

THE MESSENGER EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH





Why Do We Have Small Group Bible Study Classes?

Small Bible study groups or Sunday School, as we refer to it, has long been the outreach arm of the church. It is how we organize to reach people of all age groups and ultimately get them to accept Christ and become a member of the Church. Sunday School was the "Front Door" for outreach. In recent years, our worship services have become another entry point, but our small group Bible study classes are still the outreach arm for our church.

It is important that we keep our Bible study classes open to new-comers. It is also important that we make outreach through our classes a priority. I remember as a child, there were businesses that could not be open and there were certain items that you could not buy on Sunday. Some businesses were closed on Sunday because of the "Blue Law". Blue Laws are history now. Most retail businesses and restaurants are now open for business on Sundays, but I wonder how many small group / Sunday School / adult Bible fellowship

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classes in our churches are actually closed on Sundays. Of course, these classes meet every week. But how open are these classes to visitors? Do these small groups welcome people into their fellowship?

Here are some ways to show visitors that your class is "open" on Sundays, and not closed to outsiders.

- 1. START TIME Are parents able to drop their children off at their classes on time? Does the adult class start on time? If your start time is 9:00, but all the members know that things don't really get going until 9:15, then your visitor (who might even arrive a few minutes early) feels like everyone knows a secret they don't. How to fix this problem? Start on time. Or at least start your fellowship on time, so that a visitor doesn't face the awkwardness of an empty room.
- **2. LEAVE EMPTY CHAIRS** For whom do you set out chairs? Leave enough empty chairs so that your visitors will feel they are expected and welcomed, not an intrusion.
- **3. NAME TAGS** Some classes laugh at the idea of wearing name tags. "We all know each other," they will say. But such a mindset betrays the fact that the class is already closed to outsiders. We don't wear name tags for each other; we wear name tags for visitors. If everyone has a name tag, then a visitor blends in better with the group. (Tip: If you are expecting a new visitor that you have invited, have their name tag already prepared before they show up!)
- **4. STAND ALONE LESSONS** Make sure that your curriculum provides a stand-alone lesson every Sunday. Don't do an intensive Discipleship course in Sunday School. (I'm all for intensive Bible studies in other venues, but if you do a study like Experiencing God in class, your visitors are automatically behind in the lessons and feel like they have to play catch-up.) I usually go through books of the Bible in Sunday School, but I make sure that each lesson is "stand-alone" in the sense that someone who has never been before can jump right in.
- **5. DON'T HAND VISITORS A FORM** Do you want them to feel like they're in a doctor's office? No... don't hand them a form. Instead, sit down with them and you fill out the form as you get to know them.
- **6. INVITE NEW PEOPLE AND INVITE VISITORS BACK** Nothing can substitute for a personal invitation. If you have a visitor, make a phone call and follow up with them and let them know they are welcome to come back.
- 7. INVITE ALL PROSPECTS AND POSSIBLE PROSPECTS TO CLASS SOCIAL EVENTS It is important to invite all prospective members to your class events. Our classes like to have social events away from the church and this is a great opportunity to include prospective members to these events.

Outreach is vital for Church Growth and our Sunday School has to be the "Outreach Arm" of our church. We all know people that we can invite, and they just might be waiting for an invitation from you to come to your class.

Dan Harrison





Sandy Harmann presents a check for \$1,218.00 to Amber Lyon of Imago Dei Church.

This donation included the total amount raised in the GA/RA Missions Walk-A-Thon.



July 8-12 | Monday - Friday

Worship Arts Camp is open to students that have completed 2nd grade through 12th grade. Campers are divided by grade levels: 2nd-5th grades, 6th grade, 7th-12th grades.

12 spaces available for early rate of \$320.

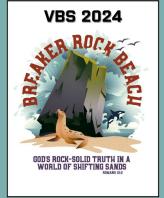
After those are filled, rate is \$340.

Register & pay \$100 deposit onrealm.org/registration events or contact Joy, 272-0604 ext.214 or joy@ehbconline.com.

\$100 scholarship available to first 10 students with "Perfect Attendance" in Choir.







Eastern Hills Baptist Church

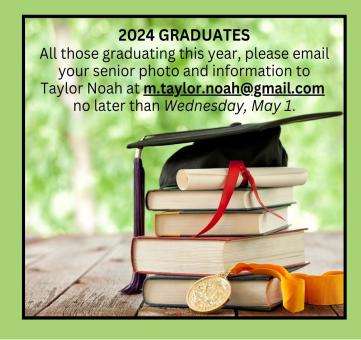
3604 Pleasant Ridge Road Montgomery, AL 36109

June 2 - 6 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Age: 4 - Sixth Grade

Scan code to register as volunteer or participant.







SENIOR ADULT LUNCH AND BINGO

Thursday, May 2 at 11:30 AM in the Reception Room, Cost: \$8.00

Hamburgers / Vicki's Lunch Van
Sign up in Sunday School or call the church office.



April 21 Children's Worship Bible Skills, Drills & Thrills

IN THE PULPIT

SUNDAY, April 21 | 10:30 AM Interim Pastor: Dr. Rob Jackson "There is Hope in God's..." I Thessalonians 2:13-20

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, April 14, 2024

SUNDAY SCHOOL

| Total In-Person | 203 |
|-----------------|-----|
| Remote | 31 |

WORSHIP

| Worship Care | 10 |
|-----------------|-----|
| Worship Service | 171 |
| Total Worship | |

SENIOR EVENTS

Tuesday, April 30, 6:00 PM - Montgomery Biscuits Baseball Game. The bus will leave the church at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$17. You can sign up & pay online, or in Sunday School and pay in the church office. Please sign up and pay for tickets no later than Wednesday, April 24.

Thursday, May 2, 11:30 AM - Lunch and Bingo to follow in the Reception Room, Lunch will be hamburgers from Vicki's Lunch Van, the cost is \$8.00 per person. Please sign up in Sunday School or call the church office.

Monday, May 6, 9:30 AM - Revive Senior Adult Evangelism Conference, Glynwood Baptist Church in Prattville, AL. The bus will leave the church at 8:30 AM. We plan to go out to lunch afterwards to a location in Prattville. Sign up online, the Realm app, or in Sunday School.



BUDGET REPORT

YTD BUDGET REPORT

| Budget Requirements | \$414,974.40 |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Budget Receipts | 351,268.23 |
| UNDER BUDGET | 63,706.17 |

WEEKLY BUDGET REPORT

April 14, 2024

| Budget Requirements | \$27,664.96 |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Budget Receipts | 13,569.00 |
| UNDER BUDGET | 14,095.96 |

DESIGNATED

Designated \$985.00

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

It is time for all children and youth to update their Church Permission/Medical Release form. You can download the form from the website, <u>easternhills.church</u>, under Children/Student Ministries. This form must be notarized.

Please complete this process as soon as possible. If you need a notary, please see Lisa Merrell in our church office.

Contact Sandy Harmann at (334) 398-2250 for questions.





THE MESSENGER

EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Messenger, Eastern Hills Baptist Church 3604 Pleasant Ridge Road, Montgomery, Alabama 36109. 334-272-0604

POSTAGE

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

9:15 AM - Sunday School 10:30 AM - Worship Service 8:30 - 10:15 AM - Library Hours

6:15 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal

TUESDAY

6:00 AM - Men's Prayer Meeting in the RR 9:00 AM - Ladies' Precepts Bible Study, Room 139 9:30 AM - WEM Bible Study in Room 154

WEDNESDAY

3:30-4:30 PM - P.A.T (Prayer Assault Team), Room 128 5:00 PM - Supper, Gym 5:45-7:15 PM - M² / Music & Missions (3 years-6th grade) 6:15 PM - ONE (7th-12th grades) in the Youth Room 6:00 PM - Adult Bible Study - Reception Room, Interim Pastor Rob Jackson ADDRESS LABEL