

EASTERN SHORE CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022



Minister: Bryant Evans

Associate Minister: Jeffery King

Youth Minister: Noah Evans

Minister, Awarawaunau Church of Christ in Guyana: Elvis Bernard



Thank you for joining us today at Eastern Shore Church of Christ!
Whether you are a long-time member here or a visitor, we are thrilled to have you. Please be sure to stick around following services so we can get to know you a little better, and let us know if we can do anything for you!

Elders

Sid Chupek
Scott Kelly
John Langham
Jonathan Ling

Deacons

Chad Chupek
Scott Lloyd
Peter Verrett
Jesse Olive

Sunday

Worship 10 AM
Bible Study 5 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 PM

(251) 626-7345
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Today's Sermon

Father, Forgive Them...
Luke 23:34

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Luke 23:34 ESV

**What's
Happening**

We have a wide variety of events, such as game nights, trips to various local events, singings, and devotionals for all ages.

**See more
details inside the bulletin!**

Events for this week:

Tuesday:

Men's Weekly Brown Bag Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Saturday:

Ladies Day at Scenic Hills church of Christ

"Resilience" Guest Speaker: Betty Hamblen
9 AM- Noon. Light refreshments will be served.

Area Wide Singing at ESCOC from 6-8 PM.

See Noah for details.

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Next Sunday:

Mark Your Calendar Meeting: following our evening Bible Study. Please bring finger foods and drinks.

L2L Meeting at 4:15 pm for all parents and helpers.
See Jonathan or Susan Ling for details.

L2L Bible Bowl Practice at 5:45 PM on Ezra 1, 2:61-70.

No Debt, No Sweat Seminar Pace Church of Christ

Sept. 25th- 26th, Guest Speaker: Steve Diggs
More info is on the bulletin board across from the library.

Gospel Meeting

Meridian Street Church of Christ

Sept. 25th- 29th, 6 PM nightly
(Jeffery King is the guest speaker on Tuesday, Sept. 27th)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

09/21 Mike Sanford
09/22 Rick & Sharon Hovater
09/24 Barbara Stewart
09/25 Seth Ratliff
09/26 Joy Hill
09/27 Jerry Brown
09/28 William Hill
Colby Sanford
09/29 Gerald Seales
09/30 David & Rebekah Perry



Wonderful Wednesdays

October 5th at 5:45 pm

Sign-up Sheet is on the bulletin board.

Breakfast Menu for dinner:

Sausage Breakfast Casserole
Hashbrown Casserole
Pancakes Bacon
Biscuits Sausage Gravy
Cinnamon Roll Delight
Fruit

Homecoming Day at Flomaton Church of Christ

Oct. 2nd, 11 AM and 2 PM
Guest Speaker: Billy Lambert

Gospel Meeting at Silverhill Church of Christ

Oct. 9th-12th, Guest Speaker: Jason Hilburn

Flyers for all events are on the bulletin board across from the library.

Mark Your CALENDAR

- 09/26-29 Gospel Meeting, Meridian Street church of Christ in Moss Point, MS. 6 PM nightly.
- 09/27 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- 10/04 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- 10/02 L2L Bible Bowl Practice, 5:45 PM on Ezra 3-4.
Annual Homecoming Day at Flomaton church of Christ. More info on bulletin board across from the library.
- 10/05 Wonderful Wednesday Meal, 5:45 PM. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.
- 10/11 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- 10/09 L2L Bible Bowl Practice, 5:45 PM on Ezra 5-6.
- 10/15 Ladies Monthly Bible Study, 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- 10/16 Youth Area Wide at Margaret Street.

5 Keys to Making Real Friends

By: Bryant Evans

College student Mark Zuckerberg never intended to change the world, but he did. In 2004, Zuckerberg and a small group of college buddies launched Facebook. It introduced and defined “social media” to the world. Almost everyone has heard of Facebook, and a majority have an account there. What Facebook gets wrong is its definition of a friend.

The Facebook friendship model requires only a request and approval. Someone active on its pages may develop thousands of these friends, having never even met one of them. These are hardly friends in the traditional sense. It’s better to think of them as associates, although that may be stretching it too. Examine your own friend list. I suspect associates outnumber real friends 10 to 1.

Let’s take a deep dive into how we can develop better friends.

Stop Making Friends

J. Boehm, a professional counselor, told me that he stopped making friends long ago. Now, instead of making friends, he grows friends. I think that’s a brilliant idea.

Treat friendships like flowering plants in your garden. Plant the seed, cultivate it, and watch it grow. With time the seed becomes a beautiful flower. Yet, the flower cannot be rushed into existence. The best friends take time to grow. Two of Jesus’ closest friends were James and John. They are first introduced as “*sons of thunder*” (Mark 3:17) but after months of Jesus’ cultivation, John becomes known as “*the disciple whom Jesus loved*” (John 13:23).

Stop declaring friends and invest in a few. You will be rewarded with the best friends possible.

Best Friends Come From The Best Seeds

I love to thumb through the plant and seed catalogs that fill the mailbox in late winter. Information presents the seeds best suited for your climate and soil. You pick seeds and plants that will flourish.

Choose your friends from the best stock. Look for high values of trustworthiness and loyalty. Seek seeds that will tell you the truth even when the truth hurts and may anger you.

“Lay down with dogs and you’ll get up with fleas” is the way old timers described bad associations. The inspired Scripture says, “*bad company corrupts good character*” (1 Corinthians 15:33, NIV), and, “*Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm*” (Proverbs 13:20)

Cultivate Powerful Friendships

LinkedIn is a specialized social media platform that promotes networking. I often receive requests to join someone’s network. Often, I have never heard of the person sending the invitation. These shallow associations are useless.

Alternatively, in-person networks can be priceless. These connections, cultivated through endless trials and shared struggles, are deep, lasting, and profound. But they didn’t come overnight. The best friends are those you’ve worked to build.

Buy Friendships with Gold

No, don’t try to buy your friends. They’ll soon be gone and you’ll soon be broke. It won’t work. But use gold, that is, the Golden Rule, to build better friendships

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them” (Matthew 7:12)

The power of the Golden Rule cannot be overstated. Together with the greatest command (Love the Lord your God...) and the second command (Love your neighbor...) (Matthew 22:34-40), these compose a world-changing triad. Today, it’s all about me, what I want and what I can get. But the Golden Rule shreds such attitudes and turns them upside down. The best friendships grow when we focus on the other person, not ourselves.

Few Are Better Than Many

Growing and cultivating real friendships requires hard work, and it requires time. You will end up with fewer friends but the ones you have will be far superior and far more satisfying. Aim for quality and depth in your friendships.

Jesus was surrounded by disciples from throughout Judea, Samaria, and Galilee, but his close friends were his Twelve. Even within the apostolic band, it seems that only three, Peter, James, and John, were the closest to our Lord. Truly, if you find only one great friend in life, you have found it all!

I hope you have many “friends” and followers on your social media pages because each one represents a soul that can be touched by your wise words and encouragements. But I pray that you will find a few real friends who will bless your life.

Please keep in your prayers:

Julie Doughty is having ongoing health problems (daughter of Jerry Doughty).

Richard Davis has to have dialysis three times a week.

Adam Foster is home recovering from a stroke (friend of Julie Doughty).

Ed Hudson is battling a bone marrow problem which is requiring bi-weekly platelet infusions. He may have to start chemotherapy.

Donna Ellison will start daily radiation treatment for the next 6 weeks (mother of Amanda Olive).

Please remember our friends and loved ones who are fighting cancer:

Mike Sanford, Jamie Langham, Gus Stranch (great nephew of Patti Van Iderstine), **Jeff Stewart** (friend of Jerry Doughty), **Sarah Kennedy, Jim Bose and Betty Carter** (friends of Patti Van Iderstine), **Darnell Jackson** (mother of Jaqueline King), **James Doughty** (brother of Jerry Doughty), **Angela Flit** (cousin of Dwight Isenhower), **Will Scott and Paul Thorkelson** (friends of Dwight & Julia Isenhower), **Aaron Bell** (Youth Minister of Valley View church & a friend of the Sanford's), **Wanda Bobinger** (cousin of Patti Van Iderstine), **Joe Smith** (brother of Sherran Brown), **Margaret Tucker** (Sister-In-Law of Linda Farris), **Donna Ellison** (mother of Amanda Olive), **Shea Hovater** (Sister-In-Law of Rickie & Sharon Hovater), **Will Scott** (friend of Dwight Isenhower).

Please keep our shut-ins in your prayers:

MaeBelle Perry, Lum Morrison, James & Ann Christopher, Don & Phyllis Gill, and Jane Betts.

Privileged to Serve

Greeters:	Garlin, Linda and Jeff Farris
Usher:	Peter Verrett
Building Lockup:	James Day
Treasurer Assistants:	Sid Chupek and Hunter Harp

Sunday Morning

Lord's Table (presiding):	Robert Cagle
Leading Prayer:	Sid Chupek
	Jeffery King
Leading Singing:	Caleb Ratliff
Scripture Reading:	Logan Ling

Wednesday Evening

Leading Prayer:	Garlin Farris
	William Hill
Leading Singing:	Noah Evans

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