

MCA CONNECTION

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Upcoming Events

APRIL

H15 Fundraiser Meal - 8th
Growing Young Series- 15th

MAY

Baptism - 13th
Red Cross at MCA - 15th
Student Pastor Vote - 20th

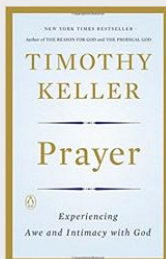
JUNE

Summer Sunday School - 3rd
VBS - 10th

Pastor’s Pick

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

Prayer
by Timothy Keller



GAME ON! VBS

Do you remember when you attended VBS as a kid? Maybe you did not have that opportunity. Kids all over the community get excited for the week of VBS. The fact that kids are excited to bring their friends and family to VBS is pretty cool. Church is often about grownup stuff and the kids are typically corralled, controlled, confined to small areas of the church where they don't have to sit still or be quite. Except for the week of VBS. During that week the entire church is transformed into a place completely focused on kids and they LOVE it. For two hours each night they have a blast. To them it is play, snacks, motion, noise, friends and fun. Each night the kids move from area to area experiencing different activities at each station.

Continued on page 3...





Growing Young Series

The Growing Young Sermon Series starts on April 15th and will focus on passing on our faith to other generations. Investing in younger generations is imperative for church life to continue beyond a single generation. We are excited to see this series starting and hope that you will enjoy it as we take an intergenerational approach to church.

MCA Speaks by Lynnette Detweiler

I can picture the day vividly, it was a beautiful summer day in Virginia. I had done all my chores in the morning and was anxiously waiting till after lunch to head over to a friend's house for the afternoon. My mom had made egg sandwiches for lunch, which I detested, but as kids we were required to eat what was given to us. I knew that I would have to finish my sandwich before heading to my friend's house. Suddenly, a brilliant plan popped into my head, I would tell mom I was going to eat my lunch out on the porch to enjoy the beautiful day.

When out of view I would discard my egg sandwich under the porch. Mom would be none the wiser. After executing my plan to perfection, I returned inside with a clean plate quite smug in my dishonesty. Often times, the older we get the more we realize how wise our parents are. This is one such occasion in which her wisdom far outmatched my own. She was confused as to how quickly I finished the lunch I claimed to hate. Upon further investigation my "finished egg sandwich" was found. Needless to say, I spent that afternoon at home, rather than my friend's house.

I look back at that story and chuckle at my ignorance. It was quite obvious to my mother, and to me now, that my plan was far from brilliant. As we grow older our deceit becomes subtler. And often the ways we deceive are only in "small things". But that doesn't change the fact that deceit is always ignorant and hurtful. When we mislead others in any way, even if we get away with it, we damage our relationships with them and with God. Honesty and integrity in the smallest of things is important to God and to our relationships with others.



Family Spotlight

The Jared and Sarah Hostetler Family



Jared and Sarah live in Smithville where they have lived for the past 6 years. They have three children, Jed (4), Oliva (3), Micah (11 mths). Jared is a Nurse Practitioner at CVS Minute Clinic and Sarah is a Registered Nurse at Wooster Community Hospital. Jared grew up in the Smithville area and Sarah came from the Mansfield area. They met at Ashland University as Freshman in their Microbiology class. It was not long until the study of small living things blossomed into a loving relationship that now anchors the Hostetler household.

Jared has attended MCA for the past 14 years and Sarah started attending when she began dating Jared. They were married at MCA in 2011 and are part of the Journey Together Core Group.

When it comes to food the family likes chicken pot pie and vegetable soup, but their favorite treat is a McDonald's Big Box. Just add the following ingredients and you can enjoy this family favorite: 2 Big Macs, 2 Cheese Burgers, 10-piece Chicken Nuggets, 4 Small Fries and 4 Drinks.

Their family enjoys activities like going to the park, walking the trails in

Johnson's Woods and going to the Zoo. They equate themselves to Lions with Jared's long hair (mane) and a pack of cubs that make the Perfect Pride. The kids especially love spending time with Grandpa and Grandma. The Hostetler family at MCA includes Arlen and Jean (Grandpa and Grandma) and Uncle Kent. The past year was busy for the Hostetler's as they welcomed their son Micah to the family and Jared completed his Graduate Studies to become a Nurse Practitioner. More than anything Jared and Sarah have enjoyed watching their family develop. Seeing their children grow and develop their own unique personalities has been a blessing for them.



GAMEON VBS Continued...

...They learn in a class room, they learn at the Mission Station, they Learn at the Music station, they enjoy good food and get some exercise, and they join together in worship. The outcome for them is a fun week at church. They leave with good memories of church and the experience they had here because THEY are the focus. Oh yeah, while all of this fun was taking place they were learning about the GOSPEL. The Gospel of Jesus is the focal point of VBS. Behind all of the preparations, decorating, food and activities is a message that Jesus restores our relationship with God and allows us to freely honor God with our lives. We are called to share this good news. Sometimes that means teaching another person. Sometimes that means helping with decorations that make others feel special. Sometimes it means making a small snack and serving it with a loving smile. Whether directly or indirectly the things we do at VBS allow our church to share the gospel with the kids of the church and community. Did you know that about 50% of the kids that attend VBS are not from our church?

It is April and that means we need your help to make VBS successful. Please consider helping. We have many areas that could use your time and talents. Teaching kids in a classroom, teaching in the Mission Station and helping prepare decorations are all areas of volunteer needs. With your help the kids can come to VBS and have "fun". What do you get? Well you get to share the Gospel and that ends up being pretty cool too!

Looking Back by Jeremy Miller

I am surprised nobody at church punched my 17-year-old self. There were some who probably wanted to, but I have been privileged to share my life's journey with wiser people whose maturity and restraint outpace my own. There was the time I challenged our pastors with better ways of "doing church," fully convinced we were a spiritually dead community God wasn't going to bless. They invited me to a meeting where they gave me their undivided attention, asked questions, and were spiritually vulnerable in a way I will never forget. The humility they displayed in the face of rather blatant spiritual arrogance remains etched in my memory. I recall the time a few years later when, after having read a super-popular church growth book, I felt assured our little rural church could also merge onto the golden highway of mega-churchdom. The greatest church growth book of all time had been written and was simply waiting for ignorant masses of churches (like my own) to realize the truth. I was not quiet about this conviction either. People listened and asked good questions and were kind as I zealously expounded this set of ideas with all the wisdom of a parrot.

Not all the long suffering extended to me involved overcoming my pride. I remember returning from one year at Rosedale Bible College on fire for Jesus and full of ideas for ministry and looking for an outlet to serve. The leaders graciously encouraged me to run with an idea I had to plan a weekly night of worship, prayer, and scripture reading through the summer months. With all the organizational skills of a three-year-old, I dove in. The meetings went surprisingly well, but when your idealism outpaces your ability

to plan, a person burns out rather quickly. Mercifully, the summer ended and I had to leave for college before I was forced to figure out how to keep things going. Our elders and pastors knew I was untested and yet they encouraged a young, brash, eager beaver to forge ahead. There was also the moment that I was given a year-long assignment to help lead singing for our congregation. One day, I forgot I was responsible and never showed up. If our worship leader ever

pulled a stunt like that... My pastor called me out on that one and I'm glad he did.

That stuff is embarrassing to write. Wow. There are things not as far removed about which I am equally embarrassed and simply can't bring myself to write...yet. It seems that every stage of life and ministry brings past errors into clearer focus. I wonder at times how people ever turned me loose in ministry? But, I am also aware that it was the longsuffering mature believers around me that saw through immaturity, arrogance, and

weaknesses to a few gifts God might be able to use with some time and practice. What if they had simply shut me down until I grew up? What if they had been unable to get passed the rough edges or taken offense at my brash teenage self? What if they hadn't had the maturity to listen and to correct? I'm glad they didn't give me the reigns of a church but am grateful they invited me to practice real ministry with real responsibility. May we be a church that is gracious with our younger people, encouraging engagement and responsibility. As we follow this Growing Young path, there will be many "teachable moments," and, God willing, many disciples equipped to carry on Christ's mission.



High School Senior - 1999