

*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

James Darr

Gene Frazier

Bernie Hill

Gene McCoy

Walt McKay

Titus Neuenschwander

Hubert Pickett

Secretary

Joy Williams

Preachers

Gene McCoy

Titus Neuenschwander



New Year's Day Party!

9:30 a.m.

Church auditorium

Everyone invited!!

- Celebrative music
- Festive spirit
- Celebrate the past
- Anticipate the future

Two **BIG**
announcements

PERFECT ATTENDANCE SUNDAY

Everyone who attends on January 1, 2006 will celebrate perfect attendance at church for the year! Start the new year with perfect attendance and maintain it for the balance of the year.

Perhaps the only thing that will be the same as every other Sunday will be the observance of the Lord's Supper, the upbeat music, and the participation in the worship of giving. The elders have

two big announcements to make, and some of the deacons want to report on reasons for celebration. The message of the day will be presented by two preachers. We think it will be memorable. ■

Partner Ministries

*Central Christian College of the Bible
Moberly, MO*

*Ozark Christian College
Joplin, MO*

*Show-Me Christian Youth Homes
LaMonte, MO*

Additions!

By immersion
Desiree Arango-
Baker

By transfer
Dick and Daisy
Schneider



*Jay Henry Family
Damoh, India*

*Ernest McFarland Family
Damoh, India*

*Saleem Massey Family
Lahore, Pakistan*

*Steve Hayward Family
Papua New Guinea*

*Brad Berg Family
Quemado, TX
Piedres Negras, Mexico*

*Mike Armstrong
Univ. of Arkansas
Fayetteville*

Peace on Earth

The cartoon that appeared in our local newspaper expresses popular sentiment. But its theology provoked skepticism in my mind. It pictures the wise men with gifts in hand and stunned looks on their faces as the baby Jesus in the manger says, “Gold, frankincense, and myrrh are all well and good...but what I’d really like for my birthday is peace on earth and good will toward all.”

Elsewhere in the paper was evidence that the birth of Jesus has not yet produced peace throughout the world — at least, not the peace politicians and social scientists talk about. Yet the angels announcing His birth proclaimed, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (KJV) So what is the problem?

The KJV translation has influenced many to adopt a humanistic philosophy of peace that has blinded them to the truth and caused disillusionment among unbelievers. According to linguistic scholars, a more accurate rendering of the angelic announcement would be, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” The basis for peace is God’s pleasure or favor, not man’s.

Is it true that Jesus

came to blanket the earth with peace? Not according to Jesus, Who said He did not come to bring peace, but a sword and division (Matt. 10:34, 35; Lk. 12:51-53). We are painfully aware that the mere mention of His name can produce tension and even violence. The peace and accompanying goodwill among men that Jesus brought, then, is obviously not a political or national peace; not a physical or material peace relating to geography and government.

No, the peace He authors is spiritual in nature and is seated, not in a world capital, but in the human heart.

This peace is reached, then, not by military strength, but by complete and unconditional surrender. It was accomplished at Calvary, where God made peace through Jesus’ blood (Col. 1:20). It is, then, initiated by God, not man. It results not from shrewd negotiations and diplomacy. Neither is it founded upon the mindset popularly expressed in the question, “Can’t we all just get along?” The answer is categorically, “No!” And the sole reason for that is our sin.

Yet sinners have salvaged their conscience

by Gene McCoy

and soothed their guilt by persuading themselves that they have “made peace with God.” As already stated, man is not the one who makes peace. That is God’s work through Jesus’ blood (Col. 1:20). The issue is not that we are at peace with God, but that God is at peace with us — or not. Does God’s favor rest on you? The answer to that question is what determines your peace.

The issue is not that we are at peace with God, but that God is at peace with us.

The apostle Paul says this peace with God through Jesus results from being justified by faith (Rom. 5:1). Its substance is the removal of God’s wrath from the sinner. There will not be political peace and the cessation of hostilities until all individuals submit to Jesus Christ and the cause for our alienation is removed.

Being at peace with God necessitates the extension of peace to man — Jew with Gentile (Eph. 2:14), white with black, etc. This peace begins with God and is for His good pleasure, but it is up to us to extend it to others. “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at

(cont. next page) →

peace with all men” (Rom. 12:18).

The peace Jesus left to His disciples (Jn. 14:27) is to permeate the nature of the new man and govern his motives, thoughts, and actions. This is to be most evident in our relationships within the church, as Paul exhorts in Col 3:15, thusly: “Let the

peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.” (NIV)

The popular lyric from the song by Sy Miller and Bill Jackson says, “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.” If there is ever to be political peace on

earth, complete with the cessation of hostilities and the removal of the cause for conflict, it will necessarily begin with Christians under the rule of the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6) as they allow His peace to rule in their hearts. In that context, it must begin with me . . . and you. ■

Welcome to Memorial

Sunday evening, January 22, 2006 will mark the inaugural offering of an orientation for newcomers to our congregation. It is open to anyone who wants to attend, but is geared to those who seek an introduction to our congregation, regardless their present intentions with regard to making any kind of commitment.

The 90-minute

presentation will include an overview of who we are, what our purpose is, what opportunities for ministry and service are available to those who attend and become members. Each of the ministry teams will be introduced, and those who participate will learn about the missionaries we support.

This format is not designed to replace

personal visits or consultations in homes, but to provide a group setting to begin the process of assimilation.

If you want to attend, please reserve your seat by contacting the church office or writing “Welcome to MCC” on the bulletin insert on Sunday morning.

We will offer this orientation periodically, as the need is determined.

From Gene

Dear Congregation and Friends,

Becky and I thank all who sent cards and gifts during the holiday season. Your expressions of kindness are greatly appreciated. We are especially grateful for the cards we receive from readers in other states, particularly from previous ministries. What a blessing you are to us!

We are humbled and grateful for the very generous cash gift presented to us by the congregation. And the gift from the elders is especially appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve alongside you in this place!
Sincerely & humbly, Gene and Becky

From Titus

Dear MCC Family,

Thank you for your cards, gifts, and Christmas greetings. Your kindness is both overwhelming and humbling. We love and care for all of you.

Titus, Lesli, Evan,
Cheyenne, Drake, Alex and Brett

From Joy

Joy is taking a leave of absence to be with her daughter, Linda, who is hospitalized. But she conveys her appreciation for the Christmas gift and the consideration afforded her during this time away, including those who are filling in for her.



An orientation
for newcomers

Sunday, January 22

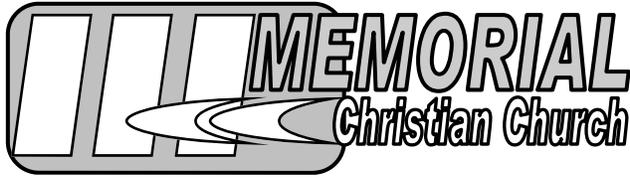
6:00 p.m.

Lake Area Fellowship



6:00
Jan. 29

We play host to our brothers and sisters from the Flippin and Yellville congregations. Mike Armstrong, our preacher on the Univ. of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville will be the speaker.



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Meeting Schedule

Sunday Morning	Wednesday Evening
9:30 Worship	5:30 Supper
10:45 Bible Classes	6:30 Bible Classes

Women of Worth
Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Wed.

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

Ministry Team News

The Property Ministry has been busy. Team members Gene Frazier, Denis Cline, Norm Lueck, Dave Bettenhausen and Ray Hood have finished installing the suspended ceiling in the Banquet Center. What a great job guys! The suspended ceiling has reduced the noise level by half. Further noise reduction will soon be realized with modifications to the HVAC system.

In the lower level of the church a wall was removed (thanks to Gene and Titus) to increase the size of a classroom. Additional coat hooks have been installed due to the increasing

numbers of young people in the program.

Some modifications to the lower level HVAC system will be made soon. This will provide for the removal of an old furnace in the original part of the church and allow for improved heating and cooling of the lower level. These modifications will also involve some changes to the HVAC system for the church office area.

Stay tuned for further improvements by the Property Ministry Team.

If you would like to be a part of and serve the Lord in this ministry contact Jim Darr.

From our Readers

From a college professor:
"Thank you for mailing the church newsletter to us. It has a very 'clean' appearance."

From a preacher in Missouri:
"Your church paper is the best one I receive."

From a preacher in Arkansas:
"The articles are well-written and worthwhile."

From a preacher in Missouri:
"I reproduce or post many of the articles that appear in your paper."

From a preacher in Indiana:
"Thank you for sending your paper. I always look forward to receiving it."

From a preacher in Ohio:
"I appreciate reading about the good work you are doing in Arkansas. Thanks for sending the CONTACT."

We are indebted to Amy McKay for the format and appearance and to various individuals for the articles. Thanks to all who make this a good publication.