Faulkner or preaching in meetings, Brenda will come here to worship—since it's close to where we live! And hey; you can come to visit me at Faulkner anytime, you can call us just like you can now, and if you shop for groceries at Wal-Mart or Publix, we most likely will see each other!

Brethren, it's been a joy to serve you all. I won't say goodbye yet; I'll save that for the end of September.

Mike Norman's Remarks for the Elders in Response to David Hester's Resignation

The first time I saw David Hester, I said to myself, "With his big hair and lime green sports coat,

this guy looks like a TV evangelist." I thought, "I don't know what kind of preacher he is; but, I admire his courage." I later learned that he and Randy Porterfield shopped at the same clothing store. All joking aside, on behalf of the Elders, I want to thank David for his service at Eastern Meadows. As all of you know, David is very knowledgeable in God's word and an excellent teacher. Our lives are always changing as different opportunities come our way. David has the chance to move up the ladder at Faulkner University. For the past four years, he has been working with V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies. He, as well as others like him, have been instrumental in keeping the teaching at the college scripturally sound. For that we should all be thankful. Upon his departure, Steve Housley will take more responsibility in the education department and Tim Gotkiewicz will have a greater role in involvement. I think I can speak for the entire congregation in congratulating David on his promotion. We thank him for the Christian man that he is and wish him, and Brenda, the best in all their future endeavors.

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Thank you to David and Brenda. It has been a joy to be associated with David and Brenda over the four years he has been at Eastern Meadows. He has brought a new level of experience and knowledge to our classes, and of course, to the ones he taught! He helped produce a library of studies on various books of the Bible that is now available on YouTube, if you missed any of his classes. There were people not associated with Eastern Meadows who regularly used his classes as a part of their personal Bible Study. I congratulate David on his new position at Faulkner University and his opportunity to be in the pulpit more frequently, a desire he has had. David has been of great influence both at Eastern Meadows and Faulkner University, and no doubt will be an even greater influence at Faulkner University. David has been a joy to have as a co-worker at Eastern Meadows. One of the joys of late has been his joining me in the Wednesday night class. I had always wanted to do a "dialogue" class, but was just not sure how to go about it. The streaming Wednesday class gave me the opportunity. Brenda, herself, has been a dear friend to many at Eastern Meadows, sending cards, greeting folks at services, but also by using her skills as a speech therapist. We will miss David and Brenda when October comes.

Rain. What a blessing. Many, many folks have labeled 2020 in various ways, all derogatory! If I were to list bad things that have happened in 2020, I could write a book. But something as simple as *rain* has been a great blessing this year. Even as we leave August behind and are now in September, we have hardly had a week without rain. Now, as I write this, Louisiana and Texas may get too much with the hurricane bearing down on them, but in Montgomery, we have been so greatly blessed with rain. *Count your many blessings, name them one by one.*

Sunday Sermon. This Sunday I will present the lesson "Nicodemus, Jesus' Night Visitor." In the past when I preached on these texts, I have always discussed primarily the "new birth". This Sunday we will also examine some things about Nicodemus. I wish we could all be more like Nicodemus. *But most of all I wish we would all be more like Jesus.*

Tim Gotkiewicz. Tim has been preparing video lessons that he puts up on YouTube for his Youth Class since March. He has always done a good job teaching these lessons. The lessons remain excellent. However, his "production" has advanced by leaps and bounds. He now has his own channel "Tim Gotkiewicz" on YouTube. If you go to YouTube and just search for his name you may come up with his Sunday Night sermons at Eastern Meadows. However, if you go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdIvTtMERrII9RMv237OonQ> you will see these lessons he has prepared for his Youth Class. He puts a lot in 15-20 minutes and with his increased production skills, you will find them very easy to watch. I encourage you go to the top right and click "subscribe" and then click on the bell and you should get a notification when a new lesson goes up. Thanks Tim for

the good job.

WHEN GOD SHOULD LOOM THE LARGEST

The great deceiver – the devil – has his eyes on the church! Perhaps Satan has no more potent tool in his arsenal capable of “undoing” God’s people and destroying their thrust than that of discouragement. Typically, things seem to go well for a while and then the sky falls in. That’s the strategy of hell . . . catch them with their guard down, undermine their efforts while “all is at ease in Zion.” Moving forward, attaining, growing, prospering in the greatest cause on earth, quite naturally clutters our pathway with a host of things which need to be done, projects that must be undertaken, and opportunities begging to be accepted. However, for some reason we cannot seem to muster enough strength, rally enough people, find enough money to get the job done. Then, there it is . . . bold, blatant discouragement, staring down, daring us to make good!

Maybe the answer should be obvious to us. It is quite possible we have been depending on our own strength, on people, on money, and showing LITTLE FAITH in that One who can speak the universe into existence, establish kingdoms and depose kings, stop the sun and dry up clouds, and who can raise the dead . . . GOD! It is in times of discouragement when God should loom large in our lives, our hopes, our goals, our aspirations.

The Israelites faced tremendous odds and discouragement soon after the “Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt. . .” (Exodus 12:29-30). Pharaoh, who was so haughty and proud, and the land of Egypt, was defenseless. The children of Israel headed toward the promised land that lay not too far beyond the desert. But while the distance was not all that great, the trip, itself, was not to be an easy one, as they were soon to learn. With Pharaoh’s army in hot pursuit and a vast, formidable wilderness to the right and the left, the Israelites were confronted with the seemingly forbidden Red Sea. In their minds, there was no escape and among other things they cried, “For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.” (Exodus 14:12). (BIG TIME DISCOURAGEMENT so soon after a BIG TIME VICTORY over Egypt. That is the way it is many times!). Moses, in reply to their worry and fear urged, “Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.” The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” (Exodus 12:13-14).

Unrest, discord indifference, and threats of many kinds . . . there are times in the life of the church when “Pharaoh’s army” is bearing down on us. But remember, the Lord will fight for us, he will show us a way if we will put our faith and trust in Him. It takes faith in God, a great deal of it, to accomplish the Lord’s work. Discouragement suggests that we have our ear bent toward the devil and our hearts not inclined toward God. There is so much work, so much good which the church needs to be doing. There are so many opportunities of which the church needs to take advantage. There are so many goals the church needs to set and reach after. Be not discouraged.

– Charlie Garner, Lake Forest church of Christ, 9/07/1997



“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

ANNOUNCEMENTS 9/3/20

September 6, 2020 / Leading the congregation in:			
Scripture Reading:	Main Prayer:	Closing Prayer:	Singing:
A.M.: Christian Williams	A.M.: Roy Mulkey	A.M.: Jimmy Mathews	A.M.: David Hester
Security (During Services): Ron Hoskinson /		Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Steve Housley	

With the restrictions caused by COVID-19, it is difficult to have an accurate report of our members who are ill.

SICK: BETSY YATES had shoulder replacement surgery Wednesday, Aug. 26. JUDY CURTAIN, Kristy Hatch's mother. Is scheduled for gallbladder surgery Sept. 9. Continue to remember our members listed on our Sunday-Evening-Evangelism Prayer List. Shut-ins: LANETTE TAYLOR, OPAL SULLIVAN, MARIAN SIKES, and MARGARET GRAVES. Battling Cancer: MIKE NORMAN, HOLLY THOMASSON, CHARLES HENDERSON, JAY ROBERTS, ALICE HANDLANG, SARAH HOUSLEY, DUSTY PONCEY .

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DON SIMMONS, KATHRINE LESTER, LINDA DOBYNS, JUDY MILLER, MARTHA HUGGINS, MYRA HUGHES, JUDY CURTAIN. (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.

SUNDAY EVENING-EVAGELISM: Packets containing a prayer list and cards are available at the front and midway foyers. Pick up a packet!

LEADERSHIP MEETING: There will be Leadership Meeting for all the Elders, Deacons, & Ministers on Sunday, Sept. 13, 9 AM.

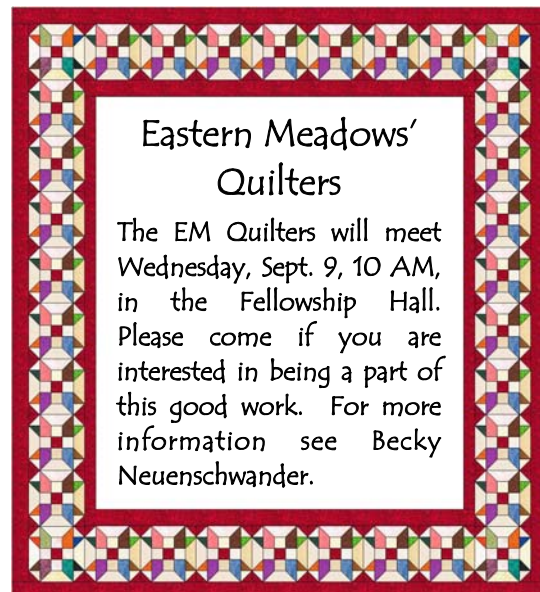
PANAMA MISSIONS OPERATION CHRISTMAS JOY: The Operation Christmas Joy, Panama Missions Boxes are due no later than Sunday, September 13, 2020. Please indicate that you have returned your filled box(es) in the space indicated on the sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, please see Sarita Strother, Latasha Kelley, or Sally Gotkiewicz. Thank you so much for your willingness to brighten the life of a child!

MOUNT DORA CHILDREN'S HOME FOOD & SUPPLY DRIVE: Due to the pandemic, the truck will not be sent around to congregations to pick up food and supplies. Instead, they are requesting gift cards from Walmart or Publix. The gift cards or money to purchase gifts cards may be given to Wilma Berry or mailed/dropped off at the office by Sunday, Sept. 27.

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

SEPTEMBER STANDBY TEAM—#1 (PORTERFIELD)

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



YOUTH ACTIVITIES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 12: Youth Group Movie Night, 7 PM Sept. 26: Youth Group Movie Night, 7 PM

COLLEGE EVENTS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept. 6: College Dinner & Movie, 5 PM Sept. 20: College Dinner & Movie, 5 PM

“YOU ARE A GOD MAN, HAS GOD EVER GIVEN YOU A GUARANTEE?”

My Cardiologist had finished examining me during my annual checkup. He then said, “I will see you next year.” I was thankful that my heart seemed to be in good shape. When I entered the hall, I saw several of the ladies who worked in the building and I said to them, “He said that he would see me next year, but he did not give me a guarantee.” It was then that my doctor walked up behind me, placed his arm around me and said, “You are a God man, has God ever given you a guarantee?”

Though my Cardiologist is very religious, he is not a Christian; but, since 2001, when he put a stent in a 95 percent blocked artery that was leading to my heart, he has known that I was a gospel preacher. That is why he called me a "God man". I replied that God has not promised me another year to live (James 4:13, 14). However, God has given to me, as well to all Christians who endeavor to live faithfully, several 'guarantees'.

I have chosen only a few 'guarantees' from God that are mentioned in the inspired writings of the apostle John.

- **John 10:27-29:** *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."* As long as we listen to the voice of our Good Shepherd and follow Him, there is no power on earth that can remove us from the hands and care of our Heavenly Father.
- **John 11:25, 26:** *"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* These words of Jesus Christ give comfort to children of God who trust in Him who died for our sins, and was resurrected from the tomb.
- **1 John 5:11-13:** *"And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life..."* Eternal life for the believer is to be found in the Son of God, and what He did for us on the cross of Calvary when He shed His precious blood. If we *"walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin."* *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:7, 9).*
- **Revelation 14:13:** *"Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," say the Spirit, "they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."* These are God given 'guarantees' for Christians who "die in the Lord".

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God; Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood."

–Raymond Elliott

Is God Really Going to Punish The Wicked?

Hell, it seems, has lost a lot of its fire over the last few decades, and perhaps even through recent centuries. The reason for this lies in the fact that mankind has forgotten one simple precept: God hates sin, and He will punish those who refuse to repent and turn to Him. When you deny the existence of hell, you deny the Bible. When you overemphasize attributes like love and mercy, and neglect attributes like wrath and justice, you deny God. While God most certainly is a God of love and mercy, He is also a God of vengeance (Deuteronomy 7:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9). It does not take long to find proof of this; simply read Genesis, and you will find two major events in the first 19 chapters. Genesis 19 records the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as the neighboring cities in the valley, on account of their great wickedness. Prior to this is the greatest catastrophe this planet has ever seen - the great flood. Genesis 6-7 details the account of the flood that destroyed "all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land..." (Genesis 7:22 NKJV), man and animal, because of sin. Since the Bible unequivocally declares that the wicked will be punished, it behooves us as Christians to make sure that we warn as many as we can, and show them the way to safety. "Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..." (2 Corinthians 5:11).

–Thomas Baxley