

*A monthly publication of Memorial Christian Church
in the interest of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and goodwill among His people, our friends.*

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Local Team

Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

Pastors

Gordon Addington
David Benedict
Forrest Cotter
Rick Schmeski
Bill Sites
Bruce Wolf

Deacons

James Darr
James Evans
Gene Frazier
Gene McCoy
Joey Peglar

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Ashton Schmeski

Total Announced! *by Walt McKay,* *Forward in Faith Team Director*

What an amazing adventure God has taken us on over the last few months. When I was asked to be the director of our capital campaign, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. It was so exciting to see our leadership team embrace this daunting task. I was told that if the rest of the team did their job well, they would make me look good and my job would be easy. I don't know if anything or anybody can make me look good, but I know they made my job easy. I am grateful for their hard work and dedication.

I soon learned the basic goals of this campaign: First, to reduce the amount of debt we have on our new church building. Second, and most important, to again allow God to demonstrate He is in control of our lives. He demonstrates this when we rely on Him rather than on ourselves. One way we learned to rely on Him is by giving 'not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice' — each one of us asking God if and what we can give to this campaign. Our church, with God's guidance, came through with flying colors. In just three short months our generous church family raised more than \$565,000 over the next three years! Need I remind you that this amount



\$40,854 received

was raised in the midst of our country's worst recession since the stock market crash and unemployment rates at the highest level in years? I hope and pray that each member of our congregation has been blessed by what we have learned, and by what God has accomplished through this campaign.

I don't think our journey stops here, however. As the infomercials say, "but wait, there's more!" I believe God still has some amazing blessings in store for us; more than we could ever imagine. Remember that when we put God to the test and bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, God tells us that He will pour out so much blessing we won't have enough room for it. (Malachi 3:10) So many in our congregation gave sacrificially to this campaign. And I'm confident we are not close to our final commitment total. Remember that we serve a God who is in the business of reaching seemingly impossible goals. So please, don't stop praying for this campaign. Pray specifically that God will help us reach our top goal of \$850,000. Impossible? I think not! If I remember correctly, the theme for this campaign is 'Forward in Faith.' That is exactly what we are going to do as we wait for God to show us His glory. ■

Holiday Vespers

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 23

The hour of worship by candlelight will set the scene for a meaningful celebration of Christmas. Enjoy the music, Scripture narratives, and recitations that focus attention on the significance of the season.

Invite your friends and associates to the most popular event sponsored by our congregation. Bring your visiting family members. It promises to enhance your family's holiday season.





Pastor's Pen by Bruce Wolf, Elder

For other articles and information about our congregation, go online www.memorialchristian.com

New Members

Dave & Deb Madgiak

come to us as immersed believers in Christ, having been a part of the Deer Creek congregation in suburban Chicago.

Louis & Linda Sanchez

Baptisms

Taylor Cooper Heaven Borquez-Webster

- I invite you to take a short quiz:
1. How many brass plaques in recognition of donating money to the church have you seen on pews with Jesus name on them?
 2. How many banquets were thrown to honor Jesus' community development accomplishments?
 3. How many awards ceremonies were held praising Jesus' contributions to local business growth?
 4. How many honorary degrees were bestowed on Jesus for the scholarly papers and books he published?

If you answered zero or none to each of the above, you might be a biblical scholar because you are correct in each case!

When I was a young boy of elementary school age I would bring home my report card. I was a mediocre student making an occasional "A", a "B" or two, lots of "C's", and an occasional "D". On those occasions when I brought home an especially good report card, I would get verbal praise. Other kids my age would gloat about receiving a dollar from their Dad for each "A" they brought home. Their parents rewarded them with money for making good grades. But my father never did that. He explained to me that earning good grades was my job as a student. Learning, he said, and being the best student I could be should be reward enough, in and of itself. I could never convince my dad to pay me cash for grades.

One time a few years later, my father noticed a sign on a bridge. The bridge had been named for a politician. Dad explained that placing name plaques on bridges and on government buildings was misplaced sentiment. He felt that indulging those who are elected to serve

the public was unnecessary. A public servant should not receive extra credit for doing the job they were elected to do. Dad felt that naming public structures after politicians was wrong because it was the citizens who had worked and paid the taxes that made the bridge a reality.

Dad liked people but he was not overt with praise. His heroes were often military people whom he respected for meeting the challenges of war, saving lives, and protecting the innocent from evil. He revered people such as Admirals Halsey and Nimitz and spoke

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23,24

of them respectfully. Dad served in the Navy during WW II in the Pacific theater serving with the Marines on Guam, Bougainville,

Guadalcanal, and some other places. He never talked much about his part in the war or suggested himself worthy of special recognition for serving. Dad simply went to war to do his job. Then he came home. As simple as that.

Our church is currently in the middle of a capital campaign intended to raise money to build a meeting place for Christ's church in MH. People will be asked to contribute money to this endeavor. When you give your gift there is a real good chance that you will not be recognized for it. You may not even receive a thank you note.

So what's up with that? Let me explain. Your gift is private, between you and God. We will not publish the names of who gave, or in what amounts. God already knows. That should be enough.

But if you are a person who expects a thank you card, or accolades, or some form of public recognition of your gift, you may want to reconsider your motives for giving. We belong to an organization of volunteers, contributors who freely offer their efforts to the



Pastor's Pen (continued from p. 2)

proper functioning of Christ's church. In this type of organization, no one person is of more value than another. No single volunteer's effort is of more importance than another's. And certainly no individual's worth in Christ's eyes is greater than another's.

So who shall we get to write you a Thank you note that has any real meaning? The church doesn't belong to the preachers. It isn't owned

by the elders or the deacons. The Sunday school teachers possess no stocks or bonds in MCC. Aren't thank you notes supposed to be written by the one receiving the gift? Since the church we intend to build is Christ's, you may wish to ask Him for some personal recognition.

Job was a good man, a very good and godly man. But I don't remember God's discussion with Satan including a

suggestion to send Job a thank you note for hanging tough.

Another good man, Jesus of Nazareth, did a lot of things right too. He received little praise or thanks while He was with us. Instead, mostly demands, questions, criticism.

It might turn out to be the same for you. You might not get a thank you. Don't sweat the small stuff. You'll be in excellent company. ■

Selecting a New Preacher

The Most Important Decision?

By Gene McCoy

Selecting a preacher is among the important decisions a congregation must make. It warrants the time and expense required to check references and conduct interviews, not to mention the traditional "trial sermon" exercise. The entire process should be characterized by great care and significant prayer.

But the health and prosperity of a congregation depends much more upon the selection of qualified Elders. A congregation may survive and even thrive, even though a bad choice was made in "filling the pulpit." A much

greater threat to congregational health results when an unqualified person is granted the shepherd's staff. Whereas a qualified eldership can offset the weaknesses and faults of a preacher, a preacher cannot overcome the obstacles to growth and congregational health presented by an unqualified Elder.

It is imperative, therefore, that every Christian sincerely study the Biblical standard regarding the office of Elder when recommending and selecting individuals to serve in that capacity. ■



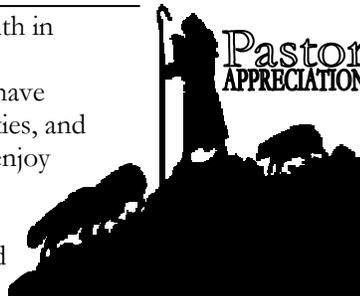
The team will be getting some practice here at home as they serve our widows. The next scheduled project is

Saturday, December 5

Meet at the church building at 8:00 a.m.

Whereas November has become the customary month in which to express appreciation to our pastors, and Whereas the pastors of Memorial Christian Church have given diligence to fulfilling their Biblical responsibilities, and Whereas the leadership of our pastors continues to enjoy the confidence of the flock, the sheep who follow, We hereby affirm our sincere appreciation for these men whose Scriptural counsel, mature judgment, and compassionate shepherding continue to guide us.

Gordon Addington, David Benedict, Forrest Cotter, Rick Schmeski, Bill Sites, Bruce Wolf



DECEMBER MEETINGS

- 1 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 2 Finance Ministry Team
- 6 Lake Area Fellowship
- 10 Ladies' Christmas Dinner Party
- 14 Willing Workers
- 15 Elders
- 17 Building Committee
- 20 Congregational Mtg.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, December 20

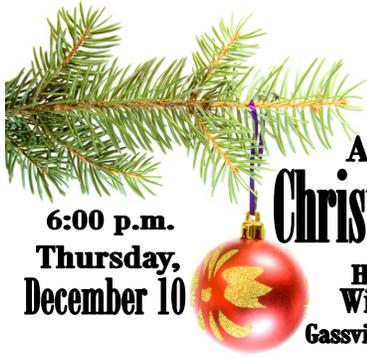
Holiday Calendar

DECEMBER

Thursday, 10
Women's Christmas Party at the Gassville Community Bldg.

Sunday, 20
Holiday Dinner & Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, 23
Holiday Vespers



6:00 p.m.
Thursday,
December 10

Annual Ladies' Christmas Dinner

Hosted by the
Willing Workers
Gassville Community Center

Bring gifts to benefit FOREVER FAMILIES, an association of several adoptive families in our area. Suggested items: 1) diapers

- 2) socks and underwear for boys and girls from age 2 to grade 8

RSVP Arlene Dixon or Fern Frazier by Nov. 29



Lake Area Fellowship

Sunday, December 6 @ 6 p.m.

SPEAKER: Steve Bond, preacher at Flippin Christian Church

MUSIC: Christmas tunes by various singers
Desserts and cornbread needed. Contact Arlene.

NOTICE

The Lord's Supper is served every Sunday regardless the weather

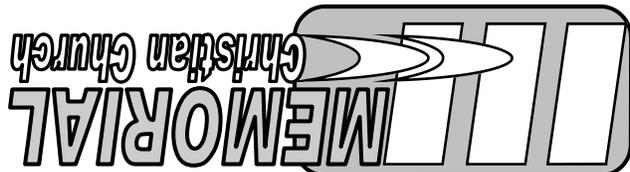
The LORD'S COMMISSION is OUR MISSION
Mathew 28:19-20

Sunday Morning 9:30 Worship
11:00 Bible Classes
Wednesday Evening 5:30 Supper
6:30 Bible Classes

Meeting Schedule

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 388 Mtn. Home, AR 72654 870-425-8323
(Located at 315 W. 6th St.)



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