



the Family Focus

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF **MEMORIAL** CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Meeting @ 1624 Ave of the Cities, Moline

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**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2012 !**

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am to 2:30 pm
mccqc@mediacombb.net
pastorchuck@gmail.com

Pastoral Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
pastorchuck@gmail.com

Can you believe it is already another new year? I can't count the number of times I've written that statement at the beginning of another new year; but it is always so true. Time just seems to fly and even faster the older you get.

But it is another new year ... a new year with new challenges, opportunities, disappointments, dreams, ills, pains, joys, etc. What are you going to do with 2012?

I mean, what new things are you going to look forward to and try to accomplish? What opportunities are you hoping for?



I was thinking about many things I've done over the years in ministry. God has blessed me so much. I've enjoyed several different Pastors over the years and shared living the Christian life with so many good people. As I think of them my prayers are with them all for God's continued blessings.

Eddie Randolph comes to mind. Eddie served a church in Danville, IL in the mid 1980's ... that's where I got to know him. Through various conferences and area church gathering he and I became great friends and comrades in ministry. He's encouraged me along so many times. I just ran across his FaceBook site and see he's now a Professor of Ministry where we both did Doctoral studies together. I'm sure he's still blessing so many would-be ministers. God is blessing him.

But, you know what? God is blessing me more than I could have ever imagined just a few years ago. I'm the Pastor of Memorial Christian Church! WOW! I mean it, WOW! There's no place I'd rather be right now; there's no other ministry I'd rather be a part of; there's no other church I'd want to be the Pastor of than MCC!

God has blessed me with YOU! And I'm so blessed! 2012 is here with new challenges and opportunities for us all to share in together. I don't know all of what's around the corner or what God has in store for us; but I do know it will be a blessing for us all. I do know we're called to Praise God, Serve Others and Grow in Christ in the transformative shape of a 21st Century church. As we continue to follow that calling God will continue to bless us with a great 2012!

I love that I'm your Pastor,
Pastor Chuck

5 Top Priorities for Increasing Your Church



**CHURCH
GROWTH**

I'd like to share what I believe are foundational church growth insights that you can take to the bank. Whether you're in a church of 20 or 20,000, these principles will help you to invest the talents God has given to your church, so that when the Master returns you can return more than what you were given (Matthew 25:14-30).

Principle 1: Disciple-making is THE priority

The longer a congregation exists, the more concerned it tends to become with self-preservation—and the less concerned with its original purpose. A church can do many good things. A church should do a few important things. But there is only one essential thing a church must do: “Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life ...” (Matthew 28:19, *The Message*).

Principle 2: Social networks are the vehicle

There is a “silver bullet” that any congregation can use to reach more people: Non-Christians come to Christ and the church primarily through relationships with Christians. Again, this may seem elementary, but I remain amazed at the number of churches and Christians who believe something other than “friends reaching friends” will somehow create growth.

Principle 3: Felt-needs are the connecting point

If the gospel of Christ is really relevant to all aspects of our lives, we need to show unreached people how it is relevant to what's on their minds. Don't start with your agenda; start with theirs. When your church speaks to unreached people's felt-needs, you will get a hearing, because now your message is—from their point of view—relevant.

Principle 4: Relationships are the glue

What's the primary ingredient that keeps people active in church? Friendships. Put simply, if people have friends at church, they stay. If they don't have friendships, they won't.

Principle 5: Transitions provide the window of opportunity

How do we identify receptive people in our members' social networks and in our communities? Life-transition events are one important way. Significant changes in people's lifestyle move them toward spiritual receptivity. Encourage your members to be cognizant of transition events in the lives of people in their social network and respond with genuine Christian love.

Today, only 15 percent of the 300,000+ churches in North America are growing. These church growth principles work. But our reasons to apply them should be to reach God's dearly loved children ... because Jesus told us to.

Charles Arn

(Adapted from: <http://www.sermoncentral.com/pastors-preaching-articles/charles-arn-5-top-priorities-for-increasing-your-church-753.asp>)

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



6	Betty Plank
8	Bonnie Engelman
8	Dan Malo
10	Michael Kuehl
13	Janelle Leatherman
13	Josephine Parker
19	Shelley Close
20	Paula Struve
21	Ken Kline
27	Kelle Tappendorf

24 Don & Shirley Rudd



- 1.** I believe the potential for the local church to do good and create positive change in the world is greater than it has ever been.
- 2.** I believe that the ROOT of the desire to do good and create positive change in the world HAS to be the GOSPEL...and if it isn't, what will develop is cool ministry fads and ideas...but nothing revolutionary that will impact the world.
- 3.** I believe that some of the greatest Christian leaders that the world will ever know are currently in elementary school, middle school, and high school...thus making youth and children's ministry one of the greatest mission opportunities that the local church can invest in.
- 4.** I believe that more and more church leaders are going to begin to take radical steps of faith rather than trying to repair broken systems.
- 5.** I believe that more and more church leaders are going to continually put personal preferences of ministry aside and work together with other people to accomplish more ministry than they could have ever done alone.



- 6.** I believe that we're going to see some of the greatest moves of God this world has ever seen in the next 20 years...MOST of them happening because the local church finally decided to step up and be the church.
- 7.** I believe God wants to use your church to do unbelievable things in the community in which HE has planted you.
- 8.** I believe the key to a healthy church is healthy church leadership...leaders cannot fly at the speed of sound and expect to hear God's still small voice. The healthier we get, the healthier our churches can be.
- 9.** I believe that if ALL leaders took the advice God gave us in [Galatians 6:9](#) that we would see breakthroughs like we've NEVER seen before.
- 10.** I believe God has called the church to CHANGE the world...not complain about it!!! We are an empowered body of believers whom He has called to attempt the "impossible" so that people can see HIM!!! (So...what is that thing that you know you should do next?)

Perry Noble

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/pastors-preaching-articles/perry-noble-10-things-i-believe-about-the-church-1010.asp>

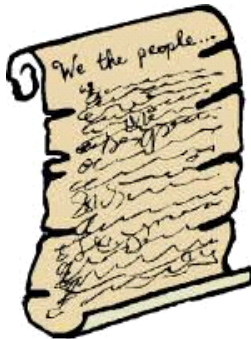
In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please remember these in your prayers:

Dottie Onderbeke, Harold Baker, the Roesner family, Darlene Lovell, Helen Slavens, Darry & Colleen Kannenberg, Dan and Christine Koester, Joanne Kline, Donna Wilkins, Lynette Cameron, Peggy Walker, Bernice Hovey, Juanita Brown, Loretta Smith, Gordon Milligan, Caryl VanHyfte, Cyndee Browner, Charles Willey, Wade Rogers, Nellie Porter, Cecil Dorsey, Matt, Ava, Andy Simmons, Jacque Brandom, Crystal Raun, Al Fortin, Shirley Rudd, Beverley Ducey, Kimberly Delaney, Jan Smith, and to all of those that are not on our Prayer List that are in need of your prayers.

We have recently updated our prayer list, if you or anyone you know would like to be added to our Prayer List or those who would like a "Home Visit", please contact the Church office.



Come learn about our new Constitution.

We are having 3 special Constitutional informational meetings that are being held on Wednesday evenings,

6:30 pm @

the Worship Center.

Each meeting will be the same information so you may choose which one will work best for you.

January 4th, 11th, & 18th

DISCOVERY LAND



Come enjoy conversation at the Connections Cafe' and Worship at the Gathering while your little one's learn more about God's awesome power.

Children may be checked-in to Discovery Land (Birth - 5 years old) children's ministries at any time between 10:00 and 10:30 AM each Sunday morning.

Your children will enjoy learning about God by participating in activities, children's praise and worship, games and crafts that help them to understand God at their age level.

When you arrive please see one of the check-in attendants to receive a name badge and number for your children.

KIDZ-A-BLAZE

Kidz-A-Blaze is for children 1st thru 5th grade. We want to help your child be on fire for God! MCC's Kidz-A-Blaze leaders are devoted to helping children grow closer to God and gain a deeper understanding of the Bible and Jesus' love through providing them with interactive activities, stories, games, music, and prayer. Your kids will enjoy their time at Kidz-A-Blaze and grow in their relationship with Christ as well.

When you arrive please see one of the check-in attendants to receive a name badge and number for your children.

January Serving Schedule

Worship Service

ELDERS

Meditation: Ken Kline
Back Table: Ray Guss

DEACONS

Captain: John Allison
Russ Reynolds
Kim Roesner
Tracy Roesner

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Pastor Chuck Dorsey

COMMUNION PREPARER

Jerry & Barb Stinocher

HOME-BOUND COMMUNION

Pat Kuehl

CONNECTIONS CAFÉ

Linda & Nicole Miller & Co.

EVANGELISM CALLER

Pastor Chuck

Children's / Kid's Ministry

DISCOVERY LAND

Sundays:

1st - Crystal Cutkomp
2nd - Nancy Wagner
3rd - Doree Shewell
4th - Felicia Sevedge
5th - Sarah Tappendorf

KIDS A BLAZE

Sundays:

1st - 4th - Kim & Megan Dorsey
5th - Ashley Ricker

CHECK-IN DESK

Sundays:

1st - Barb Stinocher
2nd - Felicia Sevedge
3rd - Tonya Weinrich
4th - Kelle Tappendorf
5th - Nancy Wagner



P.O. Box 4390
Rock Island, IL 61204

Faith for **Family**
every

Tel: 309.757.1300

www.MemorialChristianChurch.com



For more information about MCC scan
the QR code with your smart phone

**PRAISE GOD
SERVE OTHERS
GROW IN CHRIST**