

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD
5500 Old Collinsville Road Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208
(618) 632-1438

Rev. Terry L. Clayton, Senior Pastor

Rev. Brian Pope, Associate Pastor

www.fhcog.org

Volume XI No. 4

April 2007

IN THIS ISSUE

From The Pastor's Desk	1
Sermon and Worship for April	2
Faithweaver Friends.....	3
Nursery Report	3
50 Day Small Groups.....	3
Vacation Bible School.....	3
ROCK.....	4
Prayer and Fasting	4
Senior Adult Class News and Views... 	4
What Equals 100%.....	5
Angel Food Ministries	5
Forrest Gump Goes to Heaven.....	6

From the Pastor's Desk

From The Pastor's Desk "Spiritual Inheritance"

Luke 17:33 "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

Don't you hate it when someone else reminds you of getting older? The dawning of old age is when you sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there. Everything hurts; what doesn't hurt, doesn't work. My point is growing older can be dangerous. One is wise to be prepared. Your last chapters can be your best. Our vision should improve. Not our vision of earth, but of heaven.

Age is no enemy. Age is a mile marker, a gentle reminder that home has never been so near. So a question we all must ask ourselves is this: "Is your conversion complete?" I want to be sure about my relationship to Christ! I don't want to be a half-way Christian! There is no joy in an experience of partial conversion. It is easy these days to be tinged with religion, influenced by contact with the church, changed to some degree by prayer without ever having been transformed by repentance. **YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!** There are thousands of church people who lack peace of mind and heart. They go about their daily lives with a persistent need for confession. So is Christ real to us or merely someone or something we talk and know about but never experience? President Harry Truman had a plaque on his desk which read "The buck stops here!" That is exactly where you and I stand with regards to eternity and our relationship with Christ. The fact that your father or mother is employed by the King does not mean you get eternal insurance. You have to take out your own policy. You can be a member of a Spiritually alive church and still be dead in your sins. I am amazed at the shallow commitments we think we can make to God. When He says we are valuable, let's believe Him. The narrow gate makes entrance difficult, and the closed door makes entrance impossible. The greatest sin of all is the sin of presumption. Just because we go to a certain church, or because our parents are saved does not save us. We must have an up-to-date experience with the Lord. What matters to God is not our popularity status, wealth, heritage or power, but our commitment to Him. Make

sure you put God in first place so you will join the people from all over the world who will take their places in the Kingdom of Heaven. So it is not good works, or sincerity, trying real hard, or a good family, etc. It is Christ! If you believe that He died and rose again, you can have eternal life. Salvation is simply a gift, but it wasn't easy. It is free but, it wasn't cheap. This EASTER SEASON do a heart check up! Have you ask Jesus to come into your life? It is sad for some people to be reminded of Jer. 8:20 "The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved." So are you enjoying your Spiritual Inheritance this Easter and every day of the year? It is the greatest gift you can give yourself, your family, your friends, and most of all to God. The best way to enjoy the journey in life is with Jesus.

Pastor Clayton

Sermon and Worship Outline for April

APRIL 1 PALM SUNDAY
Week 7 of the 50 Day Spiritual Adventure

AM SERVICE "The Wider Kingship"
Text: Psalm 24, Isaiah 40:12-17
Pastor Clayton

PM SERVICE Small Group Study
50-day Spiritual Adventure

NO SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 4

APRIL 5 THURSDAY 7PM
MAUNDY SERVICE COMMUNION AND FOOT WASHING SERVICE

APRIL 8 EASTER SUNDAY
Week 8 of the 50 Day Spiritual Adventure

7:30 AM - EARLY MORNING EASTER SERVICE

8:00 AM - BREAKFAST SERVED BY THE MEN OF THE CHURCH

9:30 AM -SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:40 AM - MORNING SERVICE 10:40 AM

"The Living Christ" Text 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

Pastor Clayton

NO EVENING SERVICE ON APRIL 8

SUNDAY SERVICES APRIL 15

AM SERVICE "The Church we Need"
Part 1 Text 1 Cor. 12:13-14
Pastor Clayton

PM SERVICE FRESH SERVICE
Led by Pastor Brian

SUNDAY SERVICES APRIL 22

AM SERVICE "The Church we Need"
Part 2 Text 1 Cor. 12:13-14
Pastor Clayton

PM SERVICE
WOMEN OF THE CHURCH OF GOD
CONVENTION REPORT: Time of sharing to the church

SUNDAY SERVICES APRIL 29

AM SERVICE Pastor Brian

PM SERVICE
STATE YOUTH CONVENTION REPORT:
Time of sharing to the church

Faith Weaver Friends

Wow!! Can you believe we have been doing this for almost three years now? Thank you all so much for all the prayers and support. God continues to bless me as he allows me to watch these kids grow. The kids are really soaking it all up. They just love their leaders and the fun and fellowship with each other. Please continue to support the dinners whenever possible. Big thanks to Brenda, Gwen and Ruth for keeping up with the dinners!!! Thank you to all who cook. You give so graciously of your time and talents. If anyone still wants a chance to cook, see one of our dinner ladies, You are reimbursed for whatever you buy. There are also a few supplies in the kitchen on the shelf marked FWF; feel free to use them.

In prayer,
Carmen Hamilton

Nursery Report

Where do you find youngsters marching in the infantry, riding in the cavalry, and serving in the Lord's Army? Our Nursery, of course. Our children are learning how much Jesus loves them and how much they are loved in our church. They say morning prayers and a prayer of thanks before we eat our snack. Yes, you can hear them crying from time to time and we may even stink every once in awhile, but our nursery is full of activity each Sunday that is pleasing to our Lord. The children notice when one of their classmates is not there and get excited when their friends walk into class. I am thankful that God created our little ones as they bring so much joy to our church.

Carol Pollard
Nursery Sunday school Teacher

Small Groups

I just want to report to everyone about how well our small groups for the 50 Day Spiritual

Adventure have been going. Of course, if you have been in one....then you realize what a blessing they have been. Every one of them is very different from one another! Isn't that something? And at the same time we are studying the same thing each week. How great! From our leaders to those who attend we each bring different ideas to our group. That is how we learn from one another, and how God uses us to bring new light to our group. How exciting! All I can say is "If you have not been a part of a small group for what ever reason, it is not too late to join one!" I want to say again to our leaders just how much we all appreciate their willingness to give to us and to the Lord. Thanks leaders!

Darla Clayton

Vacation Bible School

Yeah! We are having VBS this year. So mark your calendars and tell your friends! The date is June 11th through the 15th. We will be having it in the evening from 6-8pm. The adventure is

The logo for Galilee BY-THE-SEA features the word "Galilee" in a large, stylized, bold font with a textured, slightly distressed appearance. Below it, the words "BY-THE-SEA" are written in a smaller, simpler, all-caps font.

This is really going to be great!! Each tribe will get to explore what it might have been like to live when Jesus did. Catch him in action through vivid stories and activities!

I am in need of anyone who has:

- * A self standing canopy (I can't think what else to call them)
- * woven looking blankets
- * Fake tree looking plants
- * Some more volunteers
- *PRAYER!

That is what I can think off the top of my head. I'll let you know if I think of any thing else. Thank you in advance for any help.

Asking for God's Direction,
Carmen Hamilton

R.O.C.K.

Rally Our Christina Kids is a fun place to hang out for those ages 9 to 11. We sometimes go on small trips, but what we are doing now is the 50 Day Spiritual Journey Books. We get a cool prize if we do everything in the book for the entire week.

We are collecting for NICE right now so if you have any band aides or children's vitamins that you could donate, please do . That would help a lot.

Thank you,
Daniel Pollard

What the Bible Says about the Benefits of Prayer and Fasting

Based on Esther 4:16

When God calls us to prayer and fasting, He always does so for our benefit. The Scriptures point out at least seven references:

1. *Our attitudes, feelings and thoughts get sifted, pruned and purified so that God might entrust us with a greater ministry.* By fasting and praying, we become more disciplined toward the things of our Father. We give Him opportunity to cut away from us those things that will slow us down, do us in, or keep us from His plans and purposes.
2. *We are able to discern more clearly the will of God for our lives.* Fasting clears our spiritual eyes and ears so we can accurately discern what God desires to reveal to us.
3. *We are confronted with our sins and shortcomings so we might confess them to God, receive forgiveness for them and walk in greater righteousness.* Many times we break stubborn, sinful habits when we fast and pray. Fasting and prayer cleanse us and purify us from the errors that have kept us entangled in sin and folly.
4. *We experience a release of supernatural power.* Genuine fasting

and prayer result in spiritual growth, including a renewed outpouring of supernatural power. Contain problems and situations cannot be resolved apart from fasting and prayer.

5. *We can influence national issues and concerns through our prayers.* As we fast and pray for our nation, God will move. He will pour out His Spirit, in His ways and in His timing. We can count on it.
6. *We can help build up God's people.* Prayer is the generator of the church. It gives power to its ministers. It propels outreach to the lost. It creates a climate in which evangelistic efforts succeed.
7. *Our minds are sharpened.* When we fast and pray, we begin to understand the Scriptures as never before. We become sensitive to God's timing and direction, with an increased awareness and ability to discern. We become keenly aware of what God desires to do and accomplish not only in our lives, but also in the lives of those around us.

GENUINE FASTING AND PRAYER RESULT IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

Submitted by Darlene Hamilton,
Prayer Leader

SENIOR ADULT CLASS- News and Views

Larry Campbell, along with Gary Hamilton and Bill White, went to Anna Rose's house to do some home repairs for her. Our church is blessed for having folk who are willing to share their talents with others.

A number of ladies, including four from our class went to the home of Anna Rose and had a great time of fellowship and prayer.

Stella had Mica and some of her friends from Crown Point, IN visiting with her. A great time was had by all.

The Campbells visited with his brother Harold in Chester, IL. It's good when family members can visit together. Time passes so fast.

Edna Mae said she would be dog sitting with Duke, while Brother and Sister Clayton would be gone for awhile. She said she and Duke get along just fine. The DeHarts do this with Kirby, their daughter and son-in-law's dog. Pets are great eh?

The series of this quarter's Sunday school lessons is entitled "Known By Our Love," "A New Community In Christ," and "Living In God's New World." We're looking at I John for insight. The lessons attempt to interpret the meaning of God's love and how it relates to our relationships with one another. We're also going to be looking at how Jesus as the one who redeems and protects the new community of believers. These are good lessons for Senior Citizens. Do you qualify?

Quote: The biggest fabrication is the weight on your driver's license.

Teacher-Ivan DeHart

What Equals 100%?

What does it mean to give MORE than 100%? Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been in situations where someone wants you to give over 100%. How about achieving 101%? What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these Questions:

If:
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Is represented as:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1 9
20 21 22 23 24 25 26.

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K
8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11=98%

sand

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E
11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5=96%

But,

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E
1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5=100%

AND, look how far the love of God will take you

L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D
12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4=101%

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that: While Hard work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the Love of God that will put you over the top! Please send this to your friends and pray for him/her who sent to you. You will be blessed.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

We have been approved to be an Angel Food host site! This will be a great outreach for our church. But we need everyone in the church to do his or her part to help this ministry succeed. One Saturday a month we will be asking you to help reach out and serve our community. There will be a job for everyone. The more people who help, the faster we can accomplish our work for that day. This is not about passing our food; it is about touching people's lives. We must think of this as a ministry. Brenda Caito is our Host Site Director so let's get behind her to make the job easier. For every unit we sell, one dollar comes back to our Church.

Churches that participate in Angel Food Ministries benefit in many ways:

- 1 Gives church members hands-on experience and training with rewarding service to others.
- 2 Provides discounted food not only for those that need it, but for any others who appreciate deep discounts on quality groceries.

- 3 Provides additional income to community outreach funds.
- 4 Gives churches an effective outreach to the community to meet real needs in a genuine way.

Orders for the April menu must be made by April 1st. The cost is \$25 per unit. Each month's menu is different than the previous month and consists of both fresh and frozen items including fresh meats, vegetables, eggs and milk. Each box has an average retail value of over \$50.

Distribution is Saturday morning, April 14th.

Pastor Clayton

Forrest Goes to Heaven

The day finally arrived. Forrest Gump dies and goes to Heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates, met by St. Peter himself. However, the gates are closed, and Forrest approaches the gatekeeper.

St. Peter said, "Well, Forrest, it is certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you, though, that the place is filling up fast, and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The test is short, but you have to pass it before you can get into Heaven."

Forrest responds, "It sure is good to be here, St. Peter, sir. But nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. I sure hope that the test ain't too hard. Life was a big enough test as it was."

Peter continued, "Yes, I know, Forrest, but the test is only three questions:

First: What two days of the week begin with the letter T?

Second: How many seconds are there in a year?

Third: What is God's first name?"

Forrest leaves to think the questions over. He returns the next day and sees St. Peter, who waves him up, and says, "Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers."

Forrest replied, "Well, the first one -- which two days in the week begins with the letter "T"? Shucks, that one is easy. That would be Today and Tomorrow."

The Saint's eyes opened wide and he exclaimed, "Forrest, that is not what I was thinking, but you do have a point, and I guess I did not specify, so I will give you credit for that answer. How about the next one?" asked St. Peter. "How many seconds in a year?"

"Now that one is harder," replied Forrest, "but I think and think about that, and I guess the only answer can be twelve."

Astounded, St. Peter said, "Twelve? Twelve? Forrest, How in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?"

Forrest replied, "Shucks, there's got to be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd..."

"Hold it," interrupts St. Peter. "I see where you are going with this, and I see your point, though that was not quite what I had in mind....but I will have to give you credit for that one, too. Let us go on with the third and final question. Can you tell me God's first name?"

"Sure," Forrest replied, "it's Andy."

"Andy?" exclaimed an exasperated and frustrated St Peter. "Ok, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as the first name of God?"

"Shucks, that was the easiest one of all," Forrest replied. "I learnt it from the song, "ANDY WALKS WITH ME, ANDY TALKS WITH ME, ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN."

St Peter opened the Pearly Gates, and said: "Run ,Forrest, run."