

*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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Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

Pastors

Gordon Addington
David Benedict
Forrest Cotter
Rick Schmeski
Bruce Wolf

Deacons

James Darr
James Evans
Gene Frazier
Gene McCoy
Joey Peglar

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Amy McKay



Thinking About . . . *by David Benedict, Elder* **Christmas** *in July*

We've had plenty of summer heat already, but right in the middle of it we want you to begin to think about Christmas. With a new building in a new location, we have a perfect opportunity this year to emphasize evangelistic outreach to our community in a fun, non-threatening way.

On the weekend of December 17, 18 and 19 the Worship Ministry and Outreach Ministry teams will coordinate "Two for Noel," a Christmas Dessert Theater presentation in our new auditorium. On this weekend, we will invite our friends and neighbors to come to our facility for an evening of two one-act plays, with a wonderful seasonal dessert for each guest to enjoy in between the two plays.

The theatrical productions will probably be "The Gift of the Magi," an enjoyable stage adaptation of the well-known short story by O. Henry, and "The Foster Father," (an original Christmas play I wrote several years ago, and which has been produced a number of times in churches and by Christian theater groups around the country). Both productions, combined with the dessert, will provide a great evening of "entertainment." At the same time we'll be sharing the Christmas message, and we will be introducing people to our new facility and to our church family (that's us, personally). We'll close each evening with an invitation for folks to come back to take part in our regular worship services and ministries. Through this special seasonal program, our

goal will be to identify new people with whom we can share the gospel.

A Challenging Outreach

A lot of effort and coordination will be needed to make "Two for Noel" a successful outreach. Our greatest need is for people to be involved.

First, we will need actors. I believe we can form a good cast for these plays from among our church people. An audition process for 10-15 roles will take place in the early fall. This time out, all the roles are for adults, not children and youth. Actors will need to commit to a regular weekly rehearsal in November and December, and the three nights of production. Watch for the details on this.

Second, we will need a stage and technical crew, people to handle props, lighting, sound and music for the productions. They will also have to commit to some rehearsals and the event.

Third, we will need a culinary team to prepare and serve the desserts. It's important for the desserts to be a special treat, and for people to be served at their tables in a professional way that gives them a great experience.

Fourth, we need a team of costumers to make costumes over the next few months. "The Foster Father" is a retelling of the biblical nativity story, and requires biblical costumes. Costumes created for this production will be kept for use in future productions and presentations.

If you have an interest in and a talent for any of these four areas, please let me know.

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**CENTRAL
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE
of the
BIBLE
DAY**

Prof. Ben Williams
preaching -- college presentation

An offering will be received for the college, which is one of our mission ministries.

Sunday, July 18

CCCB has been training servant leaders for the church since 1957. The Picketts, McCoy's and Jason Schmeski are alumni.



Pastor's Pen by Bruce Wolf, PT, Elder

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



It is Christians like Lee Belicek who make our country great. I had an electrical problem last week and needed an electrician. I called my sister, Millicent Byrd, she call the pastor - he sent Lee - my problem was taken care of at no charge. Here is a small donation for the building fund in appreciation. Thank the Lord! and thank you.

—Betty Higgins

Some of my favorite memories from my childhood are of playing catch with my father. I loved to throw and catch the baseball or football with him. Every day I anticipated the hour when he would return home from work in the late afternoon. I couldn't get enough of playing ball with my Dad even though he would usually poop out before I was ready to quit.

After I was married and started a family I reflected on those happy times and decided that if God blessed me with children, and especially if He gave me boys, I would always try to be available for them whenever they wanted to play ball. In fact, I vowed to myself that if my boys honored me with an invitation to play with them, I would always accept the invitation and I would play for as long as they wanted me to. I would go until they tired out, and I would always try to be the last man standing.

I soon realized that in order to accomplish such a feat of raising three boys who all enjoyed athletics that I would have to be healthy. For as long as the boys were under my roof, I would have to keep myself in at least fair physical condition. I came to believe that I had a responsibility to my boys; I owed them my best physical health. This meant that I would not be able to allow myself the luxury of indulging in poor nutrition, or to ignore regular exercise, or allow myself to avoid regular interaction with them by becoming a workaholic.

The boys have all grown up and are out of the house now but my thinking has not changed about maintaining good physical health. As a Christian I wonder if the principle of giving the gift of good personal health to our loved ones also applies to my brothers and sisters in Christ. As Christian's don't we owe one another our best physical health? And don't we owe God, our Heavenly Father, our best physical health too? Shouldn't Christians make honest efforts to keep their physical bodies in peak working order just as we do in the maintenance of our spiritual health? How can a Christian be his most effective in service to God if he is frequently suffering illness?

The largest health care insurer in

America, Medicare, does a periodic study of disease. The consistent finding the last few years is that fully 75% of all disease treated in the United States is self inflicted through the lifestyle choices we make. Let me repeat that: *the poor health choices we make are costing us approximately 80% more pain, suffering, lost time, and money than they have to!*

This may sound preposterous at first but think about it. Many of the chronic diseases and injuries that affect us are, to a large extent, avoidable. Obesity, heart disease, Type II diabetes, degenerative joint disease, osteoporosis, some cancers, lower back pain, common strains and sprains, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, and even

STRONG SERVANTS



depression, are in part related to poor diet, poor exercise habits, or risky behaviors that can lead to unnecessary accidents. We might also add dependencies or addictions to tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs. As Christians we should

be setting a different

example to our children, to each other, and to the culture we live in when it comes to health matters. We are first and foremost spiritually minded folks, but we should also be physically aware enough to remove the obstacle of unnecessary disease from inhibiting our witness. First Timothy 4:7, 8 tells us, "... train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things,"

If I allow myself to become vulnerable to illness through poor health choices or ignore regular preventative care, my effectiveness in ministry can be diminished. It is harder to be active in building up the body of Christ if I am frequently home sick in bed. According to the Apostle Paul, the Christian life is a race in which we are to exercise self control in order to run the race effectively, "but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9: 27.

In a perfect world we would all gladly take ownership of our health, eat right, exercise regularly, and avoid risky behaviors. Wouldn't it be nice if all we needed to deal

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Meet interesting people at church!

Increase your appreciation of the people at church. If you know an interesting fact about someone at church, please provide that information to Gene McCoy for inclusion in this monthly feature.

How well do you know the people with whom you share a pew?

This month's questions

1. Who donates hair to Locks of Love?
2. Who managed the apartment complex where Oak Ridge Boys' tenor, Joe Bonsall, lived?
3. Whose husband was off-shore from Iwo Jima when the famous flag-raising occurred?

Answers to last month's questions

Who was a Dallas cheerleader? Barbara Schulte was a cheerleader in Dallas, PA!
Who was the first Mtn. Home High School Homecoming Queen? Sissy Lieb

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The Key to Outreach

The most important key to this outreach is for our whole church family to be involved in inviting people to come to "Two for Noel." This is not for you to enjoy-- this is a way for you to minister. Of course, we hope and believe that you will enjoy and be entertained by the event, but your part is to invite and bring several someones—to this event. And here is an important point-- we need for you to commit to bringing someone who doesn't have a church home already. People from other churches are welcome, of course, but they are not our focus.

Remember that you will be inviting people to something that they will really enjoy, but at the same time they will be introduced to our church, and want to come back again.

A Final Challenge

A final challenge to meet as we prepare "Two for Noel" is that the event is not budgeted in any way. We will need to be very creative in doing this event with minimal expense. We are praying and hoping that many of you will want to provide help both by taking part in the work, and by providing even a small bit of financial support to make this outreach possible.

Why This Will Work

At Christmastime, people are looking for enjoyable ways to celebrate. People are also more open to a "church

experience" at this time of the year. If we can provide them with a fun, non-threatening involvement with our church, introducing them to our new facility and location at the same time, we may be able to use their experience to lead to further ministry.

Over the years, I have directed at least fifty (I've lost count) plays for the church. I know that a good play is a good way to present the Christian message to people, even to some who won't usually attend a church service. Our new facility will give us a great tool for use in this kind of outreach. That's why I want you to start thinking about Christmas in July.

JULY MEETINGS

- 6 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 11 Family Life Ministry Team
- 12 Willing Workers
- 13 Elders
- 22 Building Committee
- 25 Missions Ministry Team

Circle this date!



Plan to attend the official or ceremonial opening of our new building.



Volunteers are still needed to complete the crew. We set sail in one month, so please join the crew today! Contact Amy and volunteer to serve.

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with was the 25% of disease that is truly unavoidable, such as the genetic diseases, the birth defects, or the wounds of war? How much more effective could our spiritual ministry be if our physical neediness was reined in to a quarter of what it is now. Think of the resources that could be saved and turned into productive endeavors. Cleaning up our physical bodies would provide us more time, energy, and money to do the things that matter most such as caring for those among us who truly need ministered to. And doing so is scriptural; "Or do you not know that your body is a

temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20

God needs healthy, energetic, and ready to go servants, not wasteful stewards. Just as a parent owes his good health to his children so he can fully participate in their lives, we owe God our good health as an act of worship and appreciation for the physical bodies He gave us to do physical things with: Go, teach, baptize (Matthew 28: 19,20). We'll get new bodies in heaven. But until that time comes let's take better care of what we have now so we can do His work effectively.

Building Update *by Jim Darr*

The outside of the building is 90% complete. Still to be done is minor soffit work and brick work on columns for overhangs. The back filling of dirt around the building is to start so concrete pads can be poured for condensing units to sit on. Concrete for sidewalks and the drive-thru area will soon be poured.

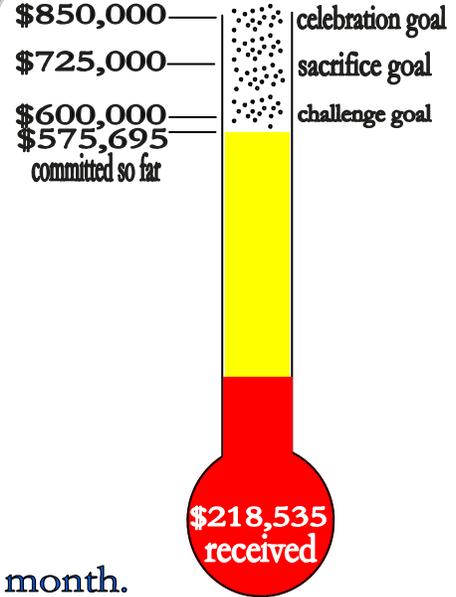
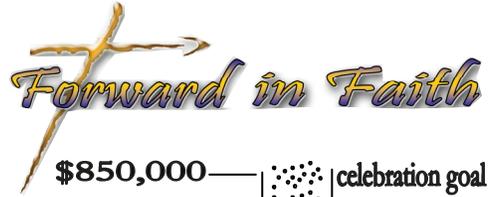
Exterior doors will be installed so the building can be secured and electric service hooked up.

Work on the inside continues as the electric, plumbing and HVAC rough-in nears completion. The inside door frames have been installed and the fire sprinkler system is being installed.

The spray in place foam insulation will start on June 28th and should be completed by July 15th, at which time the drywall will start to be installed. Sheet rock should be completed by August 11th.

If you would like to volunteer in any way to help finish the building please contact me at 870-405-9095. There is always work to do. Painting is only one of these tasks for which volunteers are needed.

See pictures of construction progress on our website.



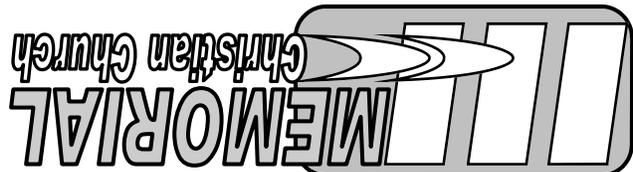
Name change proposal approved! Details next month.

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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