

KEEP THIS DATE OPEN – MAY 18, 2014

On May 18th we will celebrate our 61st anniversary. We were known as the Eastside congregation for 59 years but in November, 2012 we held our first worship service as the South Gate congregation.

Since Elmer Lusk served as our minister for 37 years, we thought it fitting to honor him and his family. Stephen Lusk will be our speaker and Greg Lusk will lead singing. We will have a table set up with pictures and memorabilia and hopefully have some of his charts displayed in the hall.

So many lives have been touched by the Lusk family. If you have any pictures or memories you would like to share, please send them to us by May 10. You may wish to send cards care of South Gate.

In 1955 while in school at Lipscomb, Elmer began his preaching career at New Lasea Church of Christ, coming to Eastside in 1959. He served here until 1966 when he left to preach in Decatur, Alabama. The family returned in 1971 to work with our congregation and served until 1999. After he left our congregation he served as minister at Odd Fellows Hall and currently preaches at South Point.

Elmer has conducted many gospel meetings during his career. Many of you may have been baptized by him. Many couples were married by him. He's also conducted many funerals for our loved ones. When speaking at a funeral for mothers he always read a poem about them, which most of you will remember.

Other areas he has served in the community are 1) Taught Bible at Columbia Academy, 2) Refereed basketball games, 3) Umpired baseball games, and 4) Refinished furniture

He also played golf, hunted and fished with many of you. At the age of 50 he ran 50 miles on that day, running to Lewisburg and back to Columbia Academy. He continued running on a regular basis until age 65. In recent years he has sold vegetables at the Farmers Market here in Columbia. The word lazy is not in Elmer's vocabulary!

Helen has always been by his side. When Elmer began preaching at Eastside she served as secretary for many years and began our first Bible Class for babies. She currently works at Columbia Academy as Assistant to the Director of Pre School.

In 2000 Helen saved Elmer's life when he had a heart attack. She had just completed a CPR course and was able to keep him breathing until the ambulance arrived.

He was involved in a head-on automobile accident in which he was seriously injured in 2001 and was in the hospital and nursing home for several months for treatment. In the spring of 2002 he had major surgery to correct an aneurysm. During surgery he had a stroke. This hasn't stopped Elmer from doing the Lord's work. It's slowed him down a little but he still preaches on Sunday at South Point and conducts a few funerals. He and Helen attend South Gate on Wednesday evenings.

Please come join us for worship and fellowship on May 18. There will be a potluck luncheon following class and our afternoon service will be at approximately 12:30. May 16, Friday evening at 6 p.m., we will have a fish fry and fellowship at the shelter. We look forward to a great weekend in celebration of our 61st Anniversary.

____The Elders of South Gate Church of Christ