

# MCA Connection

OCTOBER 2016

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4



## Jesus Eyes

by Jeremy Miller

**Matt was one of two guys on the high school baseball team that made me question if playing baseball was worth the hassle.** He was

our big power hitting first baseman. I was the scrawny little centerfielder who weighed all of a buck-thirty-five soaking wet. He prowled the halls of our high

school with pinches of chew he was willing to swallow when confronted by teachers. I was frequently mistaken for a giant backpack with legs....one that kept adjusting its glasses. He was a man's man who could have grown a full mustache in kindergarten. He looked tough and gave angry glances at little people who walked by. I loved music the theater and smiling. Matt found my presence on the baseball team odd and I found his more than a little terrifying. He was the type of guy who only smiled after "accidentally" shoving you into the

fence as he walked by. On frequent occasions, various gloves, water bottles, balls, and helmets angrily hurtled through the dugout, spurred to flight by one of Matt's feet. Mostly, I tried to avoid him and stay quiet.

A person of faith learns important lessons as they mature. One of the critical lessons is gaining an ability to see what God is up to, and joining him in it. Between Matt's wild weekend keggers and killing little girl's kittens, God was at work in his life though I didn't see it.

*Continued on page 2...*



The Vision of MCA is to become a vibrant community of transformed people committed to sharing the life giving power of Jesus with the World.

## Jesus Eyes continued...

(I'm pretty sure he killed kittens....well...maybe not... but I'm pretty sure he wanted too) Theoretically, I figured God was probably obligated to love Matt, but I was also pretty sure God didn't need my help with that. I couldn't imagine talking to Matt about Jesus in high school. I wish I could imagine that,

I'm glad God was at work in him even when I didn't see it. But I hope that my eyes are getting better at seeing what Jesus is seeing.

but the truth is that I didn't want trouble....and I wanted to live.

Four years after high school I found myself pastoring a Presbyterian church in a little Kansas town. "Shock" doesn't adequately describe the sensation I felt when Matt and his girlfriend, carrying their baby girl, walked into church one morning. "Is this a joke, or some set up to humiliate me?" I wondered. The shock only became stronger when we visited after church and I realized Matt was human...and seemed (gulp) friendly! Despite the enjoyable conversation, I figured that after he learned it was the scrawny theater kid who was pastoring the church, he would stay home next week.

When next week came, Matt and his little family were back again. God was up to something I could never have predicted.

One Sunday evening a few months later, the men from church all got together to go fishing. Matt came along. As we were packing up to head home, Matt came lumbering over to my car, looked down at me and said, "Just want you to know, I've decided to give my life to God." What!?! We talked for a while that evening and a few months later he was baptized.

Sometimes our eyes are not dialed into what God is doing. It is often the toughest characters that are most ready for Jesus. We see this when we read about Jesus

casting demons out of the "crazy" people who are terrifying everyone around them. What I didn't realize is that Matt didn't want to be angry the rest of his life. He was hurt, his life was a wreck and he knew he needed Jesus. I'm glad God was at work in him even when I didn't see it. But I hope that my eyes are getting better at seeing what Jesus is seeing. I hope over the next several years, we have a lot of "Matt's" coming to faith and worshipping with us here at MCA.

**We did not have a winner for the July newsletter Trivia Question.**

**The correct answer was: Hasenpfeffer Stew**

## Wednesday Services

The goal of our Adult Wednesday night service is to equip us to live on mission. Each Wednesday Night of the month will have a different emphasis to help us accomplish the vision of being and making disciples.

**Starts October 5, 2016**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday: Understanding God**

We will take a deep dive into scripture to understand the Jesus we follow.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday: Heart to Heart**

We will have a night of worship and time to connect with God's heart.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday: Share It!**

This night is dedicated to training in evangelism and sharing the good news of Jesus with others. We will also spend time in intercessory prayer for our friends and communities.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: Soul Care**

We will have break out groups of men and women that focus on specific issues pertinent to the spiritual health of those in the groups.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: Fellowship Night**

Each 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month will be dedicated to food fellowship and enjoying each other's company.



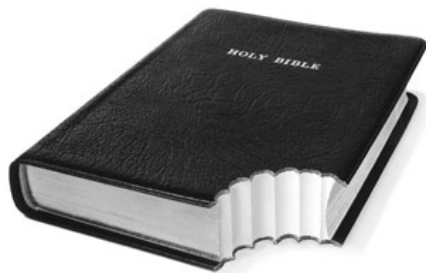


# You Are What You Eat?

by Cory Detweiler

**You've heard the saying, "you are what you eat". What does that even mean?**

Do any of us actually believe that if we eat too many M&M's that our bodies will start to grow a sugary, sweet shell? Maybe not literally, but the statement does hold water. Studies show that the foods we eat do in fact begin to make up the inner workings, and outer fabric of our bodies. In so many ways, you literally are what you eat.



Eugene Peterson wrote a book titled "Eat this Book". The title references Revelation 10. John is talking with an angel, and the angel commands John to eat the scroll, which is the word of God. As followers of Christ the saying "you are what you eat" is so very literal in two ways. Most obviously, it is important that we are filling our bodies with food that will eventually become the make up of our physical bodies. More importantly, however, is that we must fill our spiritual bodies with the Holy Scriptures, God's word. We must "eat the book".

This is not some appeal for the Christian to add the daily

verse app on your phone. It is more than that. Followers of Jesus are called to "Eat the Book". This is more than just reading your Bible. It might be better to say devour the book. As you read, chew on the words. Spend time thinking about what you've read. When you tear into a juicy steak, or your favorite fruit, you don't just look at it. You go beyond popping it into your mouth and swallowing it whole. No, you chew on it; you savor it. You allow the flavors to engulf your taste buds.

When I say devour scripture I mean chew on it, process it! Allow it to become the very fabric of our being. So that as we read day after day, week after week. The word of God, becomes a part of who we are, the very fabric of our being. The words of scripture become our natural reactions to happening around us. Whether we are in conversation with friends, giving instruction to our children, or in a disagreement with a neighbor, our thoughts have been immersed in scripture, and our responses in those situations become more like Jesus each and every day. So go ahead "Eat the Book". For John it was sweet to his lips, and bitter in his stomach. Because, yes scripture is sweet, but sometimes it's hard to digest. But you are what you eat. Disciples of Christ strive to be like Christ.

**So..."Eat the Book"**

## PASTOR'S PICKS....

Looking for something to read?  
Check out Jeremy's top pick.

Speaking of Jesus  
by Karl Medearis



A copy of this book will be available  
for checkout in the MCA Library

**If you would like to publish  
an article in the MCA  
Connection please let us  
know.  
[newsletter@mcachurch.org](mailto:newsletter@mcachurch.org)**

## **Church Directory Update...**

Just an update on the progress of the MCA Church Picture Directory. We are in the final proofing stages of the picture directory. Printing and distribution of the directories will take place in October.

## **Trivia Question:**

Why did Daniel request vegetables and water to eat when living as a teen in Babylon?

Send your answer to  
[newsletter@mcachurch.org](mailto:newsletter@mcachurch.org)

# The Shoup Family Profile



## Quick Facts

- Anniversary: July 18<sup>th</sup>
- At MCA Since 2013
- Live between Millersburg and Berlin
- Groups:
  - Jerry & Ruby - One80
  - Michael - Area51
  - Garrett - Jr. High
- Favorite Activity:
  - Camping
- Employed by: Walnut Creek Cheese and Grasshopper

## Jerry, Ruby, Michael and Garrett

Jerry and Ruby Shoup live between Millersburg and Berlin with their two boys Michael (15) and Garrett (12). They have lived there for the past five years and have attended MCA for the past 3 ½ years. Michael and Garrett attend Hiland High School and Hiland Middle School.

Jerry manages the Accounting Department and oversees the IT and Human Resource departments for Walnut Creek Cheese and Walnut Creek Foods. Ruby is the Accounting and Human Resource clerk for Grasshopper Property Maintenance. Both Jerry and Ruby have lived in and around the Holmes County area their entire lives. The couple met while attending the youth group at Longenecker Mennonite Church. They were married in 1998, two months after Jerry graduated from college.

They're family likes to go camping and play baseball. Both boys enjoy the summer baseball leagues. Recently the family took a trip to Lancaster, PA to the Sight n Sound Theater. They have also enjoyed touring the Creation Museum near Cincinnati, Ohio.

The family's favorite recipe is Ruby's homemade bread. You can ask her for the recipe, but she's not telling that family secret. A significant event in their life over the past year is having Michael get his drivers permit and watching him start to drive. Look Out! (just kidding Michael)

## Children's Christmas Play Sunday December 25, 2016

Kids in Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade are welcome to participate. Practice will be held on Wednesday Nights starting on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

More information to come.