



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

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

October 15, 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
Steve Housley, Pulpit
& Education

SCHEDULE:

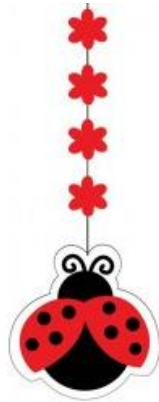
Sunday:

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

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

WELCOME!



LadyBUGS

—Ladies Being Useful in God's Service—

2021 Planning Meeting Sunday, Oct. 18th, 8:30 AM

We will have a ladies meeting in the fellowship hall this Sunday, October 18, at 8:30 am, to gather ideas to plan for 2021. We will wear masks and social distance. We encourage you to think and pray about the plan of work for the LadyBUGS for 2021. Please write down your ideas and bring them to the meeting so we can have a record of them. For those of you that are not getting out yet, you may send in your ideas to:

emladybugs@gmail.com, or contact Shirley Kaye. After this meeting, there will be a group of ladies that will meet to finalize the plan. If you would like to be a part of this group, please let Shirley Kaye know.



Budget: **\$12,000.00** Contribution, 10/11: **\$8,789.45** Revised YTD: **-\$12,077.23**

The guidelines for keeping safe are still in effect. Please come Sunday for 9:15 Bible Class and 10 a.m. worship. Remember it will be a sanitized, masked face, social distanced class and worship assembly. I look forward to seeing you then! -Steve

FROM THE MINISTER – STEVE HOUSLEY:

Another Great Day Sunday. It is always a great day when we can announce new members at Eastern Meadows. Ken and Johnnie Gardner moved to Pike Road in August to be near family. Among the congregations they have visited was Eastern Meadows and they have been attending several weeks. We are happy they want to stay and work and worship with Eastern Meadows. They were long time members of the Clinton, Mississippi congregation. Ken had been a fill-in preacher at a number of small congregations in Mississippi for over 40 years. Their desire is to serve the Lord as best as they can. If you have not gotten to know them, do meet them. I know that the “social distancing” makes things a bit awkward, but I hope you can get close enough to welcome them! And yes, you get two pictures, one with masks and one without masks. We welcome Ken and Johnnie!

Thank You Teachers. I want to again thank our teachers for the great job they do teaching and are doing a great job keeping the children safe. By the way, though most of the children across the state have been allowed to attend “in person” school, only now are the Montgomery County children allowed to attend “in person” classes. Do pray for our children and teachers. We want them all to be safe during the pandemic. I know that great effort has been made by all to keep them safe.

Auditorium Adult Class. I had enjoyed co-teaching with David. I am currently enjoying co-teaching with Tim Gotkiewicz. Tim has done a lot of studying since his becoming a Christian and Tim is blessed with a “steel trap” mind. He remembers what he studies and reads. We have only a little more in Luke to be studied, but the chapters are long and the subject cannot be more important, Jesus’ trials, crucifixion, and resurrection. However, the last session in October will be the last session to allow Brandon and Karl to begin teaching in November.

Adult Bible Classes in November

Sunday Morning, Brandon Baggett teaching. Epistles of John, beginning with 1st John.

Wednesday, Karl Strother teaching. Subject: Paul’s Missionary Journeys

A Personal Look At Church Unity

— Brandon Baggett —

The sweet singer of ancient Israel once exclaimed, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1 NKJV). I am sure that you agree! If you have ever been a part of a church conflict, then you know the priceless worth of peace, harmony, and unity in



Ken & Johnnie Gardner

the local church. There is nothing as unsettling as church turmoil, but there is also nothing sweeter than peaceful Christian coexistence. God desires for unity to prevail in local churches. In fact, Jesus even prayed for His people to be one (John 17:20-21). Therefore, preserving unity in the local church ought to be critical to us too.

However, church problems are inevitable! After all, the church is made up of people, and even the best of people make mistakes. Thankfully, the Scriptures present an ancient formula for maintaining peace and harmony in the local church – it is found in Ephesians 4:1-6. These verses and imperatives are extremely personal! Each Christian should work hard to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3 ESV). It takes a lot of tough work, but every member of the Lord’s body should take unity personally. Ask yourself: what am I doing to promote a healthy church environment? What am I doing to safeguard the peace of this church? Are my attitudes and actions threatening or strengthening the unity of the local church? How exactly does Ephesians 4:1-6 apply to me?

When we further explore God’s blueprint for church unity, we find some essential doctrinal elements needed for unity in the church. In Ephesians 4:4-6, we find what is commonly referred to as the “seven ones.” These seven doctrinal elements form the pillars for Christian unity and fellowship. There cannot be true unity without right doctrine. False doctrine damages fellowship and injects conflict in the Lord’s body. But is right doctrine all we really need for unity?

We often focus on Ephesians 4:4-6 when talking about church unity, but have we forgotten that Paul was inspired to write Ephesians 4:1-3 first? Before God addressed those necessary doctrinal elements, He revealed some essential personal traits required for unity in the church. Peace and harmony in the local church demands that we display “humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2 ESV). We can believe all the right doctrines, quote all the right verses, and know all the best theological arguments, but we can still cause trouble in the church if our personalities and dispositions do not reflect these vital personal characteristics. A good place to begin is changing the heart of the person in the mirror if we want to make a greater impact in preserving and perpetuating unity in the church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS 10/15/20

October 18, 2020 / Leading the congregation in:

Scripture Reading:

A.M.: Landon Evans

Main Prayer:

A.M.: Ted Norton

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: David Barley

Singing:

A.M.: Paul Clements

Security (During Services): Randy Porterfield / Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Adam Bass

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

SICK: ALICE HANDLANG is in Encompass Rehab after being in the hospital. SARA BLACK is recovering from surgery. VERA DEKLE was sick at home on Sunday. MIKE NORMAN is to be scheduled for a heart procedure in Birmingham. JOE HOOKS and BETSY YATES continue to recover from surgery. DIANNE HOSKINSON is scheduled for a surgical procedure Friday, Oct. 16 at Grandview Medical Center in Birmingham. GEORGE DAVIDSON will be scheduled for surgery soon. JUDY CURTIN, Kristy Hatch’s mother, underwent surgery Oct. 14. ANNEGENE DAVIS is recovering from Covid-19. 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, HOLLY THOMASSON, CHARLES HENDERSON, JAY ROBERTS, ALICE HANDLANG, SARAH HOUSLEY, DUSTY POUNCEY.

SYMPATHY: Eastern Meadows extends sympathy to Harold Tatum and Carrie (Andrew) Long at the passing of their aunt, Susie Wilkerson. Susie was a member at the New Harvest church of Christ.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DON SIMMONS, KATHRINE LESTER, LINDA DOBYNS, JU-

DY MILLER, MARTHA HUGGINS, MYRA HUGHES, BUTCH ROYAL, NANCY HOLT, EMORY & BECKY TUCKER. (Battling Cancer): LANISE KIRK, DARNELL STROTHER, NINA JOSEPH, LISA DOBBS, BJ BUCHMANN, PAT NORMAN, SANDRA MISILDINE, ANDY MULLINS, DANNY MOORE (*This is the Sutton's nephew, Not EM's Danny Moore*), CHRIS HETHCOX, JUDY CURTIN, LEIGH BROWN. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.

2021 PLANNING MEETING FOR THE LADIES: The ladies will meet this Sunday, Oct. 18, at 8:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall to gather ideas to plan for 2021. All EM ladies are invited to attend.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE: There will be a Celebration of Life Service for JESSE PERKINS, former EM member, on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2 PM, at Vaughn Park Church of Christ.

BRIDAL TEA: Please join us for a Bridal Tea in honor of CAROLINE THOMPSON on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020, 1:30—3:00 PM. This will be a Come and Go event held at the Eastern Meadows church of Christ Fellowship Hall (social distancing precautions will be followed). Caroline Thompson and Robert King are registered at Target, Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Amazon. Caroline and Robert are Faulkner students who attend EM. Learn more about Caroline & Robert at the-knot.com/robertandcarolineroyalwedding.

ADD ADDRESS: KEN & JOHNNIE GARDNER, 80 Travertine Drive, Pike Road, 36064, (601) 946-9135.

OCTOBER STANDBY TEAM—#2

ELDER OF THE MONTH / ON CALL: The Elder of the Month for October is ROY MULKEY. Contact information for Roy: (334) 531-5253; roymulkey43@yahoo.com.

BIBLE CLASSES:

Sundays @ 9:15 AM & Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM



October 11th
Bible Classes



A Need For An Encouraging Word

A Levite named Joseph was called Son of Encouragement by the Apostles (Acts 4:36). We know him as Barnabas. He surely was an encouragement to Paul soon after Paul obeyed the gospel when he defended Paul before the Apostles (Acts 9:27). The church in Jerusalem saw what kind of man Barnabas was and sent him to Antioch of Syria when they learned that a number of Grecian Jews had become Christians (Acts 11:20-22). When Barnabas got to Antioch he encouraged them to remain

true to the Lord (Acts 11:23). The Holy Spirit saw this encourager as one suited to mission work (Acts 13:1-2). He was a fellow laborer with Paul on the first missionary journey. WE NEED MORE ENCOURAGERS LIKE BARNABAS! Barnabas was a "Home on the Range" kind of guy -- "where seldom is heard a discouraging word". The church needs more men and women like Barnabas.

In our present day we have problems and see trouble on every hand. Evil seems to have the upper hand in every area of life. Trying to live a Christian life seems to be more and more difficult. Because of this we all need to be lifted up and encouraged by good and kind words and deeds. A word of encouragement "fitly spoken" or spoken at the right time is of great value and can mean a lot (Prov. 25:11).

In my life I have always had encouragers. What a blessing they have been! I hope you can say the same. One objective we all ought to have is to be an encourager; to bring joy to the hearts of others. It doesn't take much to lift the spirit of another. Why, even I can do it! The encouragement we give may be the very thing that keeps one faithful and helps them to continue steadfastly in serving the Lord.

Encouragers are usually positive people who see the silver lining on a dark cloud and the glass as half full, not half empty. Encouragers have the knack of turning an unfortunate situation into something good. It is one thing to tell those down in the dumps to get a ladder and climb out, but it is far better to offer an encouraging word while you lend a hand and help them to climb out! Choose to be an encourager. There are always opportunities to be a blessing in the lives of others.

— Paul Clements

Do You Like Honey?

Have you ever eaten honey? Or how about honeycomb? See, I am not a fan of either. The only way I will eat honey is if it is drizzled over a hot biscuit. But I do know, however, the sweetness that comes with honey and the honeycomb. It is something that is quite pleasant to many people, and something that would be considered a treat to eat.

I think about the book of Proverbs, and how so often, the plea for its readers is to adhere to the wisdom and the knowledge of God. To remember the advice of the Father, to apply it to our lives, so that we might be able to make the best decisions possible in the coming future. I specifically think about chapter 24 and vs. 13 - "My son, eat honey because it is good, and the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; (14) So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, and your hope will not be cut off." No one likes to put something that tastes bad in our mouths. If someone does not like broccoli, he will not seek out broccoli to eat. But honey, it is sweet, it is good to the taste (for some people), and it is something that most would seek out, in order to eat it. Well the same should be with knowledge and wisdom. It ought to be something that we hunger for. It ought to be something to strive for.



It should be something that is sweet to our lives, because we know it will better our lives. So often, people do not want help. Many people in our world today think we have it all figured out; and, "who are you to tell me that I need advice on how to deal with this or that." And yet so often, we make mistake after mistake after wrong choice after wrong choice, simply because we did not listen

to the wisdom and advice that someone has to offer. If we know that someone can help us in a situation, we ought to be people who will swallow our pride, get rid of our arrogance, and listen to the advice. Well the same is true with us spiritually. We know that the Word of God has everything that we need in order to be the best Christian that we can be (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Therefore, why would we not allow it to shape and change our lives? Why would we not allow the wisdom and the knowledge of our God, help form us into the best servants for Him? Let's be individuals who seek out the wisdom of God, and not only seek it, but then apply it to our everyday lives.

--Caleb Rutherford, *BulletinGold*

When You Are in Over Your Head

Luke 23:44-46, *Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit'." Having said this, He breathed His last.*

"He breathed His last." Those words cause one's heart to sink. When Jesus exhaled for a final time on the cross, all the minions of Hell may well have thought that the battle was over and that victory belonged to Satan their evil commander. But how wrong they were! And how horrified they must have been just a short time later! Yes, Jesus suffered and died. He was buried. But then "He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:4)! Furthermore, "He [The Father] has put all things under His feet" (v. 27)! Think for a moment about the wonderful implications of that truth that should compel us to praise, worship and live for God.

"He has put all things under His feet" (v. 27). Do you ever feel that you are in way over your head with problems? That may be the case, but Jesus is over all things. He is in Heaven, interceding on your behalf! A glorious fact is powerfully declared in Romans 8:34, "Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us." Where are your problems? "Under His feet"! Jesus is alive! He is in control! Jesus is coming again!

Beloved, is there someone in your life who is hurting, suffering, struggling? Consider sending that person a note of encouragement and be sure to use Romans 8:34 as a closing verse of hope. Letting one know that Christ is alive, above, active and working on the behalf of His people can bring a comfort and strength that nothing else can produce.

--Johnny Hester, *BulletinGold*

