

*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
Forrest Cotter
Bill Sites
Bruce Wolf

Deacons

Kevin Cotter
James Darr
James Evans
Gene Frazier
Gene McCoy
Dave McQueen
Joey Peglar
Hubert Pickett

Secretary

Joy Williams

Preachers

Gene McCoy
Titus Neuenschwander

***Holiday Vespers* worship by candlelight**

**Monday, December 24
6:00 p.m.**



This traditional and very popular holiday event features music, visual images, and messages that bring into focus the significance of the seasonal celebration. The lights that encircle the auditorium represent the Light of the World, Who has come into the world to enlighten every man with truth and

grace. The singing of the carols heralds the birth of life and liberty in all who have given Him residence.

This is an event to which you are urged to invite your associates. Some who are now Christians were introduced to our congregation through this annual event.

Contentment

“Ill Be Happy When (If) . . .” *by Walt McKay*

I will be happy if... How many of us have heard our friends or family begin this statement? Maybe you have even started this sentence before. Now the list is endless of how this statement could end. How about a new house? A new car? A million dollars? How about if I just felt better or had more time, then I would be happy.

In my line of work as a marriage and family therapist, I even hear individuals who tell me that if they had a different child or spouse, now that would make them happy. The interesting test is to see these individuals five

to ten years after they receive their new car, house, or yes even a new spouse.

You don't have to be a professional to assume that these individuals who were unhappy before were even more unhappy after they received their new prize. Five years after a divorce 85% of couples rate their new marriage more unhappy than the marriage they wanted out of. The majority of people who have won the lottery have squandered their money within five years.

It seems to me that this type of idolatry is one of the devil's most powerful tactics. Scripture

tells us that the devil comes to lie, to steal and to destroy. What a powerful and effective lie this is. This lie is a successful strategy to lure us away from the only way to true happiness and contentment.

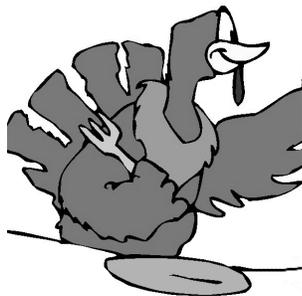
It's important to remember that by promoting idolatry, the devil doesn't just want to wound us, inconvenience us or frustrate us. He wants to kill and destroy us: eternal separation from God due to our discontent. The devil promotes an agenda that will indeed give us a little bit of pleasure, but leaves us feeling empty and

Go to "Contentment" on p. 4



Preacher's Pen by Titus Neuenschwander

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



Holiday Dinner
Sunday, Nov. 25

Farewell Dinner
in honor of the
Neuenschwander
Family
Sunday, December 16

As we all know, following God's will and call is not an easy task. It is at times difficult and confusing, but at all times God requires our obedience and faithfulness. Our family, stands at the edge of one of those times. To get right to the point, our ministry at Memorial has come to an end. Through months of prayer and testing, God is leading us to serve in Joplin, MO at College Heights Christian Church. There we will lead the middle school ministry for 5th-8th grades.

We have never sought a new position or looked to leave. The truth is we have no reason to leave. Our relationship with Gene and Becky remains strong and united. Our confidence in the leadership is unwavering. We have been richly blessed. We are leaving only out of obedience to the call and will of God.

There is an excitement to this new adventure. There are new lessons to be learned. We are now completely depending on God. I pray through this I will be a stronger leader in the kingdom of Christ. Just as the training and experience I have received here will benefit other ministries, I am excited to continue to

learn and to impact wherever God places us.

Likewise, I see a great excitement for the future of this congregation. As you develop a complete dependency on God and seek to be a greater influence in the community and world. God has just as much of a plan for you as he does us. As we have prayed for God's guidance in our lives, so we have also prayed for you. Our paths may part, but the same God leads.

Though God's leading has been clear, this decision has been very difficult. We are not leaving behind a building, or a town, but a body of Christ that has loved us as family and friends. Words cannot express our love for you. Words of thankfulness could flow from our lips, but would never seem to reflect the gratitude of our hearts. We will always give God glory and praise for bringing us together. ■

Letter from our Preacher and Elders to the Joplin congregation

We appreciate the careful process by which the College Heights congregation has pursued the ministry service of Titus Neuenschwander. Our confidence is that their family will be nurtured with continued love and care as part of the congregation in Joplin.

Titus exhibits the highest level of integrity in his personal and professional life. He enjoys the respect of people in the congregation and the community. The same may be said with regard to Lesli, who served this congregation faithfully and effectively in our children's ministry.

While we regret their departure from this physical place, we are grateful for the place they will maintain in our hearts. Accepting their sense that this is God's will, we anticipate God's blessings upon both congregations. Having known and worked with Titus and Lesli for over nine years, we know the blessings you will receive. It remains for us to see how richly God is planning to bless us.

It is without reservation, then, that we commend Titus and Lesli Neuenschwander to you and the College Heights congregation. They depart with our blessing and gratitude for their lengthy service among us. With their relocation we send our blessings and best wishes to you and all who welcome them as fellow servants.

Thur., Dec. 6 at 6:00 p.m.
Ladies' Christmas Dinner Party



Memorial Christian Banquet Center
Program: Grace Campbell, speaker
Menu: Homemade Lasagna, Salad, Garlic toast, Dessert
R.S.V.P. Arlene by Dec. 2 424-2869

Worship and Education Ministry Teams
New Deacons Appointed

The Elders are pleased to announce the appointment of Kevin Cotter to the management of our Worship Ministry Team, replacing Gene McCoy, who has served in that capacity for many years. This team is responsible for everything relating to the Sunday morning gathering of the church, including the nursery, the Lord's Supper, music, the technology center, and scheduling of those who serve in the worship assembly.

Kevin's involvement on this ministry team and participation in our ShepherdSCHOOL qualifies him for this work. Gene McCoy welcomes this addition to our team of Deacons and gladly relinquishes the leadership of this ministry to Kevin. Gene continues to be actively involved on this team, and maintains his role as Deacon of the Outreach Ministry Team.

One of Kevin's primary objectives early on will be the recruitment of additional volunteers to function on this vital team of ministers. Anyone whose interests and abilities lie in this area of ministry is urged to enlist for service in some aspect of this team's endeavors.

The Elders are pleased to announce the appointment of Joey Peglar to the management of our Education Ministry Team, replacing Titus Neuenschwander, who served in that capacity for many years before accepting a ministry in Joplin, MO.

The purpose of this team is "to provide a quality program of Bible education and learning resources."

This team is charged with the administration of the Bible classes offered on Sundays and Wednesdays, the recruitment and training of teachers, and coordinating the youth ministries (elementary and teen). Promoting church camp and recruiting adults to participate as chaperones is an annual duty of this team.

Joey's involvement on a ministry team and participation in our ShepherdSCHOOL qualifies him for this work. He also serves as our Bible School Superintendent.

Anyone whose interests and abilities lie in this area of ministry is urged to enlist for service in some aspect of this team's endeavors.

DECEMBER MEETINGS

- 3 Building Committee
- 10 Willing Workers
- 11 Elders
- 18 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 20 Outreach ministry Team

WELCOME to Memorial

an orientation for newcomers

Noon luncheon
Sunday, December 2



The Elders have appointed the following to search for another youth minister candidate:

- Forrest Cotter, Elder
- Gene McCoy, Chmn.
- Walt McKay
- Rick Schmeski

Dave Ramsey's



Winter Session

January 13 — April 13, 2008

3:30—5:30 p.m. for 13 Sundays

FREE! Preview

4:00 p.m. Sunday, January 6

\$100 Enrollment Fee due by January 6



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Sent With a Prayer to

Meeting Schedule

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

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



Old Gym Sells

"Contentment" *cont. from p. 1*

alone, desiring more of what we don't need.

If there was just something to quench this unending desire; something to lead us to contentment rather than idolatry. Well, I have some ideas.

I encourage you to read, and even memorize Philippians chapter four. This chapter is full of vital information to lead us away from idolatry. It addresses how to deal with relationships in conflict, how to cope with fear or anxiety, how to turn your focus from evil desires, what your mindset should be in times of

wealth or poverty, and what our priorities should be in regard to our giving.

Wow, what a chapter. It is clear we have complete control of what we focus and dwell on, regardless of the situation we are in. If we focus on Christ, v. 7 tells us that we will be given a peace that surpasses all understanding. If we focus on our selfish desires, our thirst will never be quenched, and our distance from God will continue to increase. I am confident of what I would like to focus on. Are you?

The Elders announce the sale of the metal building on Commerce St. that used to house a fitness center. When we purchased the property a couple months ago, it was only for the purpose of securing the strip of ground along the south boundary for a private street that would provide an alternate entrance and exit from our new church property. That God provided a buyer for the land we did not particularly want, and that He did so quickly, is something for which we give God glory, praise and thanks!

We paid \$185,000 for the entire property. The purchase price for the building is \$170,000. We have obtained what we needed for only \$15,000.

Our indebtedness on the properties purchased a couple months ago has diminished very quickly, a testimony to God's goodness, faithfulness, and providential care. At the current rate of payment, we are on track to be debt free again sometime in early 2009.