

Contact

Volume 19

November, 2009

*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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Victory Ahead!



Sunday, November 22, is slated to be our day of celebration, as all the commitments for the three-year capital campaign are tabulated to reveal the extent to which the members and friends of the congregation are prepared to sacrifice to finance the construction of our new church building. The ten committees that have worked together over the several weeks have their objectives and are anticipating the Lord's



Letters* have been mailed to former members and friends with the invitation

to participate in continuing the gospel ministry here. The leadership team will set the pace for the congregation at the Friday, November 6, banquet, at which time they will make their financial commitments. The banquet for the

entire congregation on Sunday evening, November 15, will provide the occasion for the rest of the congregation to make financial commitments. Those who cannot attend the

banquet will be given the opportunity to participate throughout the week that follows, as the Commitment Visitation Team delivers response cards to willing individuals by appointment at their homes. ■

Local Team

Chief Shepherd

Jesus Christ

Pastors

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

Deacons

James Darr
James Evans
Gene Frazier
Gene McCoy
Joey Peglar

Preacher

Gene McCoy

Youth Ministers

Eric Dwyer
Ashton Schmeski

***Please read the inserted letter of invitation.**



Bond. Steve Bond

New Preacher at Flippin!

Congratulations to our church family in Flippin upon the news that they have hired a preacher to serve with them. In mid-November Steve Bond will be moving to Flippin from El Dorado Springs, MO, along with his wife, Tamy, and two children (Gracelyn, 10, and Nathaniel, 7).

A 1984 graduate of South Houston Bible Institute, Steve has served with congregations in Missouri, Texas, Kansas and Arkansas. Fayetteville, AR is his home town.

Steve and Tamy are both singers. Tamy is also a pianist who loves to cook and bake. She home schools their children and manages their web service

business.

Steve enjoys small communities, meeting people, reading, and eating cherry pie. His favorite Scripture is Philippians 1:21. He has already begun exploring ways to be involved in community leadership and service.

We anticipate the opportunity to hear Steve preach, to enjoy their singing, and to enjoy their fellowship in our upcoming Lake Area Fellowship meetings.

Should you want to send a card welcoming the Bond family to our area, send it in care of Park Street Christian Church, 1307 South Park St. in El Dorado Springs, MO 64744. ■



Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

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

Birth

Congratulations to **Lee & Chiaki Belicek** who welcomed **Christian** into the world on Friday, October 9.

Norm & Sharon Belicek are proud grandparents.

Baptisms

Caitlin McKenzie
Annabell Klos

Current television ads that feature celebrity and professional spokesmen tout the advantages of gold as an investment option in this volatile market. Gold has never been valued at zero, according to one ad. I suppose the same could be said of many commodities, all of which fluctuate in value.

Jesus related a story that provides the best possible investment strategy. Luke 16:1-13 records the account which, at first blush, seems to encourage unrighteousness. The manager of a rich man's wealth was called to account for his poor management. Knowing he was soon to be unemployed and on the street, the wicked servant weighed his options. He was physically incapable (unwilling?) of manual labor and too proud to beg. So he plotted a strategy to protect his long-term interests (see v. 4).

What Jesus highlights in the story is not the man's *practice*, but rather his *preparation* for the future. He quickly contacted all the debtors and drastically discounted their debt, offering them deals they couldn't refuse and that would put him in good standing with them in his imminent need. The wicked servant is praised for his shrewdness (see v. 8).

Jesus uses this example of preparation with regard to one's temporal or immediate future to teach His disciples the wisdom of making preparations for eternity. We should employ the same shrewdness in our investment for eternity as unrighteous people do in their temporal investments. What an indictment upon Christians who spend more time reading the Wall Street Journal than the Bible; who display more concern with trading stock than with nourishing the soul.

Note the eternal implications of our temporal investments, however. How

we manage material resources has an impact upon eternal returns and dividends. Jesus asks, "If you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?"

Investing in ETERNITY



The focus of our Forward in Faith campaign is eternity. Although we are being challenged to make a sacrificial commitment over the next three years to cover the construction costs for our new building, we are urged to consider the physical plant as a tool that will enhance our ministry. The building is not, therefore, an end, but rather a means. Investing finances in the building is to be viewed as investing in the future of our congregation and the eternal salvation of souls.

The banquet on November 15, to which every member and friend of the congregation is invited, presents each of us with the occasion to commit a financial investment not merely in the temporal future of our congregation, but in the eternal future of souls that will be reached through the ministries that physical plant will make possible. Rather than bricks and blocks, think of the bodies that will comprise the body of Christ inhabiting that building. We are already planning creative ways in which the new building will open doors to ministering to the spiritual needs of people and to serving our community in various ways.

Your financial contributions representing true sacrifice will be converted into eternal dividends as sinners are converted into saints. Let us look beyond the immediate sacrifices to the eternal returns on our investments. Be a shrewd steward. Prove yourself as a faithful steward of the Master's means by investing in eternity. Together let us move **FORWARD IN FAITH.**

Sunday, November 8

Newcomer Orientation Offered

Those who have begun attending our assemblies in the last few months will have the opportunity to gain a fairly comprehensive overview of the congregation and her ministries at a luncheon on Sunday, November 8.



The presentation features an introduction to the leadership team, an explanation of our approach to ministry and the various avenues of involvement. Fundamentals of the faith are also explained. Reservations are not required, but would be appreciated.

Building Committee Update by Jim Darr

The Building Committee opened bids publicly on September 29, 2009 for a Guaranteed Cost Plus contract to build the new church building. A total of four bids were received ranging from \$1,700,000 dollars to \$1,501,268 dollars.

The lowest qualified bidder was Americom Construction of Mountain Home. with a bid of \$1,501,268. After negotiating with Perry McDonald, president of Americom, on various aspects of his bid and having attorney, Ted Sanders, look over the contract for anything that

might raise a red flag, the contract was awarded to Americom Construction. The terms stipulate a starting date of October 6, 2009 and substantial completion in 270 working days.

The committee decided to require the contractor to purchase a performance bond to cover completion on work.

Electric service for the construction phase of the new building has been set up. A temporary pole and meter will be set in the area of the transformer. The contractor (Perry McDonald) and the owner's representative

(Jim Darr) will submit all change orders.

Anyone visiting the construction site who sees something that raises a question or concern should contact me so I can discuss it with the contractor.

The next thing to take place will be the setting of all plumbing that will go in the slab when it is poured. The footings will be dug and poured and then the slab will be poured. After letting the concrete cure for one week the building will start to rise out of the ground. This will be an exciting time for us all.

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

- 1 PNG Mission Trip Report
- 2 Willing Workers
- 3 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 4 Finance Ministry Team
- 8 Welcome to Memorial
- 9 Elders
- 18 Ingathering
- 19 Building Committee



- November**
- 6 Advance Commitment Dinner
 - 15 All-Church Banquet
 - 16 Commitment Visitation Week

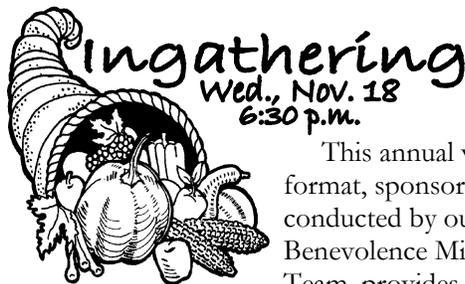
Holiday Calendar

NOVEMBER
Ingathering Worship
Wednesday, 18

DECEMBER
Thursday, 10
Women's Christmas Party at the Gassville Community Bldg.

Sunday, 20
Holiday Dinner & Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, 23
Holiday Vespers



This annual worship format, sponsored and conducted by our Benevolence Ministry Team, provides us with the opportunity to not only share our material wealth but also to bear testimony in various ways to the goodness and faithfulness of God. Everyone is invited to this celebration of thanksgiving that features singing, the reading of Scripture, prayers, and testimonies.

**Not on Christmas Eve
Holiday Vespers**

Various considerations have prompted us to experiment by breaking the tradition of having a worship by candlelight on Christmas Eve. This year the popular event will be at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening, December 23. We may return to a Christmas Eve format when we occupy our new building.

PNG Mission Trip Report



Hubert and Janet Pickett and Gene and Becky McCoy will be reporting on their recent visit to our ministry in Papua New Guinea on Sunday, November 1, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The presentation, which will include many pictures and interesting stories relating to the travel and the ministry, will be made in the main auditorium. Everyone is invited.

Representing our congregation at this year's National Missionary Convention in Peoria, IL will be Rick & Jan Schmeski and Gene & Becky McCoy.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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Memorial Christian Church

P.O. Box 388 Mountain Home, AR 72654

October 20, 2009

Dear Friend,

Our congregation has embarked upon an exciting and challenging course that will result in the relocation of our physical plant. Construction has just begun on the facility that will house all of our operations under one roof and on one level. The prime location is highly visible and very accessible, being just one block off of Hwy. 62 B in the vicinity of the Chevrolet dealership and Pizza Hut.

The leaders of the congregation will be making their financial commitments on November 6. The balance of the congregation will then be challenged by that example of sacrificial stewardship to participate.

As a tangible reminder and demonstration that this new building is merely a tool to fulfilling the Lord's commission, and in keeping with our commitment to worldwide evangelism, we will be funding the construction of a church building in India at the same time we construct our facilities. Participation in the capital campaign of Mid-India Christian Mission will be funded through our Missions Ministry Team, which will receive 25% of all undesignated funds received in 2010.

As a former member and / or friend of the congregation, you are now being offered the opportunity to participate in the progress of the gospel in Mtn. Home. Please consider making a financial contribution toward this lofty goal. You may choose to make a one-time contribution sometime during the three-year campaign. Or you may wish to contribute installments, whether they be monthly, quarterly, or annually. Communicating your intention to us by November 15 will allow us to include it in our totals to be announced on November 22.

This invitation and challenge is extended with no intention or desire to take away from your support of the local congregation where you now serve. Whether you choose to participate in a financial manner or not, please pray for us as we proceed.

Happy In Serving,

Gene McCoy, Preacher
Kathy Lueck, Advance Commitments Team Leader

Partner Ministries

Central Christian College
of the Bible
Moberly, MO

Ozark Christian College
Joplin, MO

Show-Me Christian
Youth Homes
LaMonte, MO

Chief Shepherd
(Sr. Pastor)
Jesus Christ

Pastors

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

Ministry Staff

Jay Henry Family
Damoh, India
Saleem Massey Family
Lahore, Pakistan
Ernest McFarland
Family
Damoh, India
Steve Hayward Family
Papua New Guinea
Brad Berg Family
Quemado, TX
Piedras Negras,
Mexico
Mike Armstrong
Univ. of Arkansas
Fayetteville
Gene McCoy and
Eric Dwyer
Mtn. Home, AR

Deacons

Joey Peglar
Gene McCoy
James Evans
Eric Dwyer
Gene Frazier
James Darr

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www.memorialchristian.com