

EASTERN SHORE CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST 8, 2021



Minister: Bryant 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!

Today's Sermon

Right Where He Left Him
Luke 15:20-24

²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:20-24 ESV

Elders

Sid Chupek
Scott Kelly
John Langham
Jonathan Ling

Deacons

Chad Chupek
Tim Kenney
Scott Lloyd

Sunday

Worship 10 AM

Bible Study 5 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 PM

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Visit us on
Facebook and
YouTube!



We will be posting pictures, announcements, and more here each week, so please check it out! If you cannot find the page, see **Bryant**.

Events for today:

Gospel Meeting at the church of Christ at

Milestone, August 8th-11th

Sunday: 10 AM, 11 AM and 6 PM; Mon-Wed: 7 PM

Guest Speaker: Larry E. Montgomery

More info is on the bulletin across from the library.

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Events for this week:

Tuesday:

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

Saturday:

Senior Dine Out, 4:30 PM at California Dreaming Restaurant in Spanish Fort.

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Next Sunday:

Area Wide Youth at Azalea City church of Christ. The van will leave the church building at 3:45 PM if you need a ride. Please see Noah Evans for details.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

08/11 Brenda Davis
08/13 Holland Chupek
TR & Marvetta Clevenger
Fred & Jackie Hicks
08/14 Nelda Sanford
08/16 Ann Christopher
08/18 Robert Jones
08/19 Cindy Hatcher
08/22 Tim & Patrice Kenney
08/23 Ricky Hovater
Jeff King
08/26 Robert & Linda Jones
08/30 Jesse Olive
08/31 Bob & Linda Ledford

If you need to reach Bryant, call him at (251) 379-0598. Do not call his home phone as it is not connected. You may try the church number but it is best to call him directly on his cell. Thanks!

If you are not receiving our email, phone or text alerts, please let Glenda know by emailing her at glenda.verrettescoc@gmail.com.

Mark Your CALENDAR



- 08/15 Youth Area Wide at Azalea City. Meet at the church building at 3:45 PM.
- 08/17 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- 08/21 Ladies Monthly Bible Study, 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a breakfast item.
Youth Game Night, 6 PM at the church building.
- 08/22 L2L Kickoff following our evening Bible Study.
- 08/24 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- 08/29 5th Sunday Friends & Family Day. Please bring a meal and drinks to share with everyone.
- 08/31 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- 09/07 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
Primetimers Bible Study, 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Open to all ages. Please bring finger foods and drinks.
- 09/09 Lunch Bunch, 11:30 AM. Location TBD. Please see Linda Farris for any questions.
- 09/11 Senior Fellowship Dinner, 4:30 PM, Location TBD.
- 09/12 Ice Cream Social to welcome our new members following our evening Bible Study.
- 09/14 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- 09/18 Ladies Monthly Bible Study, 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a breakfast item to share.

“But if not...”

By: Bryant Evans

Christians have questions. Sometimes we even question God. It would be nice if we all went around singing, “*It is well with my soul,*” but we don’t. There are profound challenges in this life, and we struggle to understand why we are facing them. Problems are for others, not for me. Why? Why is this happening to me? Why did she die; she was so good?” Life doesn’t make sense to us sometimes. Do you agree? Have you been there?

Three devout men found themselves facing an impossible choice. They could serve God or obey the king. At first, it seems an easy choice – a no-brainer. Except, the king would kill you in a most gruesome way if you did not obey him. Many would crumble in the face of such a dilemma. But these three did not.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (Daniel 3:16-18)

I’ve read this story since I was a child. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were Bible school heroes because they went into the fiery furnace and survived. They didn’t even smell like smoke! But lately, their hero status has increased because of three words, “but if not.”

These three servants of God stood before Nebuchadnezzar and staunchly proclaimed their confidence in the God of heaven. Then, after the king confronted them and threatened them with death by fire, they said: “*our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.*” They were confident in God’s ability to protect them from the fire and in his ability to defeat the king’s plans. Maybe they recalled Solomon’s proverb: “*The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will* (Proverbs 21:1). God’s mighty victory over Pharaoh, generations before, could have given them strength too.

Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we know that God can deliver us from troubles small and great. Our problem is that we assume God will always act the way we think he should! That’s the power of their next statement to Nebuchadnezzar. “*But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.*” (vs. 18). “BUT IF NOT.” If God has a different plan, we’re ok with that too. They did not doubt God’s ability to save them. Instead, they doubted their understanding of the Lord’s marvelous plans. The Lord said it this way in Isaiah 55:8: “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.* Oh, how we wish God would answer our prayers our way!

You know how this story ends. Nebuchadnezzar did not change his mind. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were bound and thrown into the deadly fire. It was then that something truly stupendous happened. The king looked into the fire saw an angel protecting the men! “Come out, come here,” he ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The men were unharmed. Not one hair was singed. God had a plan all along! By doing things God’s way, we are given a timeless story of trust and faith. Plus, Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful world ruler of his day, was humbled by God’s show of power. “*Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.” (Daniel 3:28).* God’s people gained a great victory that day, for the king issued a decree that protected the Hebrews from any assault on their worship. As for our three heroes, they were promoted to higher positions in Babylon.

God will deliver us, but if not, the end result will always be better. May we live with Habakkuk’s attitude:

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. (Habakkuk 3:17, 18)

Please keep in your prayers:

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

Ann Christopher— recovering from a stroke at Mobile Infirmary's Rehab facility in Mobile. She is in room 3819.

Isaac Evans— has a torn muscle from coughing which continues to bleed and may require surgery (son of Bryant & Bobbi).

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

Jamie Langham, Mike Sanford, Gus Stranch (great nephew of Patti Van Iderstine), **Jeff Stewart** (friend of Jerry Doughty), **Sharon Vandevender** (wife of Donna Neu's nephew), **Sarah Kennedy, Dot Oubre and Jim Bose** (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, Jim Cox and Paul Thorkelson** (friends of Dwight & Julia Isenhower), **Aaron Bell** (Youth Minister of Valley View church & a friend of the Sanford's), **Linda Widder** (Student of the Bible Correspondence Course with Madison Church of Christ), **Wanda Bobinger** (cousin of Patti Van Iderstine), **Mark Byers** (friend of Scott & Sandy Kelly), **Mary Neely Hopkins** (sister of Jamie Langham).

Please keep our shut-ins in your prayers:

MaeBelle Perry, Lum Morrison, Elizabeth Till, James & Ann Christopher, and Don & Phyllis Gill.

Privileged to Serve

Greeters:	Bill & Dianne Jones
Usher:	James Day
Building Lockup:	Peter Verrett
Treasurer Assistants:	Chad Chupek and Scott Lloyd

Sunday Morning

Lord's Table (presiding):	Jonathan Ling
Leading Prayer:	Kent Purser Chad Chupek
Leading Singing:	Noah Evans
Scripture Reading:	Andrew Ashley

Wednesday Evening

Leading Prayer:	John Langham Jonathan Ling
Leading Singing:	Logan Ling

Eastern Shore church of Christ

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