



the Family Focus

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF **MEMORIAL** CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Meeting @ 1624 Ave of the Cities, Moline

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REMEMBERING OUR VISION



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

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

www.memorialchristianchurch.com

Remembering Our Vision

For six years now we have known that our calling and vision is to reach out to families and youth. This is not merely a “survival” vision (I pray we all know), but part of the mandate from Christ to “make disciples.” In accepting this vision as a calling from God we remove ourselves from the mode of being a maintenance oriented church (“What’s in it for me?”) to a mission oriented church of reaching out to others who need the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Following are two articles that encourage us and challenge us to be that kind of missional church. They are filled with practical ideas that can keep MCC moving in the right direction. So, as we plan for what’s ahead for MCC this fall and into the next year, keep these articles in mind ... it will help you understand from where I and other leaders in the church are coming.

Blessings,
Pastor Chuck



Reaching Families . . . with a Plan

So many activities are available for children to do throughout the year, and some parents involve their kids in *all* of them. Other parents, though, are looking for affordable, wholesome family fun that does not involve a lot of commitment. This is where the church can stand in the gap.

The Plan

Churches can host activities and outreach opportunities with a bit of planning and minimal involvement from church members. As a disclaimer, the plan presented here is not the only ideology that works. Feel free to take these ideas and make them your own. However, it’s guaranteed that flying by the seat of your pants is not the most effective way to reach families in the church (maybe because they know you) or families in the community (forget it).

Be intentional. Who do you want to reach? Families in the church? Community families? Families are generally looking for activities that are quick, cheap, and wholesome. By reaching out to the community, your church can offer those opportunities.

Be relational. Reaching out to the community can be a great way to get parents in your church out of the unbiblical “What’s in it for me?” mentality. An activity can turn into a ministry opportunity for *them*. While reaching out can be tough at first, children seem to bridge the divide between their parents. When parents bring their children, the kids are best friends before they know each other’s names, enabling church parents to get to know the visiting parents.

Be time-organized. Before the upcoming year, get out your church schedule and mark dates for events. Start small, maybe every other month. Communicate publicly that the church is offering family-themed events that are affordable (shoot for FREE) and that the timeliness of the events follows a pattern. Saturday mornings or afternoons seem to work best for my community. Hint: When planning

every-other-month activities, it might be wise to have December as an off month.

Be people-organized. Enlist help. One answer to enlisting help may be a youth committee, comprised of volunteers who make church a priority in children's lives. Those people don't have to be parents. Some of the best, untapped volunteers are those with the most experience: the elderly. Volunteers could help with setup and take-down, drive vehicles, referee, serve refreshments, and mingle with the attendees. They are also great sources for event ideas.

Be promotional. Cross-promote. Use all the ministries of your church to let people know of your other events. Create fliers that church kids can take to school and hand out to classmates (with teacher or school permission). Kids are some of the best advertisers.

Be consistent. The numbers may not be there at first. It's not about numbers anyway. One year a youth worker held a water event in the middle of summer. It was barely 70 degrees and raining. Fifteen families attended—all from the church. No visitors. The next year the same event was planned. That time the weather was in the mid-90s and sunny. Attending were three families in the church and one visiting family in the neighborhood. The visiting family eventually became regular attenders. That's a win.

Be creative. Try new things. Mix it up. If an activity works, keep it. If not, get that youth team together and see if it can be tweaked or needs to be scrapped.

(Source: <http://garbcquest.org/?p=1292>)



The Younger Unchurched and the Churches That Reach Them

The following are summary conclusions from a study of young people not active in church and practices likely to help churches reach emerging generations.

1. Young adults are trying to connect and will make a lasting connection wherever they can find belonging. Churches that are effective at reaching and developing young adults place a high value on community and are using small groups to build that community.
2. Young adults want to be a part of something bigger than themselves and are looking to be a part of an organization where they can make a difference through acts of service. More than ever before, young adults are thinking locally and globally about how they can make a lasting impact. Churches that are reaching young adults are successful in providing opportunities for service.

3. More than looking for a good performance, young adults desire to connect with the experience of worship. They embrace the future and the past at the same time. Young adults want to be challenged by the message, and they want to participate in a worship experience.
4. Young adults are looking to move behind the trite and into more depth—and we found this among the churched and unchurched young adults.
5. Many churches are waking up to the need to embrace technology as an effective tool in reaching the unchurched.
6. Young adults need cross-generational relationships. Churches that are linking young adults with older, mature adults are challenging young adults to move on to maturity through friendship, wisdom, and support.
7. Young adults are looking for and connecting to churches where they see leaders that are authentic, transparent, and on a learning journey.
8. Remember that children and youth deal with change in their own ways.
9. Young people are desperately seeking something real, something authentic—and they don't mind if it is messy. One hundred percent of churches reaching young adults hold authenticity as one of their highest values.
10. Team is an often desired but infrequently lived value. Churches that lead by teams—and invite young adults to be a part of those teams—engage all kinds of people in more effective mission and ministry.

(Reprinted from *Lost and Found: The Younger Unchurched and the Churches That Reach Them* by Ed Stetzer, Richie Stanley, and Jason Hayes, B&H Publishing Group and LifeWay Research, 2009.)

Join us for Rock Island's Labor Day Parade

This year we will again have an entry in the Labor Day Parade on September 5th. MCC's van will be running and the Praise Band will be playing on a float wagon. We'll pass out candy to on-lookers; and, flyers inviting folks to Back to Church Sunday on September 18th. Everyone is invited to march with us in the parade and help pass out candy and flyers.

We will be meeting at the home of:

Bill and Wanda Pike
2001 44th Street
Rock Island

7:30 am



September Birthdays & Anniversaries

5 Larry Clark
5 Madelyn Cox
7 Tracy Roesner
8 Ray Guss
10 Nancy Wagner
17 Daryl Swartz
18 Dale Mayne
24 Kevin Roesner
26 John Allison
26 Dottie Onderbeke
29 Margaret Lage



22 Chris & Kelle Tappendorf
25 Gordon & Barb Milligan

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Please remember these in your prayers:

Darlene Lovell, Helen Slavens, Darry & Colleen Kannenberg, Dan and Christine Koester, Nanette Walters, Joanne Kline, Harold Baker, Donna Wilkins, Helen Pitcher, Letha Olson, Neal Bunce, Dorothy Cline, Leo Ford, Lynette Cameron, Peggy Walker, Bernice Hovey, Juanita Brown, Loretta Smith, Gordon Milligan, Caryl VanHyfte, Cyndee Browner, Charles Willey, Wade Rogers, Nellie Porter, Andy & Vickie Parker, Michael Worrick, Cecil Dorsey, Matt, Ava, Andy Simmons, Michael Grabbe, Jacque Brandom, Crystal Raun, the Wright family, Al Fortin, Shirley Rudd, Beverley Ducey, Sandy Kilcoin, Kimberly Delaney, Jan Smith, and to all of those that are not on our Prayer List that are in need of your prayers.

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.

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Your church is offering a *Financial Peace University* class that will teach you God's way of handling money. Together we'll climb out—one family, one church, one community at a time.

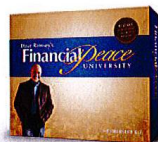
Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

More Info:

Place: MCC, 1624 Avenue of the Cities, Mo 14

Dates: Wednesdays starting September 13

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 For more info 309-757-1300



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STARTING THE WEEK OF
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September Serving Schedule

Worship Service

ELDERS

Meditation: Linda Swartz

Back Table: Joanne White

DEACONS

Captain: Nick Karzin

Jodi Church

Jerry Stinocher

Barb Stinocher

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Pastor Chuck Dorsey

Scott & Angie Clark

COMMUNION PREPARER

Carol Hancock

Ellie Allison

HOME-BOUND COMMUNION

Doree' Shewell

Joanne White

CONNECTIONS CAFÉ

Linda & Nicole Miller & Co.

EVANGELISM CALLER

Pastor Chuck



September 18th!

Perhaps you're searching for a new church home or maybe you've been away from church for some time ... Back to Church Sunday is a great day for you to reconnect with God. We know it can be uncomfortable to enter into a strange place, but here at MCC we're a loving family of God's people who care about you. We would welcome the chance to be a part of your spiritual journey *Sunday, September 18th at 10:30 am.*



Memorial Christian Church
1624 Ave of the Cities
Moline, IL
309.757.1300
www.MemorialChristianChurch.com

P.S. – Be sure to bring this invitation with you. Present it to MCC's Connection Café to receive a free drink and pastry!



Memorial
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 4390
Rock Island, IL 61204

Faith for **Family**
every

Tel: 309.757.1300

www.MemorialChristianChurch.com

**PRAISE GOD
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