

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

**Wednesday Evening Class** We invite each of you to attend the mid-week Bible Study upstairs on Wednesday evening beginning at 6 p.m. We are involved in a Bible study series entitled "Authentic: Developing the Disciplines of a Sincere Faith". We encourage you to attend these vital and exciting studies!

**Church Clean-Up** We will regularly have monthly church cleanings on the last Saturday of each month, beginning at 10 a.m. However, the next cleaning day will be on December 19 because of the holiday, so be sure to attend and help!

## **HOLIDAYS IN DECEMBER:**

Christmas – December 25

New Year's Eve – December 31

## **Funnies: Things to Do on Elevator Rides...**

1. Make race car noises when anyone gets on or off.
2. Draw a little square on the floor with chalk and announce to the other passengers that this is your "personal space."
3. Grimace painfully while smacking your forehead and muttering: "Shut up, all of you just shut UP!"
4. Whistle the first seven notes of "It's a Small World" incessantly.
5. Sell Girl Scout cookies.
6. On a long ride, sway side to side at the natural frequency of the elevator.
7. Shave.
8. Crack open your briefcase or purse, and while peering inside ask: "Got enough air in there?"
9. Offer name tags to everyone getting on the elevator. Wear yours upside-down.
10. Stand silent and motionless in the corner, facing the wall. Don't get off.
11. When arriving at your floor, grunt and strain to yank the doors open, then act embarrassed when they open by themselves.
12. Lean over to another passenger and whisper: "Noogie patrol coming!"
13. Greet everyone getting on the elevator with a warm handshake and ask them to call you Admiral.
14. One word: Flatulence!
15. On the highest floor, hold the door open and demand that it stay open until you hear the penny you dropped down the shaft go "plink" at the bottom.
16. Do Tai Chi exercises.
17. Stare, grinning, at another passenger for a while, and then announce: "I've got new socks on!"
18. When at least 8 people have boarded, moan from the back: "Oh, not now, motion sickness!"
19. Meow occasionally.
20. Bet the other passengers you can fit a quarter in your nose.
21. Frown and mutter "gotta go, gotta go" then sigh and say "oops!"
22. Show other passengers a wound and ask if it looks infected.
23. Sing "Mary had a little lamb" while continually pushing buttons.
24. Holler "Chutes away!" whenever the elevator descends.
25. Walk on with a cooler that says "human head" on the side.
26. Stare at another passenger for a while, then announce "You're one of THEM!" and move to the far corner of the elevator.
27. Burp, and then say "mmmm...tasty!"
28. Leave a box between the doors.
29. Ask each passenger getting on if you can push the button for them.
30. Wear a puppet on your hand and talk to other passengers "through" it.

# Welcome to the EVERLASTING COVENANT CHURCH

600 Robert Jemison Road  
Birmingham, Alabama 35209-3008

Telephone: (205) 942-2252

Web Site: <http://eccweb.org> E-Mail: [Info@eccweb.org](mailto:Info@eccweb.org)

Follow Us:



"The Everlasting Covenant Church", Birmingham, AL

"THE\_ECC2015"



## Eric R. Agee, Jr., Pastor

December 13, 2015

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*To promote membership in the body of Christ by bringing people to Jesus, enhancing their spiritual growth towards Christian maturity, and nurturing them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world, thereby magnifying God's holy name.*

# ORDER of SERVICES

Fellowship / Refreshments – 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 10:00 A.M.

Acceptable Offerings:

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” – Romans 12:1, KJV*



## MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:45 A.M.

- Devotion ..... Deacons & Congregation
- Responsive Reading ..... Pastor & Congregation
- Selection ..... Choir & Congregation
- Announcements & Recognition of Visitors
- Tithes and Offerings ..... Deacons  
*(Visitors are NOT required to contribute - members are encouraged to do so)*
- Prayer of Thanksgiving ..... Pastor
- Selections ..... Choir & Congregation

Sermon  
Invitation to Christ



## BENEDICTION

### SERMON NOTES

Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Words of Wisdom:



## The Cracked Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master’s house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his master’s house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream.

“I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you.”  
“Why?” asked the bearer. “What are you ashamed of?”

“I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master’s house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don’t get full value from your efforts,” the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, “As we return to the master’s house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path.”

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure. The bearer said to the pot, “Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot’s side? That’s because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you’ve watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master’s table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house.”

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We’re all cracked pots. But if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Father’s table. In God’s great economy, nothing goes to waste. So as we seek ways to minister together, and as God calls you to the tasks He has appointed for you, don’t be afraid of your flaws. Acknowledge them, and allow Him to have full access to you and your flaws, so you can be the cause of beauty in His pathway. Go out boldly, knowing that in weakness we find His strength.

### RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 8 (NIV)

- 1 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.
- 2 Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
- 3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
- 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?
- 5 You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.
- 6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:
- 7 all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,
- 8 the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.
- 9 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!