

*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

**MSU-WP *Introducing*  
NEW! Campus Ministry**

After more than a year of planning and prayer, a campus ministry was born on the West Plains campus of Missouri State University in August of 2007. Nate Cooper, campus minister, leads this ministry under the direction of a board of directors from various area congregations.

The ministry has a close connection with the very healthy and vibrant campus work on the Springfield campus. Regular financial support presently comes from twenty-six individuals and thirteen congregations. A broader base of support is needed to retire the debt on the building, to develop the property, and to pay a full time salary by this fall.

**CHRISTIAN CAMPUS HOUSE**  
West Plains  
802 W. Main St.

**Appreciation  
BBQ**

**You're invited**  
Hamburgers, brats,  
hot dogs, & MORE

**Friday, May 15  
5:00 p.m.**

**R.S.V.P. 417.293.7662**  
nateCCH-WP@hotmail.com

**FREE!!**

This fledgling ministry is developing relationships with students through a free meal each week, small group studies, and various other activities. The mission of the ministry is "Growing to Make a Difference on Campus." Learn more at the Appreciation BBQ.

**A Groundbreaking Event!!**



**Church Picnic and GROUND BREAKING!!**  
Sunday, May 17

*Sponsored by the Family Life Ministry Team*

The 1<sup>st</sup> official or formal event at our new site!

**Meat and beverages provided  
Please bring sides and desserts**

**New Family Curriculum by Ashton Schmeski**

Imagine a Bible curriculum that sparks meaningful conversation on the way home from church and throughout the week! We now have that opportunity through a

new curriculum that gets all age groups in the church involved. It is employed in all children's and youth classes, as well as an adult Bible class. Gene's sermons are based

upon the same Scripture passage. All of us learning the same Scripture at the same time helps get the parents and children on the same page, so to speak. *continued on p. 3*



## Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

### Additions

**Elizabeth Wickser** and her daughter, **Michelle**, were immersed into Jesus for the forgiveness of sin on Tuesday, March 31. **Bryce McKay** was baptized by his father, Walt, on Sunday, April 12.

  
**Sarah Dwyer**  
**CONGRADULATIONS**  
Ozark Christian College  
Saturday, May 16

*Birth*  
**Roger & Kristina Caudill** welcomed their first child, **Jocelyn Rose**, on March 31.

Teaching his boy from Matthew 7:12, a father said, "Son, if you follow this Golden Rule, you'll live a great life for the Lord, and God will take care of you." The lesson made a lasting impression on the boy, who eventually started a chain of stores across the country known as "The Golden Rule Store." You have undoubtedly been in one of his stores that later bore his name — J.C. Penney. He treated his customers the way he wanted to be treated — with love, respect, kindness, understanding and encouragement.

This rule must be at the heart of one whose righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees (5:20). In a sense, this rule sums up the summit sermon. Jesus says it is the Law and the Prophets.

Then, as now, the most religious people violate this rule, all the while posing as leaders — experts in the law who teach others. Although they have never physically murdered anyone, they are adept at verbally assassinating a brother's character. Righteousness that surpasses that of the strict legalist extends beyond the hands to the heart. The one who lusts is just as guilty as the one who physically adulterates marriage. So you haven't divorced your spouse. Great! But are you being faithful to your spouse as you want your spouse to be faithful to you?

Many who succeed with regard to the prohibitions (e.g., "Don't break your oath.") are utter failures with regard to the positive instructions (e.g., "Simply say what you mean and mean what you say."). They have avoided all the negatives but have evaded the corresponding positives. They stubbornly refuse or neglect to reconcile with a brother with whom they are at odds. Move beyond merely withholding retribution to actually forgiving your enemies.

The context immediately preceding the "golden rule" pertains to making judgments. Who among us is innocent in this matter? We are quick to pass

judgment before we even know all the facts. The tongue is quickly engaged in setting a fire that damages and destroys without regard for others. Those who participate in this "world of iniquity" (Ja. 3:6) have obviously forgotten their pain when they were the ones whose integrity was questioned and challenged.

Those most susceptible to this sin are teachers — by virtue of the fact that they talk a lot. Anyone who assumes the responsibility that comes with being a teacher must give special heed to the stricter judgment, or greater condemnation, that ensues (Ja. 3:1).

There are simple measures we can take to practice the "golden rule." Obviously, a huge part of it involves keeping our mouth shut. Before passing judgment, we should employ the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 18 about dealing with an offending brother. That is how we want to be treated.

We should be quick to hear and slow to speak (Ja. 1:19). The "four-way test" of the Rotary International isn't inspired, but it does reflect Biblical principles.

- ◆ Is it the truth?
- ◆ Is it fair to all concerned?
- ◆ Will it build good will and better friendships?
- ◆ Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Another measure of this grace is to give the benefit of doubt. Display the mind of Christ by looking out for the interests of others and not just yourself (Phil. 2:4). Through love serve one another as you would want to be served (Gal. 5:13-14). It is interesting that the very next statement relates to the tongue. Paul warns against biting and devouring one another, lest we be consumed ourselves (v. 15).

An underlying principle Jesus taught as he sent out workers is "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8). Living the golden rule is not always easy. But it is always necessary because we teach others by our example of speech, conduct, love, faith and purity (1 Tim. 4:12).

## Ministry Team Reports

### Family Life

**Joey Peglar, Deacon**

The team is up and running, but not at full speed. Volunteers are needed to oversee the social group for those in the 40-50 age group, as well as the Hilltoppers, our seasoned saints, as we like to call them.

The young adult group, Weenagers by name, is planning a trip to Branson on Sunday, May 24. Laser tag and dinner are the two primary activities for this outing.

A BBQ and ice cream social is being planned for Sunday, July 5. The 5:00 event will be held at Hickory Park.

### Finance

**Gene Frazier, Deacon**

Securing a fundraising firm is the next goal in the process of constructing our new facility. A recommendation should be made at the next meeting of the Elders.

### Education

**Eric Dwyer**

Church camp and Christ In Youth Conference are two major summer events for which plans are underway. Registrations for both are currently being offered. The church pays half tuition for all young people in our congregation who attend Rock Garden Christian Service Camp.

### Missions

**Rick Schmeski, Deacon**

Plans are formulating for the prospective journey to Papua New Guinea this October, in which four of our members will visit Steve and Rhonda Hayward. Participants will have to raise half of their expenses, which may total \$2,500.

A representative of Mid-India Christian Mission is scheduled to make a presentation here on Sunday, May 17, regarding a capital campaign for that mission. Jay and Romola Henry and Ernest and Numreta McFarland and their family will visit us in mid-June. ■

### MAY

#### MEETINGS

- 3 "Welcome to Memorial"
- 4 Willing Workers
- 5 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 6 Finance Ministry Team
- 7 Property Ministry Team
- 11 Elders
- 16 Memorial Christian Men's Club
- 21 Building Committee
- 31 Lake Area Fellowship



**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

**Thursday, May 7**



**Reserve these dates!**

- MAY
  - 26-28 B'ball Camp
- JUNE
  - 7-12 Sr. High
  - 14-19 Intermediate
- JULY
  - 5-10 Jr. High
  - 12-15 Pee Wee
  - 16-17 1st Chance
  - 19-24 Base Camp

## Building Committee Update by Jim Darr, Chmn.

The committee met with architect Elton Roe on Thursday, April 16th. The committee reviewed the updated plans he had prepared, including changes that were made at the March 19 meeting.

The process has moved to the Construction Document Phase, so the committee is involved in the plumbing, electrical, lighting, heating /cooling plans, as well as the flooring and outside finish of the building. Different types of flooring and lighting for the multi-

purpose room are being researched. The layout of the kitchen has been finalized and commercial appliances are being considered to furnish it. Carpet will be used in all classrooms, offices and halls and vinyl tile will be used in the toddler / nursery area, dining area, and all washrooms.

Plans are to have the Construction Documents finished by the end of May, at which time we move to the Bid Specifications phase. ■

## New Family Curriculum *continued from p. 1*

The curriculum is expanded to the children's midweek format, too. Each child experiences an incredible, personal friendship with Jesus through opening

celebrations, discovery centers, and journaling. The opening celebration includes a time of worship, acting out the Bible story, and spending time in their family groups. Discovery

centers consist of relevant activities that reinforce the Bible lesson in the context of fun.

That kids really enjoy this is evidenced by the friends they have brought. ■



Sponsored by the Outreach Ministry Team

an orientation for newcomers

Memorial Christian Banquet Center noon luncheon Sunday, May 3

- Who are the leaders of this congregation?
What is our mission and message?
How do I become a part of this body of believers?
Who are our missionaries and how are they supported?
What opportunities for service are available?

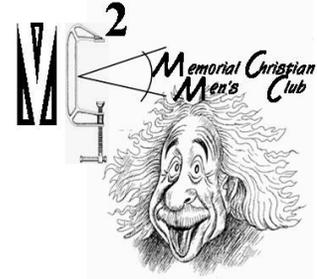
These are only some of the questions that are answered in the hour-long presentation that acquaints newcomers with our congregation.

Lake Area Fellowship

Sunday, May 31 Flippin Christian Church

More people from our congregation attended the last LAF than any in memory.

Flippin want to again host the May LAF in their multi-use facility.



Saturday, May 16 9:00 - 10:30

Memorial Christian Men's Club is a social outlet for Christian men in our community.

The program features something of interest to men in an environment of Christian fellowship.

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

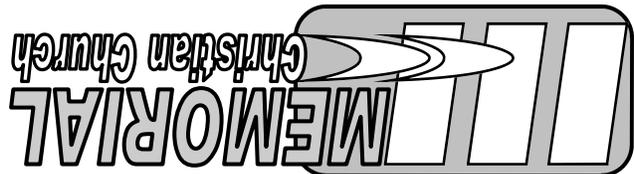
Sunday Morning 9:30 Worship 11:00 Bible Classes
Wednesday Evening 5:30 Supper 6:30 Bible Classes

Meeting Schedule

www.memorialchristian.com

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