

EASTERN SHORE CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST 15, 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

The Good Use of Money Luke 16:1-13

¹⁰ "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Luke 16:10-13 ESV

Elders

Sid Chupek
Scott Kelly
John Langham
Jonathan Ling

Deacons

Chad Chupek
Scott Lloyd

Sunday

Worship 10 AM

Bible Study 5 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 PM

(251) 626-7345
1209 Daphne Ave.
P. O. Box 38
Daphne, AL 36526

office.escoc@gmail.com
www.escoc.net



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:

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.

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Events for this week:

Tuesday:

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

Saturday:

Ladies Monthly Bible Study, 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a breakfast item to share.

Youth Game Night, 6 PM at the church building. Please bring finger foods and drinks.

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Next Sunday:

Lads to Leaders Kickoff following our evening Bible Study. Please bring finger foods and drinks.

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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!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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
09/01 Ray & Beatrice Rogers
09/04 John & Jamie Langham
09/06 Bill & Dianne Jones
09/07 Scott Lloyd
09/08 Fred Hicks
09/10 Carol Jordan
09/15 Jeff & Jackie King
09/19 Tony Jackson
09/21 Mike Sanford
09/22 Rickie & 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

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



- 08/22 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 at the Lighthouse Restaurant in Bayou La Batre.
- 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.
- 09/19 Area Wide Youth at Gulf Shores, meet at the building at 3:45 PM to ride the church van.
- 09/21 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- 09/25 Youth Game Night, 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring finger foods & drinks.

“The Miracle of Life”

By: Andrew Kerr for *Gentle Reformation*

The Miraculous Conceptus

The initial, quickening, zinc-ignited, spark occurs with the fusion of the male gamete and the ovum of the female. The zygote then produces, by a process of cell division, an unformed morula. As this ball of cells multiplies further, a blastocyst is formed - its cell populations are, as yet, undifferentiated and identical to each other. Shortly after this a triple-layer of specialized embryonic tissue is detectable - from this three-tier cell sandwich of endoderm, mesoderm and ectoderm, all the essential rudimentary body structures of the human body will emerge - intestines, liver, lung, skin and nerve and other organs derive from these lines. Truly, even before considering the precious souls we have, every human frame is an anatomical miracle of divine creative genius. We are, in the words of David "fearfully and wonderfully made." Yet, to the naked eye, if visible at all, there is nothing of the aesthetic or anatomical beauty, wisdom, harmony or structure of the fully-developed, image-bearing, species-specimen to behold - life at this stage is just a seeming, jumbled, disorganized mass.

The Miraculous Cosmos

The seeming insignificant, unattractive, disorganized, unstructured, raw material of the earliest unformed human life, has a physical, cosmic, parallel in the original, *ex-nihilo* Creation of God - this is mentioned in The Origin of all things in in Genesis 1:1-2.

The way it is expressed by the Holy Spirit, through the pen of Moses to Israel, is striking and arresting - not, as yet, is their any indication that this early earth is a wonder to behold: the phrase that is used is "formless and void". As yet there was no light - all there was, in fact, was just the entirety of the stockpiled building blocks of the globe in a dark, disorganized, state. No doubt, to the penetrating gaze of the creative Agent, Divine Logos, His microscopic analysis of the glory of the case was self-evident: sub-anatomic integrity, harmony and symmetry along with laws of particle physics, chemical bonds both ionic and covalent were all sustained by His Word, in a soup of time and space, with nothing present by chance.

This was the clay that the Father-Potter would mold for, by and through the hands of His Word - for the moment, however, there was no vessel or sculpture at his wheel: the architect of the universe had the plans on His drawing board, with all building supplies at hand, but no beam or hinge, as yet, had been lovingly and skillfully positioned in the house of the earliest Earth. Nothing was wrong. Evil was absent. All was pure, if still incomplete. Yet, in the short-space of six busy days, when the Carpenter did His work, something even more amazing, and pristinely and irreducibly complex, would emerge - sky and sea, hills and lakes, continent and beach, grain and fruit, herds and flock, beast and man (its crown). Yet, even from the start, if the zenith had not been scaled, nothing jarred, at all, in the morula of muddy, unformed, earth - when the Spirit brooded over the face of the dark deep, it was a miracle of life itself.

Such considerations should help us get a handle on the sheer, invisible, goodness of the Cosmos, which is mentioned in Genesis 1:2. It also bangs a nail in the coffin of the now-unpopular, once-widespread, so-called Gap Theory (formerly popularized by Arthur Pink in His little booklet "Satan and His Gospel"). If creating a vacuum of time seems attractive to some, it is a vain enterprise designed to dig up archaeological billions of years: simply put, there is no clue in the text to give any hint of that: in other words, there was no pre-Creation lapse, or fall of a former earth, which resulted in the state described in Genesis 1:2. Only if we could dismiss an embryo as a mistake (which would be a blindness to beauty, order and wonder of the foremost rank), would it be possible to imagine that the original globe had gone to rack and ruin before the entrance of sin. It would be to call into question the goodness of God Himself, or throw doubt on the glory of God, as mirrored in Creation (it would only be a faulty, disreputable builder who would erect the world with unsafe building materials). The Bible just does not discuss the fall of the Devil at this point. All the materials used in creation of earth were without defect. All that God created is good - to be used and enjoyed with a mind, heart and soul of celebratory, humble, thanks.

The Miraculous Christ

But above all, it would be to denigrate the first-flush of incarnation, of the Most High and Most Excellent, Divine Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself. Though hidden away from our gaze, His entrance into this world stage was, with certainty, a most glory-filled, creative, act of the blessed and over-brooding Holy Spirit: it was this that united the Divine Logos to His pre-prepared holy humanity, in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Even at this earliest, embryonic, unformed state, the morula of the God-Man, was most dearly loved by the Father and to be early adored by angels. The One who was born with the purpose of bearing our sin, whose fully-formed tissues would later hang from the Tree, was, excepting, sin, made like us in every respect - this is our Great High Priest who has propitiated God's wrath (Hebrews 2:17).

The Miraculous Chant

It is this Virginal Conception of Messiah Jesus which, as a singer of the Psalms, our Lord owned for Himself, in Psalm 139:13-18: He is the antitypical Son of David, who originally wrote this Psalm, by the Spirit of Christ.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

If the Lord Jesus Christ could stand in Zion's courts and lift up His full heart, will we not bless His Name for every single, numbered, law-obeying and sin-bearing moment of His shortened three and thirty years and prolonged three dark hours? To fail to give thanks is to be blind beyond belief - all our numbered days of bliss and peace are found in union with Christ who was once, as yet, unformed for us.

The Miraculous Christian

Thus we see how this most stupendous Miracle of Life became the most wondrous Miracle of Death - all was done so that, by grace, through faith, in God-Man, once-morula, Christ Jesus, we might die and live, in, through & with Him.

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— is now home recovering (son of Bryant & Bobbi).

Shelby Davion— is in Children's Hospital in Jackson, MS with post COVID complications (granddaughter of Patti Van Iderstine's cousin).

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), **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:	Jeffrey King
	Garlin Farris
Leading Singing:	Nathan Evans
Scripture Reading:	Caleb Ratliff

Wednesday Evening

Leading Prayer:	Robert Cagle
	William Hill
Leading Singing:	Noah Evans

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