

# BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD  
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## IN THIS ISSUE

From The Pastor's Desk.....	1
Sermon Outlines for Aug. ....	2
Vacation Bible School .....	2
Walk for Missions .....	2
Children of Promise.....	3
Women of the Church of God .....	3
Senior Adult Bible Class .....	3
Food Panty Insight .....	4
Middler Camp Update .....	4
To Think About .....	4

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### "Finishing the Course"

Not enough is said or written today about finishing well. There is plenty of advice on setting goals and establishing priorities and developing a game plan. All of this is needed. But our attention spans have been conditioned by thirty-second commercials. Our world today is coming near to being an "I'm getting tired so let's just quit mentality. Dieting is a discipline, so we stay fat. Finishing school is a hassle so we bail out. Working on a close relationship is hard so we back off. Working through conflicts in marriage is a struggle, so we walk away.

Is the road getting long and hope wearing a little thin for you? Are you beginning to wonder if it is worth it all? Is the dream you have been moving toward seem to be fading away? Listen to what the Word of God says: "Let us not lose heart in doing good for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary." Galatians 6-9 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the

Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. I Corinthians 15:58.

So many start the Christian life like a lightning flash, but how many can you name who are finishing the course with enthusiasm and vigor? What happens along the way that swells the ranks of quitters? I wish I knew the answer.

Edward Roy had a problem. He ran a very unusual business called Jiffy Johns in Pompano Beach, Florida. He had five hundred portable toilets for rent. Band concerts, construction sites, church picnics and outdoor gatherings of any size he would rent his product. His problem was he had to figure out what to do with all the sewage. In his search for a solution he found a solar heating process that turned sewage into fertilizer; then came the idea of marketing his company. So he expanded and began to operate three plants to turn the sewage into fertilizer. Under this new arrangement the company would treat sewage for a fee and convert it into fertilizer which was in turn sold for a profit. And what a project! Jiffy stock turned in the year's best performance on any American exchange, rising from 92 cents to a whopping \$16.50, a spectacular 1,693 percent gain. Edward Roy had a problem with his Johns but he simply refused to let all that stuff get the best of him.

What a lesson for all of us. Life is difficult sometimes--it is an endless series of problems. Do we want to moan and groan about them or face them? Do we want to teach the next generation the disciplines involved in accepting and solving them or encourage them to run and hide from them? Do we want to teach them to finish the course?

What may seem today as lowly, repulsive and useless as sewage can become the most significant and distinctive part of your life.

Furthermore your stock will go up. But you will never know until you go into partnership with the Son. Never, never give up! We have come to the close of another week, another month and before you know it another year. There is no better feeling to know you are getting stronger and to know you still are running toward the prize. In a very short time the school year will start again and we need to pray for students as they learn the skills that will keep them on course. We need to pray for parents to have the love and wisdom they need. We need to pray for the grandparents who have a big part in bringing up their grandchildren. We need to pray for our church as we move forward and dream bigger dreams for the Lord. Everyone of you is very important in the life of this church and we need you to help run the race and touch peoples lives along the way.

*Enjoy The Journey,  
Pastor Clayton*

## **SERMON OUTLINES FOR AUGUST 2005**

### **August 7**

#### **MORNING SERVICE :**

“Being Healed in Your Deserted Places!”

Text: Mark 1:40-45 Pastor Clayton

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Hand Bells

#### **EVENING SERVICE:**

Youth will be in charge of the service.

### **August 14**

#### **MORNING SERVICE :**

“The Burden of Homesickness!”

Text: Phil. 3:12-21 Pastor Clayton

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Children's Choir

#### **EVENING SERVICE:**

“This Is My Story” Guest Speaker

### **August 21**

#### **MORNING SERVICE :**

Special Program By Our Youth and Children

Directed by Rebecca Knowles

#### **EVENING SERVICE:**

Bible Study led by Pastor Clayton

### **August 28**

#### **MORNING SERVICE :**

Pastor Brian will be Speaking

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Pastor Clayton

## **EVENING SERVICE:**

Video of Reach the Loss: Mission of Refuge:  
Your Choice Monday Evening, June 27, 2005

Speaker: Reggie McNeal  
119<sup>th</sup> North American Convention  
of the Church of God

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## **86<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Illinois District Camp Meeting of The Church of God**

West Frankfort, IL

August 7-14

Evangelist: Rev. Jeannette Flynn

Music: Chad Halan

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**



“HEARTBEAT HOSPITAL ...

**GOD'S HEART CARE SPECIALISTS”**

Heartbeat Hospital employs highly skilled medical staff, nurses and technicians guiding visitors to fifteen minute daily hospital activities. After gathering at the WAITING ROOM, groups eat at the RED CROSS CAFETERIA and play HEART SMART GAMES. Music is heard at SONGS FROM THE HEART. An exciting Chip and Clare story is told in the RECOVERY ROOM while good news about salvation is shared at the FIRST AID STATION.

Monday through Friday 6:30-9:00 p.m. July 25-29  
– VBS is the place to be!

## **COMING EVENT...**



**WALK – FOR- MISSIONS**

Long Acre Park

September 10, 2005

Sponsored by The Women of the Church of God for everyone in the church

**STEP BY STEP CHALLENGE**

Now is the perfect time to get into the habit of walking—then on September 10<sup>th</sup> we will all walk together to raise funds for MISSIONS.

A plan for walking and getting sponsors will be available the end of the month—so we can be training for six (6) weeks before the event.

*Stella Simms, Belinda Floyd, Ruth Pope*

## **CHILDREN OF PROMISE...**

Children of Promise is presenting a CD "Sing! Africa." This Musical CD features sponsored children from Uganda and Tanzania – Kasubi Secondary School Choir and Aldersgate Secondary School Choir. There are 14 songs and they will bless you as you listen to their joyful singing. A promotional DVD will be shown soon. If you would like to purchase one of the CD's they are \$20 and available from Ruth.

In the Children of Promise Conference at Anderson Convention, we heard from three missionaries - Philippines, Ecuador and Costa Rica. Each shared how much sponsorship means to these children and also to their families. If you would like to sponsor a child, please let me know.

*Ruth*

*Illinois Volunteer for Children of Promise*

## **WOMEN OF THE CHURCH OF GOD**

Our regular meeting was moved up a week because of Bible School. We heard about our Home Missions Service Project which is helping to develop a weekend seminar for Native American women in Sioux Falls, SD (by our national WCG office). Many women in the Native American community have suffered terrible abuses and have closed themselves off emotionally. The purpose of the seminar will be to address the topics of abuse (all forms), self-esteem and a positive relationship with God. We will be sending \$50 to help with this event.

Diane presented the lesson "Women Called by God to Be disciples." Our thoughts were focused around the poor and powerless. We learned how Tabitha (Dorcas) was devoted to good works and acts of charity. She was a friend to the widows and impacted the lives of the poor and powerless by using the gifts that she had. We were challenged to look at our gifts and to think about how we are using them in our church, in our community and individually.

Warren and Ruth attended Missions Day at Camp Warren. Tom and Norma Smith were our missionary speakers. They are working in Egypt and Sudan. They are excited about how God is using them and shared many interesting things. They will also be the speakers on Missions Day at West Frankfort Camp meeting on Thursday August 11.

We have been saving quarters - now it's time to turn them in. If you would like to continue to save quarters ask Belinda or Phyllis for your folder back. Thanks to all who have helped with this project.

As we have been doing annually, we will be collecting SCHOOL SUPPLIES. A box will soon be placed in the narthex for your convenience. Denise is heading this project for us this year (thanks). She will be providing a list of supplies usually needed. Also it has been brought to our attention that there may be needs in our church family for supplies. If you could use some help or know someone that does, please let Denise or Ruth know. We want to help! Debbie Pope teaches in Cahokia and we usually give her supplies to take to that school district.

Our next meeting will be August 27 which will be a special time – our prayer retreat. We'd love to have you join us!

*Ruth Pope*

*WCG President*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT SENIOR ADULT BIBLE CLASS NEWS**

Larry and Gwen went to Chester, ILL to attend the wedding of Grandson Lance Campbell. Best wishes to the newly weds Agnes' granddaughter Lisa and her husband Mike were home for a few days, on leave from the Army at Ft. Hood TX. They will be reporting to another military base , when his leave is over. Our best to them.

The Campbell's made an auto trip to Hannibal, MO. They had a very enjoyable trip, enjoying all the areas of Mark Twain's early boyhood home.

The DeHart's also made a trip to Hannibal, MO, but went by the Mississippi Queen, a 430 passenger paddle wheel, excursion boat. It was a 5 day trip, very beautiful and peaceful trip. The boat is all steam powered and the paddle wheel is 32 feet across. Some paddle wheel, eh' Could make 5 mph going up the river and 14 mph going down.

Our congratulations and prayers are with Kenny and Jane Knowles, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Who says marriages can't last. This couple has given much, to the success of our church from the start to the present.

Gwen tells us the Food Pantry is going to take the old fire house and continue to serve the folks in the Fairview Hts. area. They are open to any donations to help in the remodeling of the building.

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Unit II of our Sunday School lessons, have been nothing less than stupendous. Christians know that Jesus is far more than a teacher, yet we can gain a great deal from His teachings. Each lesson lends itself to much class discussion. In our next series of lessons, we will be looking at Jesus' Ministry of Compassion. This unit, utilizes passages taken from the Gospel of Luke, the physician. As we study the Unit we will sense and embrace the compassion that Jesus has for all people---even you. Come and be part of this great study.

Remember: It's nice to have both ends meet---but it's better if they overlap a little.

*Ivan DeHart, Teacher*

## FOOD PANTRY INSIGHT

Good news and Bad news!

We have been praying for direction as to where God wants the Food Pantry to relocate.

God has answered our prayers.

We have decided to move to the old Fire House on St. Clair Street in Fairview Heights. The Fire Chief is working earnestly with us. We can make all the changes we need to, to make the place suitable for our Pantry. That is the good news!

The bad news is we will need a lot of help---carpenters, electricians, painters, etc. Help with moving and all the support we can get.

We are really moving out on faith. God has been with us and knows how bad we need this Food Pantry. I know He is guiding us because everything we have done has come out on top for us.

We will be closed at least two weeks due to the work that has to be done. We are amazed at how fast things have come together. We are thanking God for answering our prayer.

Please hold any supplies until we have moved. We have a place to store them, but we don't want to have to move any more than we have to. After we are settled---bring on the supplies.

I love you all for your prayers and support. You are very blessed people.

*Gwen Campbell, Vice President*

## MIDDLER CAMP UPDATE

What a great time at Middler Camp this year. There were 86 children in attendance. We had 8 from our church go: Heather Hamilton, Alexis Pickens, Morgan Brown, Nathan Hamilton, Alexis Bowlin, Caycee Brooks, Andrew Pollard and Daniel Pollard.

Our theme was "Yes I Can"\*\*\*\*\*"I Can be Saved"/ "I Can Live the Life"/"I Can Witness". There were daily bible memorizations, devotions twice daily in their cabins, conferences, Christian videos about the Ten Commandments and evening worship with their puppet friends. Something new this year was a Praise and Worship time out in the pavilion with guitar and drum accompaniment. Another favorite time is Campfire where the infamous poem about "The Peach" lives on. Everyone received several badge pins that carry the theme of the week, the Bible Verses they learned and ones just about making good choices and being a Special Child of God.

Benjamin Pollard and Leah Willeford were able to go this year as Jr. Counselors and did a Wonderful job working with the children. Carol, David and I also enjoyed getting to work with the Children and seeing Commitments to Christ being made. Keep your Children in your prayers that they will make good choices for God!

*Jayn Willeford, Carol Pollard*

## TO THINK ABOUT

Call me crazy, but do you think life's unfair too? When I was growing up I had a great deal of respect for my mother, because I felt she was reasonable and her punishments were fair. I guess that gave me a dented perspective on what life would be like. When I started this journey called parenting, I thought that I should shelter and protect my kids as much as possible, but now I'm realizing that, that could cause them to be just as shocked as I have been to be thrown into the real world.

I want so very much to keep my children from pain, but I hold myself from holding them back, because they will be better people in the long run.

God is teaching me so much about what a 'good' parent should be. Though I know I will never be the parent the Lord is to me, I feel comfort in the knowledge that I'm not supposed to be. I have learned that it is from my downfalls as a parent that will lead my children to Christ, because the Lord is perfect. The Lord will hold them when they are in pain, from my sins. I pray that the pain I inflict will be very little, but I joy in the thought that it will bring them to Christ. This is by no means an excuse for me. I can only hope the Lord will continue to mold me and my children will have few scares in the process.

Why is life so hard' I guess it's because if it were easy we'd never grow, but sometimes I feel like I'd rather just be a seed for the rest of my life. :) Of course, I know better and I do want better. I dare not pray for patience, but when will I get there' Am I there yet, Lord' "Nope, not yet" Am I there now, Lord. "Nope still not yet" How about now, Lord?' "No, it's going to be a while"

Hmmm, who's the child and who's the parent.

I wanted to share with you a little about what the Lord is teaching me these days. Hope you get something out of it. God Bless!

*Shannon Peiffer*

### **WHY THE FLAG IS FOLDED 13 TIMES**

Have you ever wondered why the Flag of the United States of America is folded 13 times when it is lowered or when it is folded and handed to the next of kin at the burial of a veteran? Here is the meaning of each of those folds and what it means:

THE FIRST FOLD of our Flag is a symbol of life.

THE SECOND FOLD is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

THE THIRD FOLD is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

THE FOURTH FOLD represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

THE FIFTH FOLD is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries may she always be right; but it is till our country, right or wrong."

THE SIXTH FOLD is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE SEVENTH FOLD is a tribute to our Armed Forces for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our Republic.

THE EIGHTH FOLD is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

THE NINTH FOLD is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

THE TENTH FOLD is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

THE ELEVENTH FOLD, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

THE TWELFTH FOLD, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

THE THIRTEENTH FOLD; When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto "In God We Trust".

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

The next time you see a Flag ceremony honoring someone that has served our country, either in the Armed Forces or civilian services such as the Police Force or Fire Department, keep in mind all the important reasons behind each and every movement. They have paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us by honoring our Flag and our Country.

(Source [http://www.usa-patriotism.com/reference/flag\\_folding.htm](http://www.usa-patriotism.com/reference/flag_folding.htm))



### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Thank you for your contribution to this newsletter. Please submit articles by the third Sunday of the month. You may put them in the pocket on the bulletin board in the narthex, in my mailbox or email them to me at [billandkaren@mail.com](mailto:billandkaren@mail.com). Thank you!

*Karen White*