

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



Pastor's Pen by Bruce Wolf, Elder **The Coming Capital Campaign**

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Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

Pastors

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

Deacons

Kevin Cotter
James Darr
James Evans
Gene Frazier
Gene McCoy
Joey Peglar
Rick Schmeski

Secretary

Joy Williams

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Minister

Eric Dwyer

A few weeks ago I received a telephone call from my banker, who told me my checking account was overdrawn. After inspecting my check register, I could not find a mistake. My math was perfect and all checks were accounted for. When I asked the bank for a special statement showing all the cancelled checks to date, the mystery was revealed.

A check made payable to Memorial Christian Church had been deducted from my account, but in an amount ten times what I had intended! Although I had accurately written out the amount of money in words, I had accidentally added an extra zero to the end of the numerical amount on the *Pay to the Order of* line. The bank had cashed the check for the larger amount of money, thus crediting the

church for ten times the amount of money I had actually deducted from my account.

What to do? The bank graciously offered to notify the church to reduce my unintentionally greater offering back to the lesser figure. Upon reflection I realized that, although my account was overdrawn, at least all my checks had been paid (for a fee of course!), and no real harm had been done. In fact, instead of this being a big mistake for me, perhaps it could be a blessing to the church.

***a MISTAKE or
a BLESSING?***

I decided to view the episode as a chance to get out of my financial comfort zone and allow the greater amount to stand. I wondered if God was perhaps signaling me to step up my giving. Or perhaps

He was preparing me to be more resilient when life throws a curve ball in my direction. Perhaps He was just testing me to see if I really would put my money where my mouth is when promoting sacrificial giving. Whatever the reason, I told the bank to let the check go through for the greater amount and I would deposit money enough to cover it.

All of us at Memorial Christian will soon be asked to get out of our comfort zones to do God's work.

After much prayer and discussion, and even a vote, we all agreed that building a new structure would help us to evangelize the lost in Mountain Home. Since the beginning many in our congregation have worked diligently to make this dream a reality. And soon the reality will take shape as the **cont. on p. 3**

After 24 years! **Secretary Retires**

The retirement of Joy Williams, who has served as our church secretary since 1985, coincided with the closing of our offices at our current location. Joy's unassuming nature and kind disposition have not only been an asset to our operations, but also equipped her to work well with several staff personnel

throughout that period.

Joy was showered with cards and gifts at a dinner in her honor on Sunday, June 14. Letters of acknowledgement and appreciation from former preachers were read, and the Elders presented her with gifts, including a Branson get-a-way package and an extension of her salary. ■



Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

Additions

Rod and Maggie ALLEN

formally identified with our congregation in work and worship on Sunday, May 24.

Birth

Joey & Vanessa Peglar

welcomed

Jaxson Scott,

into the world on Sunday, May 31. He

weighed in at

7 lb. 11 oz. and

measured 20 1/2" long.

The Southeast congregation in Louisville, KY is the largest within our fellowship. Their facilities cost almost one hundred times more than our proposed building. The consultants they hired to lead them through the capital campaign gave them direction that resulted in far greater results than they would have enjoyed had they tried to raise the needed money on their own. The results were not only material in nature, helping them construct a building, but also spiritual, helping people build lives for eternity. The testimonies from the people reflect some of the spiritual benefits.

A single mother's testimony stands out as an example. She regretted her inability to participate in the capital campaign by making a financial

commitment or contribution because she was raising three teenagers on a very tight budget. But they decided

they would support it by praying every day for its success. That much of her testimony stirred the empathizing congregation. But she went on to say that one of her kids suggested that they should cancel their cable television subscription and redirect that monthly payment to the building fund. That is what they did! Every time they watched television they were reminded that the building of the Kingdom is more important than TV.

That testimony started a spirit of revival in that congregation as others began to ask what was really important to them. It spawned other testimonies from people who decided to sell their second homes, delay retirement, cancel subscriptions and memberships, and otherwise reposition their money so as to participate in the capital campaign. It is a matter of priorities. What is more important?

Even now, you are moved by that modern-day version of the widow's mite to examine your priorities — to ask what is really important to you. Like me, you are thinking of at least one way you could rearrange your financial commitments so as to participate in our capital campaign.

Maureen Hoffman was a widow in a congregation my father started when I was just a pup. Although I was very young, Mrs.

Hoffman's example of sacrificial stewardship made a lasting impression on me. It has made me a better steward of God's money. She mortgaged her house in order to make a significant contribution to the building campaign!

Others have cancelled vacations and significantly reduced the number of times they eat out. Some have asked family and friends to donate to the building fund on the occasion of their birthday or anniversary instead of buying them a gift.

Families have collected unused items around their houses and conducted yard sales, the proceeds of which have gone to the building fund. Individuals have sold collections (coins, stamps, dolls, etc.) to make a contribution to something more

Sacrifice is giving up something of value for something of greater value.

— Bob Russell (paraphrased)

important. Others have sold boats, motor homes, and property.

There are ways people may participate over the course of three years, also. Some may postpone the purchase of a boat, motor home, or car, deciding to commit that payment to something more important for the next three years. Others may take on a part-time job for the next three years, committing that income to the capital campaign.

Elderly individuals who have very little income have contributed very significant amounts to churches, colleges and charitable interests — albeit posthumously — by assigning assets in their wills.

Our current campaign is an excellent opportunity to teach our children to become faithful stewards. Their financial contributions, though comparatively small, will reap huge spiritual dividends. Teens with part time jobs should be challenged to begin the practice of sacrificial giving. They will gain satisfaction in helping construct a facility they can see and enjoy. As a student in Jr. High School I made monthly contributions to our congregation's building project from my earnings as a paper boy. That practice continued from my other part-time jobs through High School.

The bottom line is the fact that every one of us can contribute sacrificially. ■

Trustees' Report *by Gene Frazier, Trustee*

The Trustees have had plenty to do in the transition process. They have

- ◆ Arranged for E-911 address for new property: 1365 Eastside Centre Court, Mountain Home, AR 72653.
- ◆ Signed papers for closing on property on W. 6th Street, received \$480,000 minus closing costs.
- ◆ Signed title of bus over to Dayspring, Inc. as part of the property sale agreement.
- ◆ Arranged for a construction loan at First National Bank at 5 1/4% interest. During construction we will pay interest only on the amount actually borrowed.
- ◆ Obtained dumpster for the moving process.
- ◆ Secured a storage unit/small office area at 1322 Bradley Dr., Suite 4. The lease was signed for rent month-to-month, no deposit, with rent beginning July 1.
- ◆ A lease for the property at 315 W. 6th Street was prepared, signed and mailed to the new owners for their signature.
- ◆ Insurance was cancelled/rewritten giving coverage at all 3 locations and removed church bus from auto policy.
- ◆ The water deposit of \$5.00 from 1967 was transferred to the Bradley Drive location. (Deposits for rentals now are \$219.00)



Pastor's Pen, continued from p. 1

walls of the church begin to rise. All is in place to begin a successful construction project. Now it is time to "put our money where our mouth is" and actually raise the funds to complete the task.

The elders recently met with Mr. Ron Epps of Legacy Christian Church in Overland Park, Kansas, who advised us on running a successful capital stewardship campaign. He told us that an effectively run campaign should raise 2.5 to 3 times the amount of the church's annual budget over a three year period. He explained that the campaign would involve all the members of the congregation as he described the step by step procedure to follow.

But the most important feature that Mr. Epps told the Board of Elders that night was that the success of the program ultimately depended upon the **Unity of the congregation** and the **Spiritual maturity of the members**. He further stated that "high pressure" tactics to get people to donate is doomed to failure because the work of the church must always be blessed by God and that our campaign could not begin without significant time spent in **Prayer**.

As Gene McCoy states in his *Preacher's Pen* article (see p. 2), everybody can find a way to give something of significance to the

Lord in this campaign, regardless of one's financial status.

The Board of Elders is excited to be embarking on this journey of building God's church in Mountain Home with you. Now is the time to begin imagining how you will help build the church, because the campaign is scheduled to begin in August!

After my surprise at the bank, I found out that God would honor my good decisions to honor Him. I suffered embarrassment, but I still have plenty to eat, clothing to wear, and a roof over my head. God did not punish me at all. Instead, He helped me to grow in my stewardship.

I pray each day for this congregation of believers. My prayer today is that you will join me and the leadership team of this fellowship to sacrificially give when asked to do so. I pray that all will participate willingly and that you will not only meet the minimum requirements, but actually surpass what is asked of you, even to ten fold! But even more importantly, take some time to imagine the blessings God will shower upon us as we do His will in Mountain Home. Remember His words in Malachi 3:10. He promised!

A great man — my father, John Wolf — often said that no matter how hard he tried or how much he gave away, he could never out give God; that he always had extra left over.

JULY MEETINGS

- 1 Finance Ministry Team
- 6 Willing Workers
- 7 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 13 Elders
- 23 Building Committee
- 26 Missions Ministry Team

New Address Memorial Christian Church



Physical Address
1365 Eastside Centre Court

Interim offices are located at 1322 Bradley Drive, #4 in the Commercial Center located behind the 1st Assembly of God church building.



Sunday, July 5
3:00 p.m.
Old Hickory Park pavilion

BRING

- Food to complement a BBQ meal
- Homemade ice cream
- Lawn chairs

Elementary Education Coordinator
Summer Plans Unveiled by Ashton Schmeski

Summer Survival Tips
 by Eric Dwyer

Summer is here! We are getting ready for an eventful summer.

Our 5th and 6th graders are going to camp June 14th—19th and they are all very excited. Our 3rd and 4th graders leave for camp on the 13th and will be home on the 15th. The 1st and 2nd graders go on the 16th and 17th. Permission forms and medical release forms are available.

We are gearing up for Explorers, the

summer outdoor education program for elementary school aged children.



OUTDOOR SUMMER EDUCATION FOR ELEMENTARY AGED YOUNG PEOPLE

Five consecutive Fridays beginning June 26
 3:00 — 5:00 p.m.

Explorers will be conducted five consecutive Fridays beginning June 26th. It will continue through July (3, 10, 17, and 24). The curriculum will focus on Paul and the

underground church. I'm very excited about what the summer has in store for us. I know the kids

are very excited about this summer, as well.

Let me know if you would like to help out with Explorers. We are always looking for volunteers. ■

Hey, all you summer travelers! Here are four quick tips for staying cool as things heat up FAST!

First of all, never forget God is in complete control!

Second, be respectful of every person and all property. Everyone from new friends and teachers at church camp to the gas station attendants on the road need to see Christ shine through your example.

Next, remember to have fun!

And finally, do not forget to take deodorant on all your trips!

We'll see you on the road. ■

Editor's note: Is our Youth Minister old enough to remember gas station attendants?

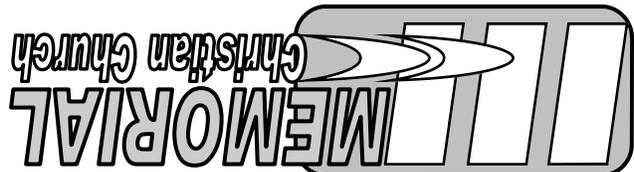
The LORD'S COMMISSION is OUR MISSION
 Mathew 28:19-20

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

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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