

MCA CONNECTION



MCA
The Church on the Hill

MCA Speaks

One Door Closes and Another Opens by David (Donny) Hochstetler

children Amanda and Garrett of Fredericksburg.

For Barbara and I, seeing God close one door and always opening another is not a new experience. When I was 36 years old God seemed to very suddenly close the door

to my working days as I was told I needed emergency open heart surgery. Surgery saved my life but I was never able to go back to work as before. The doctors informed us that I could expect only five to seven years of life.

Having been founder and owner of Water-Watts Plumbing, Heating and Electric, Flow-Care Plumbing, and serving over 17 years as a pastor has been a blessing. Serving MCA as custodian was one rich experience. It is a wonderful feeling to ask someone "may I help you?" and be able to do so, even though you don't always feel like asking. It will take us a long time coming to church and not watching people and asking ourselves how we could help that person. We have heard other people say once you have been

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After 20 plus years Barbara and I are retiring from our custodial duties at MCA. We are the parents of two daughters, Tim and Carol Richardson and their two children Emily and Aaron of Wooster and John and Brenda Detweiler and their two

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Annual Business Meeting (18th)
 Retirement Lunch for Donny & Barbara Hochstetler (22nd)

FEBRUARY

Thailand Mission Fundraiser (5th)
 CMC Pastors Conference (13th)
 Sunday Morning Baptism (19th)

MARCH

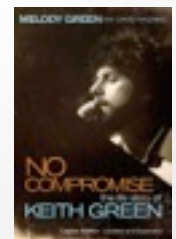
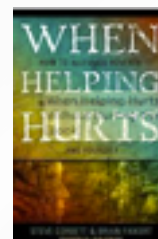
Seminar for Growth Series (18th)
 Youth Fundraiser (25th)

PASTOR'S PICKS....

Looking for something to read? Check out Jeremy and Jeff's top picks.

When Helping Hurts
 by Steve Corbett

No Compromise: the Life Story of Keith Green
 by Melody Green



Family Spotlight

The Merle and Ruthann Miller Family



Merle, Ruthann, Josh, Juanita and Ezekiel

Merle and Ruthann Miller and their family have been attending MCA for the past 6 years. Both Merle and Ruthann grew up in the Holmes County area and became a couple after meeting each other at a ball game. They may have started out playing and watching the ball game, but it wasn't long until they realized they only had eyes for each other.

For the past three and a half years Merle and Ruthann have lived near Beach City with their children Josh, Juanita and Ezekiel. The family's favorite activity is camping. Over the summer they had a good time cooking and preparing food during the Area51 Youth Outreach in Fredericksburg. When asked about this feeding frenzy an individual from Area51 could only describe it as AWESOME! A favorite recipe of the family is Chicken Enchiladas.

Check out the recipe included on page 4 and give it a try.

Merle and Ruthann are self-employed and keep busy with their Furniture Delivery Service. They deliver in home furnishing all over the United States. Delivering furniture across the country has given Merle and Ruthann a chance to meet many amazing people and to see many amazing sites. Ruthann is an important part of the business as she keeps Merle traveling in the right direction by scheduling deliveries. A few years ago they loaded up their family and made a delivery in the western part of the U.S. After completing the delivery they spent extra time as a family taking in sights and traveling to places of interest, exploring the many sites of the great west. It was a special time for the family and created memories that will last forever.

Flying Into the New Year

by Jeff Polen

Most people think of January 1 as the "new year". This is not really the case in Youth Ministry. As a Youth Pastor, I think of January 1st as more like the "middle of the year".

Our year started back in September and what a year it has been! We started with our annual Youth Fun Weekend in September, and we were off and running.

So far we have studied as a group what it means to be a "Christ Follower", and we studied through the book of Ruth with the entire church, going deeper into the text during Sunday School. In November we spent a weekend at Skyview Ranch for the "I Am: Awakened" Youth Retreat. Currently, we are looking at what it means to have our faith dug down deep inside of us so that we will stand strong when the heavy rain comes.

We have also incorporated the use of Small Groups again this year, and we have enjoyed getting to know one another more personally in a small group setting. We formally get together in small groups once a month, but I have noticed groups getting together just for fun outside of regularly scheduled Youth Group activities. What a blessing that has been to me as the Youth Pastor!

And now we have come to January 1st, the middle of the year, and I look down the road with a mixture of anticipation and anxiety.

Traditionally, the wheels of the Youth Group tend to start wiggling off around January and February. The snow starts flying, people get busy, new drivers start looking for jobs, seniors start focusing on graduation and college, and something else happens too... what was it? Oh yeah... Hiland basketball takes over.

I am praying that this year will be



different, that we will fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the Author and the perfecter of our faith (see Hebrews 12:2)... I am praying that we will press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (see Philippians 3:14).

Will you join me in praying for the Youth Group as we go flying into what you would call the New Year, and what I would call the Middle? We have a lot of year left, and I believe that God has amazing things in store for this group...

Jeremy's Jots

There Was a Mouse in My House by Jeremy Miller

No one else was awake. The house was quiet as I sat in our recliner thinking about the day ahead. The sun had not yet risen; only the soft light of our living room lamps gave evidence that the day had begun. The interruption was gentle. A small light brown movement appeared from behind the couch and paused. We stared at each other for a few moments and suddenly he recognized that I would rather not have seen him, and off he scampered.

He was nice enough and perfectly harmless but I was suddenly irritated. I wasn't irritated because I dislike him and his furry friends; I was irritated because his presence put me in an uncomfortable position. Someone I live with, am close to, and with whom I even share a bed finds the very mention of his species detestable. I began rummaging through my brain, seeking to discover some method of communicating the presence of this critter that would not cause heart palpitations or some other adverse medical condition.

I thought about avoidance, "Honey, why don't you just take the day off.....and stay upstairs?"

It crossed my mind to simply pretend like I hadn't ever seen the little vermin. However, the repercussions of Sarah accidentally stumbling onto a mouse I knew existed but hadn't warned her about quickly banished that thought.

I considered trying to reshape perspective, "Honey, I was reading the news this morning and lots of people have died, there are several unsolved missing persons cases, three earthquakes occurred, one plane crashed, there were two house fires in Cleveland.....etc.....and by the

way....someone thing moved in....he's brown, handsome, small...and I promise to kill him as soon as possible."

None of these possibilities seemed like really good long term options. In the end, I knew what had to be done. Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:25 to "put off falsehood and speak truthfully to each other." So, gently the cards were laid on the table and a plan was developed to solve the problem. As you would expect, there were some minor reactions to breaking the difficult news. Hands were waved and a couch was perched upon. But she trusts me. She has talked me off my fair share of perches.

The truth has a way of doing that.



Seminar for Growth with Dale Keffer

The Seminar for Growth series has been created using the Discipleship plank of the MCA Vision as a spring board. Each year MCA will offer a seminar that will challenge our hearts and minds. The 2012 seminar will focus on the Old Testament.

Perhaps you have found yourself thinking one or more of these thoughts:

"Why does the Old Testament exist?"

"I don't understand what killing all those people has to do with Jesus?"

"The Old Testament God seems really unfriendly."

Maybe you are just hungry to understand the Bible better. Whatever your reasons, March 18-21 are dates to clear out on your calendar.

"He is the fastest preacher I have ever heard." This might well be your response after listening to Dale Keffer speak. Dale and his wife Shirley will be joining us March 18-21 for a powerful seminar designed to help us understand why the Old Testament matters and how it relates to our lives. While Dale is a unique and gifted communicator, his knowledge of the

Old Testament allows him to speak with authority as he reveals God's Word to us in fresh ways.

Dale and his wife Shirley are from Chesapeake Virginia where Dale has pastored since 1974. From the young to the elderly, Dale's story telling and teaching will reveal God's word more clearly to us at MCA.

If you would like to contribute an article for the next edition of the MCA CONNECTION please contact Keith Teneffoss at (330) 695-3011 or ktennefoss@mcachurch.org.

One Door Closes and Another Opens *continued...*

by David Hochstetler

a custodian you will never view the facility the same way. Rest assured you will never find us trimming our finger nails in church, putting Kleenex in the song book racks, or dropping candy wrappers on the floor.

The last number of years I did the maintenance work and Barbara did all the cleaning. As you can see, I had Barbara do all the hard work, and work hard she did. She washed the gym floor by hand with a mop and bucket approximately 1,000 times, and swept the carpeting at least that many times. Look around and notice all the glass, the glass doors had to be cleaned at least once a week. Did you realize that there are 24 toilets and urinals in the building and she cleaned every one of them, along with the kitchen and all the Sunday school rooms. She very seldom complained, but she was ready to fire me a number of years ago when I scheduled 11 weddings in the span of 13 weeks; two of those weddings were on the same weekend. Besides that, she is a better wife than I could have ever

asked for. She is loved by all her children and grandchildren, which to a husband is such a beautiful thing to



David and Barbara Hochstetler 1993

see. If you would look in the dictionary for the words commitment, faithful and loving you would see Barbara's face.

The people at MCA are some of the nicest people to work for that you will ever find. The trustees that we

worked for were always ready to help and make our job easier. Of course the staff at MCA are so easy to please Jeremy, Jeff, Keith, Kris and Iva have made it such a wonderful atmosphere to be a part of. The staff meetings and lunch time, have added a feeling of belonging. One of the interesting things we observed was how the general public viewed the position of the custodian. After all, if you weren't qualified to do anything else you could always serve as the cleaning lady. We must say the people of the Fredericksburg area were always so kind and appreciative of what MCA did for them. But one could soon feel very inferior if you didn't stay focused on the truth: that it is a ministry of the Kingdom.

- Phil and Yvonne Chupp have taken over the Custodian duties at MCA. Please let them know if there is anything that you need.
- We will have a Retirement Celebration carry-in meal for Donny and Barbara on January 22nd.

Chicken Enchiladas

Miller Family Favorite

Ingredients:

- 1 poundChicken Breast
- 210 ³/₄ oz cans of Cream of Chicken Soup
- 18oz Cream Cheese
- 2 cupsSalsa
- 2 cupsShredded Cheddar Cheese
- 68in Tortillas

Instructions:

1. Cook chicken and cut in small pieces
2. Mix the soup, cream cheese and salsa.
3. Put some of the mixture aside for the top of the enchiladas (not quite half)
4. Mix the chicken with the remaining soup mixture and add cheese
5. Fill tortillas and put in greased 9x13 dish with the folded side down
6. Put the soup mixture on top and sprinkle shredded cheddar cheese on top
7. Cover with foil and bake at 350° for 20-30 minutes