

BRIDGING THE GAP

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day out in spite of everything that could get you sidetracked. One of the most attractive, characteristics of Christ is His consistency. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." When you need Him He is there. He's there even when you don't think you need Him! He is always available because with Him there is no new year or old year. He is the same regardless. What a thought for our lives, that we can be more consistent in this new year.

This month the theme will be "A PLACE WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME." I guess for a church the question is do we know everybody by name that we go to church with each Sunday? If there is someone you are not sure about take time to get to know them better. We have a great challenge this year to really reach out and grow as a church.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

CONSISTENCY

The questions in this list are different, but each answer is the same. What will guard us against foolish extremes? What characterizes those who are successful in sports or sales? What single quality in a business builds respect deeper than any other? What brings security in relationships? What makes us choose a particular brand name over all others? What is needed most by parents in the home? What draws you to the same restaurant time and time again? What will add more weight to your witness for Christ than anything else?

Consistency--it reveals itself in faithful employees who show up on time, roll up their sleeves and commit themselves more to doing the job than watching the clock, diligence is its brother, dependability its partner and discipline its parent. It is the hanging in there day in and

On Sunday evening I will be leading a study on church growth and outreach and I hope you will be part of this study. We need everyone to do their part as we pray, plan, and go out to reach others. On Feb. 27, in the evening service you will have a chance to help us plan to reach out. We need some names of people that we can visit and invite to church. So begin now in putting that list together. Then we also need people to serve on some visitation teams so we can make these contacts. We need people to be on prayer teams and to pray as the teams go out. There is something for all of us to do and I pray that we will all be consistent in using our gifts to help reach out.

As a church we must be willing to change and try new things but we must never change the message of Jesus. Where there is no vision the people perish. But also where there is no reflection, the people perish. Where there is no

action the people perish. A vision is a defiling view that identifies who we are and determines how we should then live and work. Our mission is to win the lost, disciple the believer, and glorify the Lord Jesus! This can be the greatest year of the Church but it will take all of us being consistent in our work for the Lord. So what is God calling you to do. What ministry is He leading you to start, who is He calling you to visit and share your story to. Will you help us make a difference this year in someone's life?

*A Place Where Everybody Knows Your Name,
Pastor Clayton*

SERMON OUTLINES FOR FEBRUARY 2005

THEME FOR THE MONTH:

**“A PLACE WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS
YOUR NAME!”**

FEB. 6

AM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON

“HOLY SMOKE! THE PREACHER'S ON FIRE!”

TEXT: JOHN 1:6

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: CHILDREN'S CHOIR

PM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON

BIBLE STUDY ON

CHURCH GROWTH AND OUTREACH

TEXT: ACTS 14:19-28

FEB. 13 HEART SUNDAY (VIDEO CLIP)

AM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON

“YOU GOT TO HAVE HEART”

TEXT: JOSHUA 14:7-8

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS BY DARLA CLAYTON

PM SERVICE: **SPECIAL EVENT SUNDAY**

VALENTINE DINNER FOR THE CHURCH

SPONSORED BY MEN4HIM

FEB. 20

AM SERVICE: PASTOR BRIAN

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: HANDBELLS

PM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON

BIBLE STUDY ON

CHURCH GROWTH AND OUTREACH

TEXT: MATT. 14:13-21

FEB. 27 POWER POINT AND VISUAL SUNDAY

AM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON

“IS YOUR CREEK DREID UP?”

TEXT: I KINGS 17:7

COMMUNION IN THE MORNING SERVICE

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: CHILDREN'S CHOIR

PM SERVICE: **SPECIAL EVENT SUNDAY**

PRAYER AND PLANNING

FOR OUR SPRING OUTREACH

THE MEETING WILL BE

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

GO RED FOR WOMEN SUNDAY ON FEBRUARY 6

Guess what the #1 & #3 killers of women are....heart disease and stroke. They are two of the many cardiovascular diseases that kill nearly 500,000 women each year. That is more than the next seven causes of death combined! Fortunately we can do a lot to prevent these killers.

Fairview Heights Church of God wants to educate our women (and men) about the many things that we can do to prevent cardiovascular disease and stroke. God expects us to care for ourselves and each other.

Red is the American Heart Association's color for women and heart disease. Make it your color, too, and **show your support of women everywhere by wearing red to church on Sunday February 6.** You won't want to miss our kickoff Sunday!

HEART SUNDAY—FEB. 13, 2005

This is a time to reach out to others. Our goal for the morning service is to have 130 in attendance. So give your heart to someone as a special invitation to come and be a part of this day. The Men4Him will be hosting a special Valentine Dinner Sunday evening starting at 5:00 p.m. The goal for the dinner has been set at 100. If we all work together we can make this day special in the life of the church.

HEALTH WATCH

Starting February 13, we will be doing blood pressure checks and blood sugar counts for those who would like to keep track. Twice a month you can have your blood pressure and sugar checked right after the morning service.

MEN4HIM

Eight men attended our coffee on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. We planned the menu for the Valentine Banquet to be held Sunday, Feb. 13 at 5 p.m., as well as special entertainment which will follow the meal sponsored by Men4Him.

The Banquet is for the entire church family. There is no cost for the attendees. A sign up sheet will be in the foyer, so please sign your name and the number that will be attending, to assist us in preparing the meal.

The men will meet at the church Feb. 12 to finalize last minute details for the Banquet.

We want to encourage all men to come and be a part of our men's group. It is a good opportunity to get better acquainted and help make a difference in our church and community. We can make a difference.

Bill White

"WARM UP AMERICA"

"There is a project going on to "Warm Up America." The idea of the project is for those who know how to knit or crochet to help put together blankets for various homeless shelters, for folks in care centers, and for people who just need a way to keep warm. Michael's Craft Store has had folks making knitted and crocheted squares for awhile and they need help finishing these blankets. If you have folks in your churches who knit or crochet and would like to help with this project have them contact me at 398-0403, or to call Michael's at 398-7520. Several of the women here at St. John have been enjoying working on the blankets and found out that some of the blankets have gone to shelters in Granite City."

Georgia White-Kissling

FELLOWSHIP GROUP UPDATE

I have heard that some of you want to keep your groups going and that is terrific! For the rest of the groups, we might need some fine tuning to get these off the ground.

We will try to make this new year a better one for our fellowship groups. If you want to be part of a Fellowship Group you need to sign your name on the paper provided on the bulletin board. I will put new groups together and we will begin again.

We believe in this ministry. It can and does work. So, if you want to get together with your brothers and sisters, in this congregation, along with getting your family and friends involved in a non church setting, this is for you. Sign up today!

Darla Clayton, Coordinator

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

It is that time of year once again for developing the 2005-2006 Budget. Please turn in budget requests and/or project requests by Feb. 12th for consideration at the Feb. 17th Board of Trustees Meeting. We on the Board request your prayers as we undertake this task. We need prayer for wisdom in our budget preparation and that we are doing God's will.

*Candy Niemeyer,
Treasurer*

CRUISIN'

As you know Pastor and I enjoy going on cruises. We have been approached by many of you asking about a group of us getting together and going. Now, this is possible but we need to start making plans now. I would say the cost for the cruise and flight should cost "around \$750 to \$800.00" per person.

I have already looked into several cruises and that is for Royal Caribbean's Voyager class ships. These are the biggest and nicest ships afloat. These ships have "everything" including an ice skating rink! We are looking at the end of October or the beginning of November. You have to have \$250.00 deposit and the final payment

would not be made until a month before the cruise. Now, you need to let me know if you are really interested in making this trip.

Darla Clayton

TO THINK ABOUT

The next time you feel like God can't use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk
Abraham was too old
Isaac was a daydreamer
Jacob was a liar
Leah was ugly
Joseph was abused
Moses had a stuttering problem
Gideon was afraid
Sampson had long hair and was a womanizer
Rahab was a prostitute
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
David had an affair and was a murderer
Elijah was suicidal
Jonah ran from God
Naomi was a widow
Job went bankrupt
John the Baptist ate bugs
Peter denied Christ
The Disciples fell asleep while praying
Martha worried about everything
The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once.
Zaccheus was too small
Paul was too religious
Timothy had an ulcer...
AND
Lazarus was dead!

What do you have that's worse than that?
So no more excuses!

God can use you to your full potential.
Besides you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.

Stocking Stuffers—It is not to late to give.

(Excerpts from an article written by Dr. Hap Lecrone)

10 Stocking stuffer gifts for the new year:

- The gift of having balance in your life. Avoid extremes and choose moderation as a way of life.

- The gift of finding a job, career or something in life that you truly enjoy doing most of the time. Look forward to each day with enthusiasm, lack of dread or fear of boredom so that feelings of satisfaction are common occurrences.
- The gift of learning to relax, being able to calm down and "chill out".
- The gift of enjoying healthy relationships with those around you, like your spouse, friends, family and co-workers.
- The gift of being able to set healthy priorities.
- The gift of being able to keep life simple and avoid over commitment and unnecessary complexity or unwanted obligations.
- The gift of learning to deal with disappointment. Strive for optimism and view less than favorable outcomes as opportunities to learn.
- The gift of making spiritual support a significant part of dealing with life's stressors. Emphasize prayer, faith and belief in a divine creator in order to give hope and meaning to life.
- The gift of maintaining a healthy lifestyle which includes diet, exercise and adequate sleep.
- The gift of learning to relinquish the obsessive need for control and perfection.

It is obvious that there is a lot of overlap between these gifts, and the presence or absence of one gift can effect the value of the other gifts.

Don't worry; your stocking will hold all of these gifts, which will be not only your gifts but also gifts to all of those around you for all seasons.

When we long for a life with no difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds, and diamonds are made under pressure. - Peter Marshall

A dog had followed his owner a fourth grader to school. When the bell rang, the dog sidled inside the building and made it all the way to the child's classroom before a teacher noticed and shoo'ed him outside, closing the door behind

him. The dog sat down, whimpered and stared at the closed doors. Then God appeared beside the dog, patted his head, and said "Don't feel bad fella'...they won't let ME in either.

EXPLANATION OF GOD

The following was written by an 8 year old, Danny Dutton of Chula Vista CA, for his third grade homework assignment. The assignment was to explain God. I hope this little guy will still be around as an adult to help people understand theology.

"One of the main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. he doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in town. At least there aren't any who come to our church

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. He was good and kind, like His father and he told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said, "O.K."

His dad God appreciated everything that he had done and all His hard work on earth so He told

Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps his Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by the big kids.

But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.

And that's why I believe in God."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Editor's Note

Thank you for your assistance in providing interesting and informative information to share. Keep it coming. As space permits, I will include as much as possible.

If you have any suggestions for improving the newsletter, please do not hesitate to let me know. Every idea will be carefully considered.

Articles and comments may be emailed to billandkaren@mail.com or placed in the envelope on the bulletin board, near the stairs to the Children's Church room.

*Thank you,
Karen White*