



## Patriotism

*"But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."*  
— Hebrews 11:16

Take a few seconds and read the above verse from Hebrews again. This may be a difficult passage to grasp on a week in which we celebrate the birth of our beloved United States. It can be downright countercultural to suggest there might be a better country than the U.S., even when that better country is Heaven. However, that idea of Heaven as the supreme nation is exactly what the author of Hebrews meant to convey, and he wasn't alone in his conviction. The Apostle Paul wrote about a greater, heavenly citizenship (Phil. 3:20) and urged us to keep our minds on things above rather than on earthly things (Col. 3:2). The Apostle Peter described Christians as a people called out as a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9). Jesus Himself told us to seek the kingdom of God above all else (Matt. 6:33).

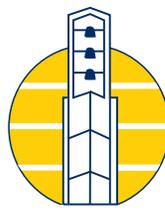
Making Heaven your primary country of allegiance can be a difficult transition in terms of patriotism. One of the reasons for this difficulty is the fact that the U.S. has a strong Christian history. It is no secret that our forefathers modeled Christian ideals in forming the nation, and those ideals have continued to be a strong influence in even the most liberal areas of the U.S. On a global scale, the Lord has used the U.S. as a great sending nation for Christian missionaries. In terms of military operations, men and women of the U.S. have sacrificed life and limb, often with the underlying conviction of Christ-honoring stewardship of this nation. These truths make it difficult to grasp what the author of Hebrews was trying to convey, that, first and foremost, we should be patriots of Heaven.

The Christian influence on the U.S. and the great sacrifice many have made for this country tend to obscure Scripture's model of patriotism. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob certainly had as much reason to love their earthly country as we do ours, but if they had not purposefully subdued earthly patriotism for the sake of Heaven they would never have been citizens of God's kingdom. If Abraham would have held on to an earthly patriotism, he never would have left his homeland of Ur and helped establish the Promised Land. If he had clung tightly to his own idea of a prosperous nation, he would not have obeyed God in offering up Isaac (who was to be the future of the nation). If Jacob had held on to an earthly patriotism, he never would have left the land of Canaan for Egypt as God intended. In other words, when the author of Hebrews said these forefathers of Israel desired a better country, he was not dismissing the fact that they loved their earthly country. The author was simply stating that these men loved their heavenly country so very much more than the land on which they

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# THE MESSSENGER

EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH



*A Sure Thing  
IN AN  
Unsure World*

Vol. 63 No. 27 / Friday, July 5, 2019

[www.EHBCOnline.com](http://www.EHBCOnline.com)

EHBC, Montgomery, AL

## Youth Choir/Mission Tour 2019 Florida • June 24-30



Youth Choir & ALUMNI for their traditional song "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel"

lived! Because they held their earthly patriotism as subordinate to their heavenly patriotism, the author of Hebrews could say with confidence that "God is not ashamed to be called their God," and, "he has prepared for them a city."

Eastern Hills, let us keep all this in mind as we prepare for the Independence Day service this Sunday morning. We want to show gratitude for our earthly country and pray for its wellbeing, but more importantly, we want to exalt Christ as supreme and turn our eyes to His heavenly kingdom, setting our minds on things above, not on earthly things. The Eastern Hills staff has carefully designed Sunday's service to do just that. So, I look forward to joining together with you this Sunday in thanksgiving for our earthly country, but, in a much greater measure, celebrating our heavenly one!

**PASTOR JOSH**

## IN THE PULPIT

A.M. "A True Patriot"

Philippians 3:17-21

P.M. No Evening Worship



**Special**  
**SUMMER EVENTS**  
**AND SERVICES**

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT**  
at Bell Road YMCA  
Goodtimes Waterpark  
Sunday, July 28  
5:30 - 7:30 PM

**PROMOTION SUNDAY**  
Sunday, August 4

## Baby Dedications

**July 14 & October 13, 2019**

If you have a baby or young child that has never been dedicated to the Lord in church, we have two dates coming up. Call Cindy Martin at 272-0604, ext. 211 to get your child on the schedule.



# Baby Bottle Boomerang

*This will be a wonderful opportunity for our EHBC Family to participate in support of the ministry of First Choice Women's Medical Center where each year over a thousand young women come for pregnancy tests and ultra sound exams. Prayer and sharing the Gospel in a non-denominational presentation is offered each patient. Other services of the ministry include Abstinence Training and Post Abortion Counseling. Nurses are on staff to provide information about the development of the babies and the health of the mothers-to-be. The ministry receives no government funding and is dependent on churches, private donations, and private grants to provide its financial life-line. JUST THINK! Your gift will help to save the life of a precious unborn baby and will help an expectant mother receive the encouragement and support she needs to cope with a crisis pregnancy.*



*Don't forget to pick up a baby bottle from the Green Ridge Welcome Center display to fill up with your donation!*

## Prayer Meeting

### "Bible Characters"

**Wednesdays at 6:00 PM • Room 150**  
Pastor Dan is leading this Study on a different character each week.

## DEMENTIA

### Caregiver Support Group

**Thursday, July 11 • 10:30 AM**  
in the Reception Room

## 6th Grade

# Mystery Trip



**Monday-Wednesday**  
**July 8-10**  
**Meet at church**  
**at 7:00 AM**

## DISCIPLESHIP

### "You & Me Forever"

**Wednesdays at 6:00 PM**  
**in Room 154**

Pastor Josh Wootton is leading this Discipleship. Books are \$10. You can purchase your book in the church office.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BIRTHDAY BOARD

Leslie Lowe, Jr. July 6 10

## Hills Kids Club ON TUESDAYS

Let us know the Thursday before the event if you are participating.

Be sure to complete the medical release form and have it notarized.

For those who have completed 1st through 6th grades.

## Biblical History Museum July 23

This really is an amazing trip. Kids will be able to submerge themselves in Biblical history as they explore life-sized homes, tombs and temples from the time of Jesus. They will be able to make bread the way Mary had to do it. They will be able to see and touch artifacts from the days of Jesus. All are welcome to go on this trip. Adults can drive their own cars. Adults are \$25 if they wish to attend with their child.

Meet at church: 8:00 AM

Return: 5:30 PM

Place: LaGrange, GA • Cost: \$10

**WHAT TO BRING:** Sack lunch, drink and souvenir money

**NOTE:** Next week is free for everyone attending today

## Swimming at the Blue Hole Cold Natural Spring July 30

Back by popular demand, we will be going to Marianna, FL to swim in the icy cold springs that bubble up from deep within the earth. The water is C-O-L-D and Fun, Fun, Fun!

Meet at church: 8:30 AM

Return: 6:30 PM

Place: Marianna, FL

Cost: \$5 (Free if you attended the Biblical History Museum)

**WHAT TO BRING:** Wear your swim suit, sun block, beach towel, permission slips, something to float on and a mask to look under the water if you like. Make sure to write your name on everything. Hotdog lunch provided.

Mark how well they swim beside their name on the permission form!

## DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, July 7

3:30 PM in Room 150

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Mondays • 5:30 PM in the gym

## SENIOR ACTIVITIES Up-coming Events

### GAME DAY

Thursday, July 18 • 11:30 AM

Pizza, Chips, Cookie & Drink • \$6

Followed by BINGO

### Chappy's Breakfast Bunch

Monday, July 29 • 8 AM

## QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, July 17

6:00 PM in the Reception Room

## FIRST STEPS

Classes Begin Sunday, August 4  
9:00 AM

*P.A.T.*

## "A Time of Prayer Growth"

Tuesday, July 9, July 16,  
July 23 and July 30

9:30 - 11:30 AM  
in the Reception Room

Everyone is invited to come!  
Sign up in the CLC Lobby or main office.  
Childcare available upon request  
to church office.

Study Guide available for \$13.  
Questions? Contact **Joan Welsch**  
at 334-220-8990 or  
email: [jwelsch68@gmail.com](mailto:jwelsch68@gmail.com)

**Kay Wilson**  
at 334-549-2545  
email: [olegunnar@msn.com](mailto:olegunnar@msn.com)

## SAFETY TRAINING

Sunday, August 4

Lunch and 2 hour Training Session

Lunch in the gym immediately  
following morning worship and a two  
hour Training Session in the Sanctuary.

**Mandatory for everyone working  
with minors aged 17 and below.**

## STUDENT LIFE

June 16 - 21



## No Wednesday Night Supper in June and July

# THE EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH MESSENGER

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The Messenger, 3604 Pleasant Ridge Road, Montgomery Alabama 36109. 334-272-0604

## FAMILY

### CONGRATULATIONS

To **Russ & Donna Morse** on the birth of their granddaughter, Hannah Margaret, born June 18. Proud parents are Edwin and Kaitlin Sides.

We gratefully acknowledge gifts to the church in *memory of*:

#### ED KITCHENS

#### DON TAYLOR

Given by: Allen & Patsy Watson

#### LACONIA PIGG

Given by: Milford & Peg White

## EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS JULY 7

**Captain: Cheryl Chappell**

**Please be in place by 10:00 am**

### 10:15 Service

Babies: Trey & Lynn Higbe

Toddlers: Horace & Polly Tillery

2's: Jeff & Morgan Hilliard

3's/4's: Donna Morse & Peggy White

## MINISTERIAL STAFF

<b>Josh Wootton</b> .....	Pastor
<b>Dan Harrison</b> .....	Ext. 219
	Associate Pastor of Senior Adult Ministries & Administration
<b>Keith Pate</b> .....	Ext. 221
	Minister of Music
<b>Greg Gosselin</b> .....	Ext. 229
	Minister of Children
<b>Scooter Kellum</b> .....	Interim Minister of Students
<b>Cindy Martin</b> .....	Ext. 211
	Pastor's Secretary
<b>Donna Brown</b> .....	Ext. 213
	Financial Secretary
<b>Marie Anderson</b> .....	Ext. 218
	Education/Youth Secretary
<b>Joy Priester</b> .....	Ext. 214
	Music Secretary
<b>Cindy Davis</b> .....	Ext. 210
	Staff Secretary and Receptionist
<b>Chad Royal</b> .....	Ext. 217
	Building Superintendent
<b>Stacy Royal</b> .....	Ext. 231
	Daycare Director

## SERVICE TEAMS THIS SUNDAY

### DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Brad Moon, Ron Myers

### COUNTING COMMITTEE

Peggy Kendrick, Barbara Parker

### GOLF CART DRIVERS

Jerry Martin, Horace Tillery

### SAFETY TEAM

Don Cluck

### OFFERTORY TEAM

Captain: Tom Peaspanen

Trey Kennedy, Mike Woodall,

Jimmy Carlisle, Mike Myrick, Dave Furst,

Mickey Golden

## ON THE GROW

Bible Study Attendance for  
June 30, 2019

	Att.
G.O.	5
Preschool & Teachers	31
Children & Teachers	35
Youth & Teachers	46
Adults	321
Homebound	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>471</b>
<b>Morning Worship Service</b>	<b>465</b>

## BUDGET REPORT

### Year to Date

Budget Requirements	\$889,587.92
Budget Receipts	851,126.73
Under Budget	38,461.19

### Weekly Budget Report

#### June 30, 2019

Budget Requirements	\$34,214.92
Budget Receipts	31,939.00
Under Budget	2,275.92

### Designated

Designated	\$1,360.00
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**TOUCH**  
**Outreach Ministries**  
Guests on Campus: 5