



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

Phone: 334-273-0001 / Fax: 334-273-0375

Email Office: office@easternmeadows.org

Website: <https://www.easternmeadows.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EasternMeadowsChurchofChrist/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EasternMeadows>

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

November 19, 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:

Brandon Baggett,
Involvement
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!

The faithful members of the Eastern Meadows congregation never cease to amaze us. Your response to our "DO WHAT YOU CAN" effort is encouraging to us as we tread through this unusual time. We are prayerfully pleading for all things to be normal soon and you doing your part to make that happen. We are observing many good efforts in several areas with reports of more scheduled. We are three weeks in to our end of year effort. After 3 Sundays of our 5 Sunday November budget emphasis we have made great progress with 2 Sundays remaining. Remember, we are not asking you to Do What You Can't, just "DO WHAT YOU CAN" when you can. We are greatly appreciative of all you do!

—Your elders



MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY ON TUESDAY, NOV. 22ND

Next week, during the Thanksgiving Holiday, our midweek Bible Study will be held on **Tuesday, Nov. 22**, and NOT Wednesday, Nov. 23. Please make note of the change.

Budget: **\$12,000.00** Contribution, 11/15: **\$16,015.00**

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:

Special Announcement by Ted Norton. If you did not see Ted's announcement about Do What You Can, I encourage you to watch the announcement from Ted Norton for the elders. If you are a member at Eastern Meadows and on Eastern Meadows Members please listen to Ted's announcement. <https://www.facebook.com/EasternMeadowsChurchofChrist/videos/1231695693873459>. We can **appreciate the leadership from the Eastern Meadows shepherds in all matters.**

Last Sunday. Last Sunday we studied about *The Great Commission*, and sang songs about evangelism and missions. At the end of the lesson we watched a video from Vladimer Pazyi. Vlad and his family have been supported by Eastern Meadows since about 1999/2000. He preaches for the church in Kramatorsk, Ukraine. Additionally, from the 1990s, for many years Eastern Meadows was a major supporter of work in Ukraine, supporting, now deceased, Buck Hall. He started and was the first dean of the Bear Valley Bible Institute in Ukraine. We did not show the entirety of the video Vlad produced. I encourage you to watch it all. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/dianne.../videos/10218105440338670> This will take you to



Vladimer, Dima, Oksansa, and Rita Pazyi

the page (you need to be a member of Eastern Meadows Members Facebook page) and then click the arrow. Have your volume up to listen. Many thanks to Vlad for making this video!

Thanks to Tim Gotkiewicz. You may not know it, but Tim Gotkiewicz is Cecil B. DeMille incognito. Brandon, Tim, and I are making some one minute video devotionals and also some 3 minute promotional videos. Tim, has bought video editing equipment, learned to use it all, and is our videographer for these videos. If you have not seen the videos he has done for his Bible classes, go to Youtube, search for Tim Gotkiewicz and you can see them there. When you search, many of the Youtube videos are Eastern Meadows sermons, but mixed in the bunch are his classes. Hint: if he is not in the pulpit, it is probably one of his classes. By the way, I now have a nickname for Brandon, "One-take Brandon." Thanks to Tim and Brandon for their work in this.

Do What You Can. *Do What You Can* as led by the elders during November has been working! However, I wish we would all think about the question behind *Do What You Can*. I wish each person would ask "what can I do?" Ted has emphasized that we should do what we can; the elders are not asking to do what we cannot do. In the context of giving, Paul said, "For if the readiness (*willing mind* - NKJV) is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have." (2 Corinthians 8:12 ESV). And this just makes sense. A person cannot do what he cannot do. So, we need to ask ourselves "what *can* I do." But take this idea beyond the context of just giving. With all of God's work/ Good works, "what can I do." So, what can you do?

Calling All Saints

Did you know that the word "Christian" is only found two times in the entire Bible, and the plural word "Christians" is only found once? It's the truth! One reference is found in Acts 26:28, and the other reference can be located in 1 Peter 4:16. The plural form is taken from Acts 11:26 as "the disciples were first called Christians" in the city of Antioch. Despite the sparse references to this term, God's people proudly

wear this moniker as a pledge of their devotion to Jesus Christ, and rightfully so! “Christian” truly is “the honorable name” (James 2:7) by which God’s people are called, and it is the “new name that the mouth of the LORD will give” (Isaiah 62:2) that was promised long beforehand by the prophet Isaiah. If you are in Jesus Christ, then you are a Christian, and you should be proud of it! But did you know that you are something else too?

While the word “Christian” is only found a couple of times in the Bible, God’s people are referred to as “saints” in roughly 60 verses in the New Testament! But how many of us view ourselves as a saint? In truth, we probably think of a saint as someone who is near perfect in their walk with God, or perhaps a picture-perfect model of all that a Christian is to be. We might even envision a saint as some aged and mature child of God. Due to denominational doctrine, some even view saints as departed children of God who have been venerated after their death. However, being a saint doesn’t require one to be perfect, elderly, or even deceased. In fact, all saved people are “called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:2). If you are a Christian, then you are also one of God’s saints!

Being a saint is a great blessing, but it is also a great responsibility. The term “saint” translates a Greek word that is in the same family of words as the terms “sanctified” and “sanctify.” All of these words have to do with being “set apart” and being “set aside” by God. When a person gives their life to God in Biblical faith, the Lord “sets them apart” from sin and “sets them aside” for His special purposes. The fact that we are “called to be saints” (1 Corinthians 1:2) is a lofty challenge to live up to who and what we are in Jesus. God is sending out the call for His people to live like saints in a world full of sin and sinners. He is calling us to be different, to rebel against the bandwagon mentality that is so rife in our culture, and be distinct for His intended purposes. Friend, you are a Christian if you are in Christ, but you are also His saint! The challenge is ours to act like it!

– Brandon Baggett

ANNOUNCEMENTS 11/19/20

November 22, 2020 / Leading the congregation in:

Scripture Reading:

A.M.: Landon Evans

Main Prayer:

A.M.: Jimmy Mathews

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Nathan Futral

Singing:

A.M.: William Dill

Security (During Services): Tim Hatch / Security (Building Lock-up After Services): Danny Moore

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

SICK: WILMA MILLICAN is home after being in the hospital and will be scheduled for a heart procedure soon. STANFORD JONES, PHYLLIS ALLEN, and SARA BLACK NORTON 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: Congratulations to AUSTIN & LINDSAY CHANDLER in the birth of their son, BISHOP RUSS CHANDLER, on Monday, Nov. 16. Bishop weighed 6 lbs. 7 oz. and was 19.75 in. long. He is currently in the NICU with fluid in his lungs that was inhaled during the birth. MASON, ELIZABETH, and NORA are the proud big brother and sisters. RUSS & DAWN CHANDLER are the proud grandparents.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to Betty Davidson and family in the passing of her husband, GEORGE DAVIDSON, this morning. When arrangements are made they will be posted on the EM Members Facebook page and a Calling Post will be sent.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Various Issues): CARSON DAVIS, DON SIMMONS, LINDA DOBYNS, JUDY MILLER, MYRA HUGHES, BECKY TUCKER, MARY SEARIGHT, DONNIE PHILLIPS. (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, JUDY CURTIN, LEIGH BROWN. (Other) The SPIRITUALLY ILL—weak and wayward members.



NEW PRAYER REQUEST: Prayers have been requested for ORAN & JOYCE BARRY, Angie Moore's parents, who have tested positive for COVID.

THANK YOU: Dear Church Family at Eastern Meadows, Stan and I are so thankful for the cards, phone calls, and prayers received in regards to Stan's most recent surgery. We feel loved and missed. We sure miss y'all. In Christ, Stan & Shirley Jones

BIBLE CLASSES: SUNDAYS @ 9:15 AM & WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30 PM

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

NOVEMBER STANDBY TEAM—#3

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



FROM SAUL TO PAUL

The first time we read about Saul of Tarsus, he is participating in the cold blooded murder of a faithful child of God. Acts 7. One of the last things we learn about him (He is now known by his Greek name -Paul) he himself is ready to be martyred for the cause of Christ. 2 Timothy 4. What a great change in this man's life. What could bring about such a dramatic change? Let him answer for himself - "For I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. It is the power of God to salvation to every man who believes. For the Jew first and also the Greek. Romans 1:16.

—Ken Gardner

Doors in the Word of God

Doors in the Word of God can be hopeful or hopeless. Unfortunately, man sometimes closes a door against the Lord. How often do we limit God by refusing to let Him in? The rich young ruler turned away from the Lord rather than sell his possessions and give the money to the poor (Matthew 19:22). The people of Jerusalem would not get close to the very Lord who came to deliver them words of truth (Matthew 23:37). The church in Laodicea heard the Lord say, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). It is sad to think an assembly of Christians would not let the Lord inside.

Our loving Father has promised to give His children protection. The story of Noah includes, "So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in" (Genesis 7:16). Behind that door, Noah, his family and the animals he had taken in remained safe, while all other flesh died. The devil correctly charged God with putting a protective barrier around Job (Job 1:10). Even in times of temptation, He will provide a way of escape (2 Thessalonians 3:3; 2 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13).

Paul understood it is within the power of the Sovereign of the universe to give His people a door to tell the good news. God placed doors before the apostle in Ephesus and Troas (1 Corinthians 16:8-9; 2 Corinthians 2:12). Christians need to pray for contact with seeking souls today.

Each of us has an important choice to make. We can close the door against God, losing the many blessings He has promised. Or, we can obey Him and find doors closed around us to keep us safe. Additionally, those choosing God's protection must ask for open doors to tell others the Gospel. "Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had **opened the door of faith to the Gentiles**" (Acts 14:27 NKJV).

—Gary C. Hampton, *Gospel Gazette Online*