

*A monthly publication of Memorial Christian Church
in the interest of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and goodwill among His people, our friends.*

In this issue . . .

P. 2
The Preacher's
Pen: "Threshold
of Greatness"

P. 3
Life Chain
Building Fund

P. 4
Property
Ministry Team
Report

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

Leadership Retreat Scheduled for September 15th.

The elders, deacons, and preachers, along with their wives, will be participating in the MCC 2006 Leadership Planning Retreat the evening of Friday September 15th, and all day Saturday, September 16th at Scott Valley Ranch.

The purpose of this retreat is to review and evaluate our current vision and goals, and to plan proposed updates, improvements, and/or changes. It will be a time of fellowship, prayer and soul-searching, as well as a time to more closely seek God's will for this congregation. It is our prayer He will grant us wisdom and insight that will enable the leaders as well as the entire congregation to increase our ability to more fully evangelize this community for Christ.

The Friday evening schedule consists of check-in at 6:30pm followed by an evening meal along with a time of

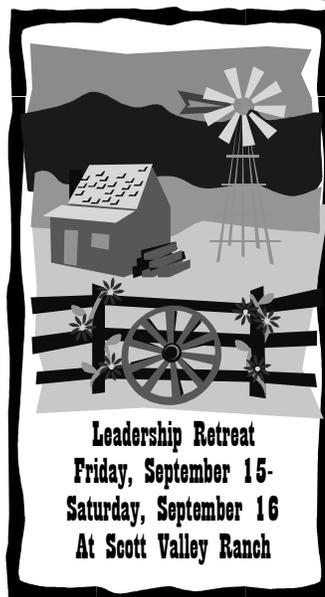
fellowship for the entire group and an overview of Saturday's events. The Saturday schedule is set to run from breakfast at 7:00am to the closing wrap-up and group prayer session at 3:00pm.

The planned sessions consist of: Current Goals and Programs, Outreach Program, Youth and Education Worship and Music, Question and Answers, Discussion and Decisions, and a break-out session for the ladies concerning the roles and responsibilities of Elders/Deacons/Ministers Wives and a session for the men concerning discussion and finalization of the Sunday

(17th) presentation of decisions on the proposed remodeling and/or

building of a new facility.

The Leadership Team is meeting away from town for the purpose of providing time away from our daily routines so that our total focus can be on Christ and His kingdom.



We sincerely seek your prayers on behalf of the entire congregation, the leadership team, and the spouses who so diligently support them as we conduct the 'business' of this congregation in a stronger and better way.

In Christ Jesus,
Your Elders

■

Threshold of Greatness by Gene McCoy

MEETINGS THIS MONTH

- 11 Elders
- 11 Willing Workers
- 13 Missions Ministry Team
- 17 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
- 18 Baxter County Right to Life
- 19 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 28 Property Ministry Team

EVENTS NEXT MONTH

- 1 Life Chain
- 6 & 7 Family Camp at Rock Garden
- 8 Annual Business Meeting
- 8 40th Anniversary Celebration
- 14 Indoor Work Day
- 14-21 Mission Trip to Slidell, LA

Designed to produce liberty, grace is misused by some as license. Such was the situation at Corinth.

The church at Corinth was positioned for greatness. In the opening lines of his first letter to this church, Paul thanks God for the grace He bestowed upon them (v. 4). Paul goes on to enumerate those gifts of grace (v. 5-7), noting that they were not lacking in any. But then he launches into a litany of complaints relating to their response to this grace.

When understood, grace produces humility. Too often, however, recipients of grace become puffed up — proud. Unless alert, those graced by God with His wonderful gifts today could become puffed up, as well.

A congregation may be most vulnerable to Satan's tactics when everything seems to be going so well. It is during such seasons when we realize God's blessings most that the warning must be given to be alert for Satan's attack.

This is not a scare tactic we employ, but rather a word of caution based upon experience with the Enemy.

We are in perfect position for an attack.

By God's grace the congregation is enjoying unprecedented harmony, goodwill, cooperation, participation and peace. We are in a healthy financial position. An optimistic air permeates

The stage is set for something very good or something very bad to occur.

our fellowship. Our reputation in the community has never been more positive and strong. Staff relations are solid and several ministry teams are fulfilling the work assigned to them. The stage is set for something very good or something very bad to occur. It all depends upon your response to the grace of God that has blessed us with every gift we need. A response of humility will result in continued dependence upon God, resulting in harmony. Pride, however, will destroy unity, as it did in the church at Corinth.

Our leaders are proposing challenging and exciting advances. This is Satan's cue to kick it up to a higher level. Be assured he is paying

attention and will exploit our situation to his advantage. But he cannot do it apart from our permission and participation.

We need not be alarmed by the prospects of Satan's attack as long as we are alert to the possibility and remain diligent in deflecting his strategy. He often uses two tactics to ruin harmony in a congregation.

The first tactic we need to avoid is complacency. That we are "sittin' pretty" in all the areas listed above makes it easy for us to relax in satisfaction. We are comfortable and don't want to be disturbed by new challenges. I can't say this was the problem at Corinth that required Paul to urge them to finish the collection for the needy brothers in Judea, but I can say that many congregations that get too comfortable need someone or something to get them off dead center.

The other tactic Satan is likely to employ as we accept new challenges is conflict. There was division in the church at Corinth due to party loyalty. If Satan can't keep us from launching out into deep waters, he will make sure the waters in which we sail are tempestuous. A favorite

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

way to create waves in a happy and harmonious congregation is to get individuals engaged in conflict.

Differences of opinion and personal preferences are common obstacles Satan uses to stir the waters.

Selfishness displayed by pride is at the root of both of these tactics. When everything is going our way is when selfishness and pride can easily infiltrate and infect the body. I remind you that "I" is at the center of "sIn."

Many think our

congregation is on the threshold of greatness. The threshold is a critical place. What we do here and now will have a big impact upon the future of this congregation. May God give us grace that we may learn the lessons from Corinth and not fall victim to selfish pride.

Life Chain is October 1

The Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life Americans quietly standing (or sitting) for one hour along a roadway holding pro-life placards. Participants pray for our nation and for an end to abortion. Signs proclaim, "Abortion Kills Children," "Adoption — the Loving Option," "Jesus Forgives & Heals," "Abortion Hurts Women," "Pray to End Abortion," and "Life —

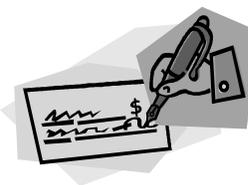
the first Inalienable Right."

We urge everyone to participate. Our congregation will form a link in this chain along a stretch of Hwy. 62. We want this link to be heavily populated with life-supporters. You do not have to stand, but may sit in a lawn chair. Or cruise the 62 strip in air-conditioned comfort with placards in your car windows. Let's all show our support for



life by participating in this annual nationwide event.

The coordinator for our congregation is Linda Wisniewski. Contact her for more information and to register your participation.



Building Fund Established

facility.

The decision to expand here or to relocate elsewhere has yet to be finalized, but it is certain that either one will require significant amounts of money.

Contributions to this fund may be in the form of memorial gifts, in which case the survivors

will be notified of your thoughtfulness. Any other cash donations will be gratefully received and reserved for the specific purpose of church building construction.

We strongly urge and sincerely ask that no contributions be diverted to this project from present giving. Merely redirecting

ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



Sunday
October 8, 2006

Dearest family of God,

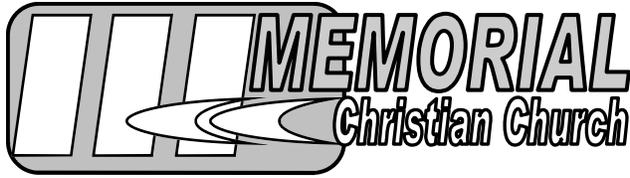
We are so very grateful for the love, support and ongoing encouragement from all of you. Titus and Lesli, our grandchildren and extended family are truly blessed by your abundant expressions of love.

Overflowing thankfulness to our LORD for You!

All for HIM!

Travis and Linda Cotten

Give unto the Lord the glory due His name!



315 W. 6th St. Mtn. Home, AR 72653 870-425-8323

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.memorialchristian.com



Non-Profit Org.
POSTAGE
PAID
Permit # 35
Mtn. Home, AR
72653

Sent With a Prayer to

Meeting Schedule

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

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

Building Fund Established

(Continued from page 3)
money will not achieve our goal. If your present level of giving represents your maximum ability, please do not feel compelled to participate in this extra capital campaign.

We are grateful for your tithes and offerings to the general fund, the first 21% of which is forwarded to our evangelists around the world (missions).

A more aggressive

and formal method of financing an eventual building program is forthcoming. Until then, and even throughout such a campaign, the Building Fund will serve as a depository for intermittent and one-time gifts, and will provide everyone with the opportunity to participate in this exciting period of expansion.

To contribute, clearly mark your gift with the words "Building Fund." ■

Property Ministry Team News

The Property Ministry Team has been busy this summer with maintaining the flower beds, mowing the lawn, improvements to the church inside and out.

The work is plentiful and the workers are few so the Property Ministry could use all workers with what ever talents you may have. So plan to be at the next Property Ministry Team meeting on Thursday September 28, 2006 at 6:30 PM.

Also plan to be at the upcoming **Work Days:**
Saturday, October 14 (inside projects)
Saturday, November 18 (outside projects)

The work days are sponsored by the Property Ministry Team. But we encourage participation from all members of the congregation! ■