

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Leading with Authority

Few people want to be leaders because few people want authority. There are a lot of people who would gladly tell you how things ought to be done. But complainers and critics seldom crave a position that combines the ingredients of power and responsibility; that's authority and that is the starting point of true leadership. As leaders, we have the potential to turn our vision into reality. We control resources and we influence people. We can make things happen. That is power. We have something more, something no critic or observer will ever possess. We have responsibility; we will be held accountable for our decisions and the results they produce. Taken together these factors add up to a huge potential for impact. We can see the future and we can make it happen. That's

exciting! So are you leading with authority in the church? Are you making the most of your God-given opportunities to turn intention into reality? There are five keys for good decision making that will help all of us as we work together for the Kingdom.

1. Survey the Current Situation.

Managers make quick decisions that will "stop the pain" or "put out the fire." They solve problems as quickly as possible using the first available means. While those short-term solutions may be helpful in managing a crisis, they seldom produce the conditions that enable a church to grow. Leaders must be the ones to think comprehensively about a problem so they can see the entire picture.

2. Imagine the Possibilities.

Most decisions are made in order to preserve the status quo. We want to keep things normal. We implement changes or solutions that will keep people coming back, or to get back to the way we have always done it. Leaders must bring vision to the task of decision making by being able to see any choice as a precious opportunity for change. Look for win-win situations rather than simply trying to prevent a loss. Imagine what your world would be like if you were able to grow through the problem. Consider your decision making process by asking this question: What if?

3. Seek Godly Counsel.

The surest way to ensure the failure of a decision is to make it in a vacuum. Seek the wisdom of other leaders who have faced similar challenges. The next question in your decision making process is this: Who can help?

4. Build Consensus.

No leader can succeed alone; a leader must have supporters who will rally around and implement his/her decision(s).

5. Step toward the Future.

When facing a major decision, it is always tempting to hold onto the past. There is comfort and security in what we know. Leaders must be willing to risk, to reach and to dare. It is not enough to be rid of a past or present problem; we must step into the future. The final question is your decision making process is one with great possibility: Why not?

Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton

SERMON OUTLINES FOR AUGUST 2006

ALL SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES ARE AT 5:30 PM
WITH PASTOR BRIAN

August 5 Saturday Evening Service
August 6 Sunday Morning Service
5 Star Award Sunday

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
Sermon Series: Realities in the Game of Life
Week 1 "What it Takes to Win - the Basic Rules!"
Text: Daniel 6:10-11

EVENING SERVICE:
Youth will be in charge of the service.

August 12 Saturday Evening Service
August 13 Sunday Morning Service

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
Sermon Series: Realities in the Game of Life!
Week 2 "Avoiding Big Problems – Use a Good
Road Map!"
Text: Acts 27:39-40

EVENING SERVICE:
All Church Back to School Party!

August 19 Saturday Evening Service
August 20 Sunday Morning Service

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton

Sermon Series: Realities in the Game of Life!
Week 3 "Spin Again! Getting a Second Chance"
Text: John 21:15-19

EVENING SERVICE:
Project Outreach: Helping Families
NO EVENING SERVICE

August 26 Saturday Evening Service
August 27 Sunday Morning Service

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
Sermon Series: Realities in the Game of Life!
Week 4 "The Big Payoff: Your Final Reward!"
Text: Rev 22:12-14

EVENING SERVICE:
Film Night: Rev. Jeannette Flynn from the
Monday Evening Service, June 26, 2006, at
Anderson Camp Meeting

Youth Night- August 6th

The Youth will be in charge of the evening services and Richard Ryan will be speaking. This will be his last Sunday with us before leaving for college. There will be a reception for him after the service. Please bring a card or letter of encouragement to show your support and love for him as he begins to prepare for ministry.

Report from the General Assembly of the Church of God June 27-28, 2006

Warner Auditorium was closed in May 2005 because of the health danger from the presence of asbestos in the internal air of the building. A study was done centered around three options:

1. Fix the outer ring, repair the leakage of the roof, replace and restore the interior sound proofing to meet current building standards. Cost estimate was \$1.9 million.
2. Do all of #1 as well as put heating and cooling in the building. Cost estimate was \$4.9 million.
3. Do all of #1 and #2 and reconstruct the building into an all-weather facility. Cost estimate was \$9.4 million.

The following resolution was presented to the 2006 General Assembly and was passed:
"That the General Assembly of the Church of God would sell to Anderson University 37.7 acres of land including Warner Auditorium in its current condition. The University would continue to make its facilities available for the North American Convention."

Strategic Goals were presented by our General Director, Dr. Ronald Duncan:

1. To revitalize the Great Commission in the life of every individual, church and agency.
2. To engage every individual, church, and agency in the Great Commandments.
3. To commit to stewardship principles leading to flexible ministry future and the management of debt (debt free as the goal) for every individual, church and agency.
4. To nurture the spiritual gifts of every individual, church and agency.
5. To renew our efforts toward relational connectivity and identity for every individual, church and agency of the Church of God.

Reports were given from the Integrity Advisors Group, The Reconstituted Board of Church Extension and Church of God Ministries, the Compassion Fund for Needy Note Holders, and our Educational Institutions.

A new budget of \$10,179,372 was passed.

I have copies of these reports if you would like more information.

Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY **AUGUST 16TH 6:00 PM**

We would like to have some early school pictures of our church members to put on the media screen to see how many we can guess! Bring your picture by the first Sunday of August. Do you have a good story to tell about your School Days? We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite sack lunch and the church will provide the drinks. What a great time to invite someone to our church!

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

FEATURED FAMILY—THE WHITE FAMILY

Bill and Karen White lived just seven miles from each other, but it took years to bring them together. They were married March 25, 1972, on a very warm day for Wisconsin weather. There were so many people who showed up for the wedding that they didn't have room for them all. Now how's that for popularity? Though they both started life in a small town, they have found a home here in the hustle and bustle of Fairview Heights. Karen started out as a teacher in child development. Bill was a driver for Emery Worldwide, which we now know as UPS until his retirement three years ago. They brought two beautiful children into the world. Brenda has just moved back into the area and is working as Customer Service Client Specialist. Brian is a Staff Sergeant in the Air Force and is stationed in Papillion, Nebraska. In 1974, Karen started an in-home daycare that has reached out to touch many young hearts. These children are not only her job, but they also are her life. This has been her ministry for the past 32 years. Karen and Bill are now reaping the rewards of watching the lives of the young children they've touched unfold. Karen told me about a young woman she used to care who came back for a visit and is now starting her career and beginning a life. What a blessing it must be to be able to see the seeds you've sown bloom into beautiful flowers. Karen is even watching a second generation, the little girl of a 'little girl' she used to watch. I asked Karen for a word of advice for us young married couples. She says simply to enjoy our little ones because they're only little once and it goes by so very fast. I listened as she spoke of the little things that meant so much to her children, over the years. She gets the insight most parents can only long for because she is

the one our children go to for advice. She's the one they will pour their hearts to. She told me that one little girl was disappointed when her mother got a dishwasher because she missed the time she spent washing dishes with her mother. A little boy tells her how much he enjoys singing songs in the car. Such little things mean so much to our children. Karen holds their secrets safely you have children. Karen, along with Viola and Bill, don't just provide daycare, they provide heartcare because no one could love these children more aside from their own parents. If you need childcare, I'm sure they will be a blessing to your life as they have mine.

By Shannon Peiffer

FALL REVIVAL SEPT 15-17 FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS COG

September 15 Friday, 7:00PM
Pastor Marilyn Stowers – Richmond Heights
COG

September 16 Saturday, 7:00PM
Pastor Stan Reed – Centralia COG

September 17 Sunday, 10:40AM
Brother .David Hall- Executive Secretary-
Treasurer

September 17 6:00PM
Pastor Miki Merritt – New Cote Brilliante COG

A nursery is available for all services.

On The Walk Again!

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline.”

2 Timothy 1:7

Getting yourself out of bed in the morning is one thing. Feeling prepared to face whatever comes your way that day is another. Where do you turn for a confidence booster?

Believe it or not, one of the best confidence builders you can find may be inside those fuzzy slippers you like to wear: your own two feet.

Researchers have discovered that regular exercise (thirty minutes three or four times a week) boosts the confidence level of both men and women. This is due in part to the way

exercise strengthens, tones, and improves the body's appearance. It also has to do with brain chemistry.

When a person exercises, changes take place inside the brain. Endorphins, released as one exercises, are proteins that work in the pleasure centers of the brain and make a person feel more exhilarated. When the heart rate increases during exercise, neurotrophins are also released causing a person to feel more alert and focused.

Are you feeling anxious about your day? Take a walk, jog, cycle, or do some calisthenics first thing in the morning. See if you don't feel a little more on top of the world.

Those who exercise regularly also feel that if they can discipline themselves to exercise, they can discipline themselves to do just about anything!

The human body is one of the most awesome examples of God's creative power – an example we live with daily. He has created us not only to draw confidence from reading his word and experiencing His presence through prayer, but also from the use of our body.

Put on those walking shoes and talk with God as you go! Not only will your body become more fit and your mind more alert, but the Holy Spirit will give you direction and peace about your day.

WALK FOR MISSIONS! SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

Longacre Park – Starting time – 7:00AM.
Stella Simms

Thank you

I would like to express my gratitude for receiving the 5 Star Award. It was truly a surprise. Thank you also for all of the apples. We have enjoyed applesauce, apple cake, apple pie and apple_____. The reserved parking place has also been very nice!

I am thankful for my church family and especially for the prayers and support through the years.

Jayn Willeford

Anderson Camp Meeting Report

First and foremost I am always impressed with the planning of the Convention. There are so

many sessions offered, you really have to plan ahead as to what you are going to attend.

We both enjoyed the Bible Study at morning sessions and the Evening service speakers.

We always like the Heritage Hymn Sing-a-Longs; this year was very special since we were celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Church of God.

Gathering about the Barney Warren Cabin and singing some of his songs were highlights...it seemed as if we were back in that era as we sang without instruments standing under the shade trees by the newly placed original cabin. We also enjoyed the special celebration after the Tuesday night service hosted by Jim Lyons and JJ Wilson - what an evening of talent and praise! My sister (Erma), Darla, Edna Mae and I attended the WCG prayer breakfast. The tables were very beautiful, the breakfast was good, and we heard from the Maxfields about the Children of Promise program after introduction of National WCG Officers.

Communion at the Wednesday Evening Service was very meaningful - served with "living water" instead of grape juice.

We attended a taping of the Viewpoint - very informative (really wish we had this radio program in our area).

We attended worship Sunday morning at North Anderson where Jim Lyon is pastor - another highlight.

Warren attended "Live" a couple of mornings and enjoyed visiting with Mark Helton (he bought his quartet's CD).

Ruth Pope

News from Children of Promise

A big milestone for the Children of Promise Program.....OVER 3,000 CHILDREN ARE NOW BEING SPONSORED IN 21 COUNTRIES!!! Praise the Lord!!!

This news was first shared with the volunteers at a reception for them on Sunday afternoon at Anderson Convention. Cake, punch and snacks were served.

I met the Chairperson of the Board of Directors at the reception who is Dr. Arlo Newell's daughter - she is on staff at Church of the Crossing in Indianapolis.

Brenda and Paul were the speakers for the WCG prayer breakfast and shared so many things about sponsored children. They gave many examples of how the general fund and emergency funds are being used in critical or emergency situations.

I attended their conference on Wednesday afternoon. Donnie Allen from Honduras spoke and it was exciting to hear how the sponsored children are being blessed by the ministry in Honduras. We also heard from Wendy Weeks - she and her husband visited their sponsored child in Uganda last February. Also from Steve and Darlene Carney who visited their child in Ecuador. What an experience it must be to visit the child you sponsor!

Change a Life . . . Sponsor a Child! Children are waiting.

Ruth Pope

Thoughts to Ponder

MONEY WILL BUY

A bed but not sleep.
Books but not brains.
Finery but not beauty.
A house but not a home.
Medicine but not health.
Luxuries but not culture.
Amusements but not happiness
Religion but not salvation.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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 dshp50@yahoo.com.

Thank you!
Debbie Porter