

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

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**Chief Shepherd**

Jesus Christ

**Pastors**

Gordon Addington  
David Benedict  
Forrest Cotter  
Rick Schmeski  
Bruce Wolf

**Deacons**

James Darr  
James Evans  
Gene Frazier  
David Benedict  
Gene McCoy  
Eric Dwyer  
Joey Peglar

**Preacher**

Gene McCoy

**Youth Ministers**

Eric Dwyer  
Amy McKay

**Three Christmas Gifts**

Our congregation has three gifts to present to the community. Please invite your family and associates to join you for these relaxing, yet meaningful events. These could be entry points for continued fellowship and evangelistic opportunities!



This holiday treat will feature two plays, one of which was written by our resident playwright, David Benedict. Some delectable dainties will make the evening especially sweet! This is sure to become a part of your family's holiday tradition.

**Ladies' Christmas Party**  
Thursday, December 9



An evening of food and socializing that is an annual treat for our ladies and their guests.

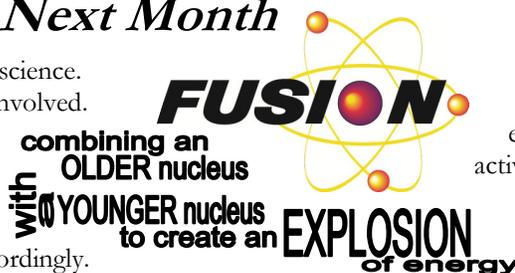


Already a favorite holiday tradition for many in the community is this reflective and very meaningful family worship service that focuses our eyes upon the Person of the season, Whose coming in flesh brought redemption, peace and hope to the world He created.

**Coming Next Month**

It isn't rocket science. But chemistry is involved. The experiment begins next month, so please arrange your calendar accordingly.

The laboratory is our church building where we propose the fusion of a nucleus possessing the properties of knowledge, wisdom and maturity with a nucleus having the properties of idealism, curiosity and unbridled



**6:00 Sunday evenings**  
**Beginning Jan. 16**

energy. What we hope to create is a family held together by the cohesive properties of mutual respect and understanding.

Success depends upon

the old and the young entering the lab to engage in unstructured activities that include card and board games, Wii competitions, and FOOD!

Our hypothesis states that this fusion will create an atmosphere conducive to introducing yet another nucleus that does not as yet possess our genetic makeup! We're talking evangelism here. Exciting! Explosive!



## Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

For other articles and information about our congregation, go online [www.ccmhar.com](http://www.ccmhar.com)



We must establish the fact that the Bible has little to say about what should comprise the corporate worship service, as we have been accustomed to calling it. We know that the early Christians gathered on the first day of the week to break bread — to recall the sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary. We know that the disciples sang a song in the upper room. Whether or not these constitute prescribed activities in which Christians are required to participate in order to have a bona fide or authorized and acceptable time of worship is a discussion for another time. Suffice it to say that apostolic precedent or practice does not necessarily constitute a command.

The same principle could be applied to prayer. Does a prayer have to include certain, specified elements in order for it to be acceptable — for God to actually hear and honor it? We have examples of prayers that praise God, others that petition Him, and still others of intercession. We are to pray to God, giving Him praise and adoration. But we are to also pray for one another. The point is that there is a horizontal as well as a vertical aspect to prayer.

All the discussions regarding the singing Christians do during their Sunday gathering, therefore, must be prefaced by the understanding that we are in the realm of opinion and not faith. Consider my opinions in this regard.

### **VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL**

The first general concern is that the songs employed

should represent both the horizontal as well as the vertical aspects of worship. Some of the songs should exhort and encourage those assembled. Some should praise and petition the Lord. Generally speaking, contemporary songs are strong on praise and adoration, but woefully lacking in exhortation and encouragement. They are overwhelmingly — almost exclusively — vertical.

### **CONTEMPORARY AND CLASSIC**

Realizing the strengths offered by each, strategically employ both styles. More on that in the next paragraph.

But notice the two categories in this heading. A classic is something that has endured the test of time. One of the characteristics of contemporary music is its brief life span. Songs that were new a decade ago have been forgotten.

One contemporary songwriter urges the use of songs with which the young adults now coming back to church may relate to their upbringing. They long for the connection, he says. The exclusion of hymns in recent years has deprived many young adults of such a heritage.

### **FAMILIAR AND EASY TO LEARN**

Be sensitive to the fact that many people sitting in the pews do not listen to contemporary Christian radio. And most are not able to easily and quickly pick up new melodies, much more the unusual harmonies and rhythms employed by the newer music. Take this into consideration when introducing new songs.

Every new and catchy song is frankly not suitable for congregational singing. Be discriminating, remembering that our worship in music ideally involves the entire congregation and is not to be a concert by performers. Be realistic, understanding that many people in the pew will not be able to sing a lot of the contemporary songs.

### **CELEBRATIVE AND MEDITATIVE**

Employ songs that help people to celebrate their salvation and their relationship to the Lord and His people. But also utilize music that evokes personal inspection and serious introspection. Lyrics that convict and that bring to mind the sacrifice of our Lord are included in the perfect song service. Use songs that are accompanied by clapping, as well as those accompanied by crying.

### **DOCTRINAL PURITY**

Catchy melodies, chord progressions, cutesy phrases, rhythmical patterns and the beat should ALL be secondary to the most important aspect of any song, which is the doctrinal accuracy of the lyric and its value with regard to instructing, exhorting and encouraging the worshiper.

### **COMPREHENSIVE CONTENT**

The absolutely perfect song service could take more time than most would allow. The songs would include testimony, praise and adoration, exhortation, thanksgiving, prayer, affirmation (of the value of the church, fellowship, etc.), celebration and dedication or consecration.

*continued on p. 4*

## Meet interesting people at church!

*Increase your appreciation for the people at church. How well do you know the people with whom you share a pew?*

### This month's questions

1. Whose husband had access to the Oval Office and awoke the president on at least one occasion?
2. Who has been employed to make canes out of tree roots?
3. Who is a son of the American Revolution?

### Answers to last month's questions

1. Who transformed a riding lawn mower into a riding leaf blower? Bud Parrish
2. Whose husband was offshore from Iwo Jima when the famous flag-raising occurred? Ruth Peebles
3. Who does not have a middle name and won a Hotpoint electric range in a nationwide contest? Joy Williams

## Missionary Travels

Immediately after our worship assembly on Sunday, January 2, five individuals from our congregation will begin their twelve-day journey to visit our ministry team in Damoh, India. Dave Bettenhausen, Norman & Kathy Lueck and Gene & Becky McCoy plan to spend several days working with and encouraging those connected with Mid-India Christian Ministries — Bethlehem, Inc. The men will accompany Jay Henry and Ernest McFarland to various villages and will also teach at the Bible college. The women will remain with Romola Henry and Numreta McFarland at the mission compound.

Our Missions Ministry Team sponsors an on-site visit to one of our

mission fields every other year. Having completed the first cycle with the visit to Papua New Guinea in October of 2009, this trip marks the beginning of the second cycle. The first team to visit Damoh, India was comprised of Hubert & Janet Pickett and Rick & Jan Schmeski in 2004.

It has been proposed that we return to Papua New Guinea for the dedication of the completed New Testament in the Tay language. This will likely occur in 2013.

Other opportunities for international travel will include visits to our ministry teams in Pakistan and Mexico. These visits encourage our missionaries and strengthen our focus on worldwide evangelism.

**Bulletin:** *Our Disaster Assistance Response Team is organizing to travel to Haiti with International Disaster Emergency Services, Inc. in April to construct houses for those displaced by the earthquake. Cost: \$1,200 Sign up to participate!*

## Generational Interaction by Eric Dwyer

I am happy to report that we had a fantastic Trunk or Treat event. We had an estimated 500 people come out to fellowship. Not only did we have a great turn out from the public, but our congregation showed up ready to help out, get creative, and have a BLAST! I saw dozens of adults having conversations and living

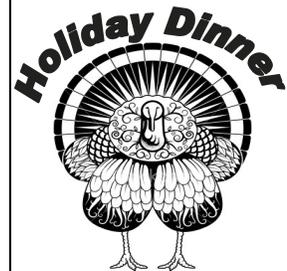
life with a younger generation. It was truly a blessing!

From last month's article you hopefully gained a better understanding of Fusion. Fusion is going to be a time on Sunday evenings when our body comes together and opens the doors of our building to youth from all over the area to create

opportunities to converse with, play with, and eat with youth who need to not only hear, but see the love of Jesus in a very real way. It won't be "just another program" if you open your eyes to see the vast need for youth to come to Christ and follow Him with their entire lives, not just their Sunday mornings. I hope you will be a part of Fusion.

## DECEMBER MEETINGS

- 1 Finance Ministry Team
- 7 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 9 Ladies' Christmas Party
- 12 Family Life Ministry Team
- 13 Willing Workers
- 14 Elders
- 19 Annual Congregational Meeting



**Congregational Meeting**  
**Sun., Dec. 19**





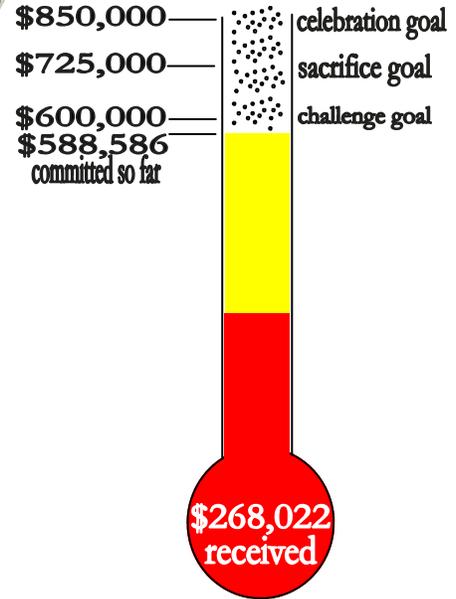
## Preacher's Pen *continued from p. 1*

At a concert by Mike Huckabee and his group, Capital Offense. I observed that the audience, comprised largely of the easy listening music crowd, was visibly enjoying the loud rock and roll music. That interested me, in light of the selfish attitudes of both young and old Christians with regard to the music styles at church. There are two reasons these old people grooved on the rock and roll music that they probably have denounced through the years. First, it was a benefit concert for an individual they know and love. Second, they share the conservative political views of Mr. Huckabee. Consider the lesson this event illustrates.

The perfect song service is one in which the participants set aside their personal preferences with regard to style because they realize worship is not about how it benefits them, but rather how it benefits the cause of the One they love. Also, the fact that we share common values and convictions, and that we share a commitment to truth and righteousness far exceeds our selfish desires with regard to styles and sounds. If worldly people can attend and applaud a concert featuring music they dislike because of their common love for another human and their affinity for a political philosophy, certainly Christians, who have been re-created in the image of our gracious and magnanimous God, can endure and even enjoy various ways of honoring Him. We won't be very effective missionaries if we don't master this!

The bottom line is that there will never be a perfect song service. But we can be perfect worshipers by keeping the focus on God, not self. 

## Forward in Faith



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

### Meeting Schedule

Wednesday Evening  
9:30 Supper  
11:00 Bible Classes

Sunday Morning  
9:30 Worship  
11:00 Bible Classes

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Formerly Memorial Christian Church  
1365 Eastside Centre Court  
Mtn. Home, AR 72653 870-425-8323

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Mountain Home

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