

*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
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

March 27-29

Training in Evangelism Slated

The Outreach Ministry Team has secured the services of Evangelist, Kim Mallette, who will coach us in our pursuit of becoming more effective in the matter of winning the lost to Christ and in developing disciples for service.

Kim is a graduate of Central Christian College of the Bible in Moberly, MO, where he excelled in academics as well as athletics. During his associate ministry in Keokuk, IA, the congregation grew significantly under his leadership and that of their long-time preacher, Bill Hauser, who remains in that position.

The congregation in Moberly, MO grew in numbers and maturity during Kim's preaching ministry. This pattern of growth continued in Kim's ministry in greater Fort Worth, TX, not only in the congregation where he served as the preacher, but also in his associate ministry with Rick Atchley at the large

Richland Hills Church of Christ.

Presently employed in the secular work force, Kim continues to teach, baptize, and disciple many people, modeling a great commission lifestyle for Christians in every profession.



Those who lack confidence in this essential aspect of the disciple's life will probably gain the most from the conference. Kim's personality and presentation will build confidence in you as he leads us in this practical training.

The Saturday evening and Sunday

Those who lack confidence . . . will probably gain the most from the conference.

morning segments of the conference are designed to benefit every Christian. The Friday evening and daytime segments on Saturday are designed for selected individuals and groups.

Please reserve these dates on your calendar and plan to participate. ■

Cleanup Completed!

The Great Ice Storm

Exactly three weeks after the most devastating ice storm in memory came to the region on Monday, January 26, we completed our project of clearing downed trees and limbs

from the properties of church members and the church property itself. A total of twenty-six family units were served by crews of thirty-two volunteers who gave of their time and

energy to assist in this monumental task. Included among the workers were five teens. Besides workers in the field were nine individuals

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Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

about this article

Tongue-in-cheek is a term used to refer to humor in which a statement, or an entire fictional work, is not meant to be taken seriously, but its lack of seriousness is subtle.

— Wikipedia



Convention

April 17 & 18

Russellville

Featuring Bob Russell

**other ideas*

Pro-life Church
Youth Church
Divorcee Church
12 Step Program Church
Patriotic Church
Traditional Church
Contemporary Church
Come As You Are Church

In the interest of appealing to a broader audience, thereby reaching more lost people with the gospel, our congregation will no longer be meeting as a unit. Instead, we will be fragmenting the congregation according to the various demographic and special interest groups represented. Each of these groups will form a separate congregation and a distinct identity complete with a different designation or name and its own style of worship.

Recognizing the great difficulty to mingle with people of different interests and the obstacle to evangelism that is posed by throwing cowboys and farmers into the same arena, these will be the pilot groups that will initiate our church growth strategy. Only in the musical, "Oklahoma," is it possible for the farmer and the cowboy to be friends. It is naïve to believe that the church could provide an environment for the two to get along in harmony and peace.

Therefore, we will simulate a rodeo arena for the cowboy service. The pews will be removed from the auditorium in favor of hay bales. The fiberglass baptistry will be replaced by a stock tank. Hitching posts will be installed in every parking space in our parking lot. The name of the church during that hour will be "The OK Corral." Chaps and spurs will be the acceptable fashion, but guns will have to be checked at the door. The singing, accompanied exclusively by guitar, will feature the harmonies characterized by The Sons of the Pioneers or Riders in the Sky.

Since a large percentage of our members are league bowlers, we think we can attract that crowd by introducing a Bowler's Church. The hay bales will be replaced by molded plastic seating, and the foyer area will be filled with every imaginable kind of

pinball machine and video game. The wood chips that covered the floor for Cowboy Church will be removed to reveal the hardwood "alleys."

Next to use our facilities will be the RVers Church, at which everyone will be addressed as "Good Sam." Our building will be transformed to resemble a community center, complete with shuffleboard, a snack bar, and a table laden with board games and playing cards. Round tables and folding chairs will replace the molded plastic seats from the Bowlers Church.

Sportsman Church will be the next fragment of our congregation to use our building. Congregants will don camouflage gear and may choose from various seating options. Some may want to sit in the duck blind section. Others will prefer the tree stands around the perimeter of the auditorium or the cushioned pedestal seats resembling those in a bass boat. Of course, we will retract the roof to accommodate those in this group who believe they can best worship God in the great outdoors.

Other ideas* are being developed to accommodate and attract the world, having learned that marketing and packaging are the key ingredients to evangelism. The "Go ye" of the Lord's commission to Christians has been replaced by the more effective "come ye" invitation to the worldly. We have finally come to understand that accommodation by the church is more effective than the "repent and be converted" message of the apostles. Oh that we had learned sooner that fragmenting the church is the key to growing the Kingdom and unifying God's people. And that the best way to bring sinners to Jesus is to make the church conform to our normal surrounding; that our comfort and convenience are primary requirements to be attracted to Jesus. ■

Gratitude Expressed

There are no words to express my appreciation and gratitude to the church members who literally cut my way out of the tree limbs that surrounded my house. I know that they all had their own problems at their homes. God surely was good to me! Thank you so much and may God bless each of you! Also thank you for getting the propane to keep my heater running. I have been so blessed since I joined this "family."
God Bless, Millicent Byrd

THANK YOU!!! Joyce and I were sooooo surprised when we returned home that we were "overwhelmed with joy!" We will be stating our thanksgiving to "the crew" soon. Your kindness certainly picked up our spirits equally to the labor of Christian love you demonstrated. God Bless Memorial Christian. With sincere gratitude,
Ken & Joyce Rhoads

I wish to express my appreciation for the service I received from the men of this church. I had a lot of tree damage and they worked hard to clear it for me. It gives me much pride to know my church has such kind good hearts.

Most Sincerely,
Donna Stanley

A very big thanks to all who helped clean up our yard!
Dick & Daisy Schneider

Thanks again and again for all your help and concern during our ice storm.
Ruth Peebles

Thanks to those who came and helped clear tree limbs.
Nick & Alice Wyma

Building Committee Report Jim Darr, Chmn.

The Building Committee continues its work on the design of our new building. At its February 19th meeting, Elton Roe, architect, presented an updated floor plan that included changes that were incorporated during our meeting on January 15th. These stemmed from concerns that were raised at the December 7, 2008 presentation.

The changes include a wider door into the kitchen from the dining area and the addition of a door from the kitchen to the multi-purpose area. Also, the dishwasher area was made larger, and a custodial closet was added in the kitchen area.

The stage area was increased by decreasing the size of the two baptismal dressing rooms. Folding walls were added in all the large classrooms

to provide more flexibility in size and number of classrooms. The covered passenger drop-off was extended to make it possible for two cars to unload at the same time. The roof on the east end of the building was changed to a gable to make expansion of Phase 2 easier and less expensive.

The committee is currently getting estimates on the cost of installing drainage pipe on the south side of the property under a portion of the proposed parking area. This work must be completed before excavating of soil can take place on the building site.

The committee is also securing estimates on the cost of excavating both building sites and the cost of soil test holes for both building sites.

The excavating work will begin as soon as the

weather permits, which may be as soon as early May. This work can be completed while the design phase of the building continues.

The architect will be working on the preliminary design of the heating and cooling, electrical, plumbing and lighting systems. These, along with design ideas for the exterior of the building, will be presented to the committee at our next meeting on March 19, 2009.

I will be asking all Ministry Deacons to meet with their ministry teams to gather ideas or needs related to their various ministry areas. This information will be forwarded to the Building Committee by March 19th for evaluation and possible implementation in the design of the building. ■

MARCH MEETINGS

- 2 *Willing Workers*
- 3 *Benevolence Ministry Team*
- 4 *Finance Ministry Team*
- 5 *Property Ministry Team*
- 9 *Elders*
- 19 *Building Committee*
- 27-29 *Conference on Evangelism*
- 29 *Lake Area Fellowship*

Thank You

Thank you so very much for the delicious meal you prepared for us, and for allowing us to use your community Center during this power outage. The lights and heat and being able to cook hot food during the few days we used it were a blessing. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Park Place
Apartments Residents

Ed.: We gave these neighbors free access to the Memorial Christian Center to use as a warming center and banquet facility during the week-long power outage.



Daylight Saving Time

begins Sunday, March 8. Set your clocks ahead one hour when you retire on Saturday, March 7.

All Hands NEEDED

Church Work Day
Saturday, March 21

Make up date is 4/4



Continued from p. 1

who provided meals for those who wielded the chain saws and rakes, loaded trailers, and hauled brush to the huge burn site provided by the city. One generous couple provided a meal at a local restaurant for all the workers.

Park Place, the apartment complex adjacent to the church property, was without power for several days, as were numerous families in the church. We

opened our Banquet Center for their use in preparing meals and as a warming center. Meals were also prepared and provided by our volunteer cooks.

Some of our members who had attended the Red Cross training course a few months ago served in local shelters. The Disaster Assistance Response Team (D.A.R.T.) initiated by our congregation several months ago was pressed into service and got plenty of practice. ■

Lake Area Fellowship

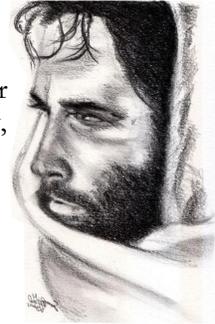
6:00 p.m. Sunday, March 29

The congregation at Flippin will host this fellowship among the three area congregations. Plan to encourage our brothers and sisters and to be encouraged by them. The church van will leave at 5:30 p.m.

Jesus

is scheduled to preach in our worship assembly on Sunday, March 15. Please invite everyone to come and hear the message of our Lord in this rare appearance.

**Memorial
Christian Church**
9:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 15



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

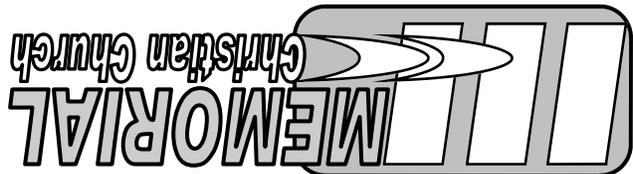
Sunday Morning 9:30 Worship
11:00 Bible Classes
Wednesday Evening 5:30 Supper
6:30 Bible Classes

Meeting Schedule

www.memorialchristian.com

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