

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

David Benedict
Forrest Cotter Don Truitt
Rick Schmeski Bruce Wolf

Deacons

David Benedict Don Truitt
Ted Bankes James Darr
Jason Schmeski Joey Peglar
Gene Frazier Eric Dwyer

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Vanessa Peglar

Extended Ministries

Steve & Rhonda Hayward
Papua New Guinea
Brad & Linda Berg, Mexico
Saleem & Naylah Massey
Pakistan
Jay & Romola Henry, India
Ernest & Numreta
McFarland, India

Central Christian College of the Bible
Ozark Christian College
Show-Me Christian Youth Home
Christ on Campus

Shining Ministries by David Benedict

One Sunday not long ago I picked up a copy of the Christian Standard from the table in the back of our Worship Center. The bold cover headline declared, "See Ministry Shine!" That theme was sub-headed with the phrase, "The Promise of Elder Governance." Later, as I read the opening editorial and the two major articles inside, I was pleased to note that *other leaders in our brotherhood of Christian Churches were thinking about, putting into practice, and enhancing their local church ministries with ideas that our own elders and staff have been discussing for more than two years.*

Yes, we — your elders and staff — have been mulling over some changes that we believe could make our ministry better and more biblical. Here is the gist of our thinking, in very broad terms.

1. Our leaders, the elders, need to focus more on the big picture of our ministry — overall policy, outreach and pastoral care — not on day-to-day details of individual ministries. The policies created by eldership should set staff and ministry managers free to do their work within those policies. That is what the term "elder governance" means (quoted above from the Christian Standard, April 29, 2012).

2. Our way of appointing elders needs to be simplified by freeing ourselves from our formal, calendar and by-laws driven annual election, replacing it with an ongoing, year-round elder selection and approval process.

3. We believe we need to look at who is a member of the local church less formally and more biblically. Members shouldn't be determined by a list, but by their obedience to biblical teaching and their

faithful service to Christ.

The elders have not only talked among themselves, but early this year shared these concepts with a group of people in the congregation — people who to us represent a wide range of perspectives and history on our church life and ministry. After these folks had the chance to think about the ideas we gave them in writing we sat down with them in a series of face-to-face meetings and listened to what they had to say in response. While we heard some honest misgivings and a few clear objections to some points from some individuals, there was also a clear majority of support for the kind of ideas we shared. We felt encouraged to pursue the ideas.

That is why, over the coming summer months, we will try to let you all know more specifics about what we think these improvements in ministry should be and how they could be implemented. We want to give you more details leading up to a special all-church luncheon and congregational informational meeting tentatively set for Sunday, September 16.

At that meeting we would like to lay out specific proposals for the church to consider — proposals which outline the changes we believe will help us "see ministry shine" at CCMH. We will not make decisions on the proposals at that September meeting. We will supply you with the information you need on the proposals and try to answer questions so that you will have time to prayerfully consider them.

After time for discussion and prayer, we would like to hold another official congregational meeting at which we will

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Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

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

Death

We were saddened when **Jim Day** passed from this life on Sunday, July 10.

Baptism

We rejoiced that **Ivadel Cotter** was baptized into Christ on Sunday, June 17 and **Karen Erickson Blohowiak** was immersed on Tuesday, June 26.

Ohio Readers

Gene McCoy will be preaching and presenting concerts in OH.

Concerts

Thursday, July 19
The Pines Christian Church in Mt. Gilead

Friday, July 20
McElroy Road Church of Christ in Mansfield

Preaching

Sunday morning, July 22
Glen Este Christian Church in Cincinnati

Singing

Tuesday, July 24
Hillsboro Family Camp

We should not take anyone's relationship with the Lord for granted. That someone has attended church services for years is no guarantee that he is secure. A woman at your church who has volunteered for service in various ways may yet be insecure in her relationship to God. The fact is that there are probably people just like this within your circle of friends at church.

How may we explain this situation? If a person of long-standing affiliation with your congregation has any doubts about his salvation, he will not hesitate to seek counsel from his trusted friends at church. Or will he?

There may be several reasons why such a person would persist in his anxiety rather than to do that which would relieve it. Those who have traveled this road would probably testify that it is a combination of several factors.

Consider this scenario. She has been considered a member of the congregation for decades. She raised her children there. And now her grandchildren are being raised there. She and her husband have been faithful in serving and contributing to the needs of the saints, as well as sinners. Just how many people have been introduced to Jesus through their influence is impossible to count. But she does not recall being immersed into Christ. As a result, she is troubled by the realization that she has not been forgiven of her sin and been promised the eternal inheritance offered by Christ.

But she continued living in anxiety for six months or more, never discussing her situation with her family or with anyone at church. But one Sunday the preacher said something that genuinely convicted her beyond denial. Even then, however, she would have returned home in anxiety and fear had it not been for a family member who urged her to respond in faith immediately rather than to put it off. Again we ask for the explanation. Her explanation can probably be echoed by countless others in the same situation. So she granted us permission to relate her story in hopes it will encourage and instruct people to take appropriate action.

Pride is clearly a big issue. No one wants to admit to having neglected what the Bible teaches. Nor does anyone want to confess that their loved ones—especially those who are deceased—have been mistaken.

Fear is another obstacle to many. They

are afraid of what people might think or how they may respond. All of us experience a degree of fear that others will be disappointed or disillusioned if they found out we aren't what we had represented ourselves to be.

Embarrassment is a close cousin to the previous two. But added to pride and fear is the realization that I should have known this and done something about it long ago. The insidious nature of this, however, is that it becomes a greater obstacle the longer we fail to humbly submit to what we have learned to be true.

Rationalization is among Satan's favorite tools. He encourages us to think that lengthy service and faithful membership more than compensates for complying with God's directives.

In recent days we have been heartened by the humble submission to baptism by two individuals who have participated in the work and worship of the church for years. Were salvation on the basis of faithful attendance and length of service, they would have had every reason to be secure in their assurance of salvation. As it was, however, each had become convicted by the Holy Spirit through the preaching and teaching of His Word regarding baptism for the remission of sin. One had complied with the traditions of men by submitting to religious rituals that were represented as having saving value and significance. The other had no recollection of being baptized. Both decided that the obstacles that had previously held them back were not as great as honoring the will of God.

These individuals are presented as examples for all of us. Whenever we learn something new from the Bible regarding our response of faith in God, we must disregard our pride and any fear or embarrassment as we pursue His will.

No one needs to live another day in anxiety or fear. The Lord has promised to give all His grace gifts to those who display faith in His Son by repenting of sin and being immersed into Christ for the forgiveness of sin. Today you have the opportunity to live in confident assurance of your salvation based upon the faithful promise of God.

We really do mean it when we say we are prepared at any time of the day or night to assist anyone who wants to receive God's gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It is never an inconvenience to help people comply with God's will.

S.M.A.C. Slated for August by Vanessa Peglar

Thank You for not sending me hate mail at the announcement that there will not be Vacation Bible School this year! I know that everyone loves VBS. You can actually buy temporary tattoos that say "I Love VBS". My kids loved it so much that they VBS hopped to different churches last summer. And that was great! But when we really break down this outreach concept, I think it has fallen short of reaching the un-churched children of today. The words "Bible School" have not sent the masses running to our church buildings. Can you see why? We are trying a different approach.

A small committee was formed to help make decisions that keep our focus on God's glory. We agreed to try S.M.A.C, which stands for Summer Musical Arts Camp. This will be a week of teaching children the Bible, singing, acting, dance, set design, costume design, sound and lighting, etc. The camp will end with a big performance on Friday night. What is fun about this idea is that there are also a lot of behind the scene jobs. A child who is not interested in singing or acting can be active as a stage hand, painting props, working the computer, etc.

A Bible lesson relating to the story of Noah and the ark will be the focus each night. This Bible account is the foundation the whole musical show, Noah and the Arkettes, is built on.

Another unique feature of this program is that each evening will begin with a free

dinner served to our campers and their families. We hope this will give us the opportunity to have an impact upon families. We want the opportunity to love these families and children without strings attached and to get to know them all personally.

So here's the break-down:

SMAC begins Sunday, August 5, and continues each evening through Thursday, August 9. Each of these sessions begins at 5:30 p.m. with a light dinner and concludes at 8:00 p. m. The camp concludes with a performance at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, August 10, to which everyone in the church and community is invited.

Children in grades 4-6 may participate. The children must pre-register because space will be limited. Areas of performance include singing, acting, and dance worship. Behind the scenes roles include costumes, set designs, sound, lighting, computer, stage hands, program design, and directing. Bible instruction in a class setting is the central feature in which every child will participate.

We need you to make it happen. If you can read, we can use you. If you can sing, act, or dance, please sign up to help. If you like cooking for a crowd, or assisting those who do, we need you, too. Are you crafty or artistic? We need you. Remember the parable of the talents? This is your chance to make an eternal impact for the Kingdom! Don't miss out! For more information, call me at 870-404-2773.



JULY MEETINGS

- 3 Willing Workers
- 3 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 9 Elders
- 11 Finance Ministry Team
- 19 Property Ministry Team
- 19 Outreach Ministry Team
- 29 Lake Area Fellowship

Thank You

Thanks for all your support during Jim's illness and passing. Thanks for the wonderful meal after the service.

See you soon,
Elloise Day

Shining Ministries continued from p. 1

vote on the proposals. The vote will be needed because we expect the proposals to require some change to our by-laws. That all-church gathering is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 14.

Friends, I know this brief article probably raises more questions than it answers at this point. I know we always get a little nervous when we think about change. Don't we love the *status quo*! But let me assure you of some points. There is nothing sinister about this. Your leaders are just looking for better ways to help the congregation move into the

future and continue to reach our community with the Good News. There is nothing unbiblical about this. Your elders are not going to take any action on any level that is out of harmony with the teaching of God's Word. Feel free to seek us out and talk to us at any time. We will be giving you more information as we go through the summer.

What a privilege it is to serve you in eldership! Thanks for giving us your trust.

—David Benedict,
Chairman of Elders

Lake Area FELLOWSHIP

**Sunday, July 29
First Christian
Church
Mountain Home**



The last Sunday of July is our next opportunity to bless someone in the **Dollar Day** community whom you personally know has a legitimate need. Please submit to the Benevolence Ministry Team your nomination for the next recipient of our one dollar bills.

Dollar Day is a quarterly ministry of our congregation by which we assist individuals in the community who have a financial need. Every one dollar bill in the offering plates is given to the person in our congregation whose nominee was selected as the recipient. The money is personally delivered to the individual with our expression of concern for their need and gratitude to God for His abundant blessings we are privileged to share.

GRIEF SHARE

1:30 p.m. Tuesdays

GriefShare is for people grieving the death of a loved one. The weekly meeting helps participants face the challenges of the grieving process and facilitates a healthy recovery. The testimony of one participant is that "going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you're shivering." Contact the church office for information about GriefShare at CCMH.

take note

SMAC Summer Musical Arts Camp

Music Choreography Bible teaching

August 5-10

Toddlers — grade 6

Forward in Faith

Contact Rick & Jan Schmeski if you want to participate in the joy of victory in this capital campaign.

Not equal gifts but equal sacrifice

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| \$850 K | celebration goal |
| \$725 K | sacrifice goal |
| \$611,433 | committed |
| \$600 K | challenge goal |
| \$473,349 | received |

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

Mtn. Home, AR 72653 870-425-8323
1365 Eastside Centre Court



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