

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

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

TROPHIES

When I was in the United States Army I served almost two years in Germany and on one of my leaves I was able to visit the home of Mozart in Salzburg, Austria. He was a brilliant man and at the age of five wrote an advanced concerto for the harpsichord. Before he turned ten he had composed and published several violin sonatas and was playing from memory the best of Bach and Handel. Before his brief life ended he had written numerous operettas, cantatas, hymns and oratorios, as well as forty-eight symphonies and some 500 works. He was only thirty-five when he passed on. He was living in poverty and died in obscurity. A few friends went as far as the church for his funeral but were deterred by a storm from going to the gravesite. By the time anyone bothered to inquire, the location of the

grave was impossible to identify. The unmarked grave of Mozart became lost forever. No shrine, no granite engraved stone marks his resting-place. Mozart has joined the immortal eternal ages forever absent from sight. He is gone. But the good he did, lives on. His unique contributions, his style--no other sound is like it. It is a **TIMESLESS TROPHY**, created by a genius. In his music, Mozart lives on.

There are many lessons of life we can learn by walking through a cemetery. First, life is brief. On every stone there is a little dash, a horizontal line, illustrating time. For Mozart's stone, wherever it is, reads: 1756-1791. Think about it.

The most important part in the dates is in the dash. It is not so much when we were born or even when we die but what happens in between. Opportunity is now! Your contribution is unique and important and whatever it may be it becomes that timeless trophy you invest daily.

We all know that death is sure. You can't dodge it. It is coming. The only thing that will live on will be your personal contributions, your unique investments during your lifetime. Not your name, or your grave, but your timeless trophy.

You may not be a composer. But what are you? A mother of two or three children, an executive, a salesman, a retired military person, a student, a nurse, a divorcee, minister, teacher, widow, farmer...? Your trophy is your contribution, whatever and wherever, known or unknown. It is your investment, your gifted touch that will live on far beyond the grave.

God displays these trophies forever. As we enjoy the lazy days of summer, encourage

someone today who seems to feel insignificant. Comment on the importance of who they are to you and to others. After all the dash of life goes by so quickly. You may not ever be a Mozart but you can make a difference in your world. Think about who you are and how blessed you really are.

My prayer for our Church is that we can all make a difference in this community and show people the real Jesus by our daily living. We came into this world with nothing and will leave with nothing, so it is very important what we do in the middle, in the dash of our lives.

*Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton*

NOTE FROM PASTOR BRIAN

We all have a role in God's Church. It is based on our present gifts and abilities. Youth or saint, God has purpose for us in His Church. While all of us may not be preachers, teachers, or a prophet, we are still a vital piece in God's plan for His Church. Some pray, some mow, some usher, some clean, some organize, some plan, some visit, some type, some landscape, some sing, some play instruments, some tithe, some tell the news, some think about doing something. It is important to be involved in God's Church. Through being involved we receive blessings as God had intended. Don't miss out on the blessings God has for you. Get involved in His Church and help work in God's ministry.

I found out recently how true this was. My son Neal says his job at Church is to hold the door open for people. He is the first one out of the car so that he can get to the door first and hold it open for people. Even at the age of six he is aware that he has a job to do. We all have a job in the Church whether it be great or small. God wants to use our gifts continually to help further His Kingdom. My prayer is that you find out your purpose in God's Church!

Pastor Brian

PASTOR'S INTERCESSORY TEAMS

In physical warfare the enemy is told, "If you see a man giving instructions, take aim, shoot him."

--Marine Lt. Col. Tom Hemmingway

Dr. Wilbur Chapman often told of the following experience when he went to Philadelphia to become a pastor of Wanamaker's Church. After his first sermon, an old gentleman met him in front of the pulpit and said, "You are pretty young to be a pastor of this great church. We have always had older pastors. I am afraid you won't succeed. But you preach the gospel and I'm going to help you all I can."

"I looked at him," said Dr. Chapman, "and said to myself, 'Here's a crank'."

But the old gentleman continued, "I am going to pray for you that you may have the Holy Spirit's power upon you, and two others have covenanted to join me." Then Dr. Chapman related the outcome.

"I did not feel so bad when I learned that he was going to pray for me. The three became ten, the ten became twenty, and the twenty became fifty, and the fifty became two hundred, who met before every service to pray that the Holy Spirit might come upon me. In another room, the eighteen elders knelt so close around me to pray for me that I could put out my hand and touch them on all sides. I always went into my pulpit feeling that I would have the anointing in answer to the prayers of over 200 men.

"It was easy to preach, a real joy. Anybody could preach with such conditions. And what was the result? We received 1,100 into our church by conversion in three years, 600 of which were men. It was the fruit of the Holy Spirit in answer to the prayers of those men. I do not see how the average pastor, under average circumstances, preaches at all.

"Church members have much more to do than go to church as curious, idle spectators to be amused and entertained. It is their business to pray mightily that the Holy Ghost will clothe the preacher with power and make his words like dynamite."

Dr. Terry Teykl, author of *Preyed On or Prayed For*, says that committing to pray for your pastor “means more than dashing off a few prayer phrases once in a while on the pastor’s behalf.” He defines a pastor’s intercessory team as “a hedge of people called, planted, trained, aimed, and motivated to consistently pray for the pastor.”

One of the first places to start in building your church into a House of Prayer is with prayer for your pastors and their families.

The following story, published in *The Arizona Republic*, illustrates the power of intercessory prayer over the life of a pastor’s son.

It was 11 a.m. and the women’s intercessory prayer meeting at The Father’s House was just getting underway. Suddenly at 11:30 a.m. the group leader interrupted the general prayer time. Based on the Holy Spirit’s prompting, she instructed everyone to focus their immediate attention upon praying for their pastor’s seventeen-year-old son, Jerrod. “We must stoop right now and pray for a ‘spirit of death’ to be removed from Jerrod Logan,” she exclaimed.

For the next forty-five minutes, five women earnestly beseeched God to protect Jerrod from death. At 12:15 p.m. the burden for prayer lifted, and the women stopped praying.

Unbeknownst to them, several miles away Jerrod was riding in the backseat of his friend’s vehicle, returning to West Valley High School after an off-campus lunch with several other students. Their car collided with another vehicle. Tragically, one of Jerrod’s classmates was killed.

Jerrod has no memory of the accident or the fast-paced events that led to it. However, the paramedics and police report show the accident happened at 12:15 p.m.

“Within the boundaries of human means of communication, there was no way that these ladies could have known that Jerrod and those with him would be in an automobile accident or that his life would be threatened,” said Jerrod’s father, Pastor Logan.

These situations are difficult to explain. Why was one child’s life spared and the other taken? “I don’t claim to have all the answers,” Pastor Logan said. “One thing we do know: The Holy Spirit Himself issued a call to prayer for Jerrod

Logan—and He found yielded vessels ready and willing to respond.

REV’S STUFF

Reaching Every Valuable Soul

This is a venture God has led me on. You may remember the outreach meeting we had several months ago. I had asked how many people felt comfortable sharing Christ with others. Only a few did. I then asked if someone asked them about Christ if they would feel comfortable sharing. Most said they would feel comfortable. I then asked everybody to get something they get others to ask them about Christ, such as a bumper sticker, hat, etc. As I looked around at what was available I found most items dated or boring.

I then began a new venture with God. I have built a website called RevsStuff.com to sell items to help people "Show their faith, so they might-Share their faith." I have designed several items and am working on more. I have car stickers, t-shirts, jewelry, hats, and polo shirts. I have also hooked up with an on line Christian bookstore. You can say I put my money where my preaching was! My prayer is that people will find something they feel comfortable wearing so they might share their faith with others. If you get time, go on the website, look around and leave me a message if you like, and don't be afraid to tell others.

Pastor Brian

SERMON OUTLINES FOR JULY 2005

July 3 “FAMILY DAY AND CHURCH PICNIC”

MORNING SERVICE : “The Luggage of Life...
Bag of Weariness”

Text: Exodus 20:8-10, Heb. 4:1-11

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS: Hand Bells

**No evening service so Families can spend time together.

July 10

AM SERVICE: "The Luggage of Life...
Bag of Discontent"

Text: Luke 12:13-21, Phil. 4:13, I Tim. 6:7

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Singing by our children

PM SERVICE: Looking at seven steps to living the
Christian Life!

July 17

MORNING SERVICE: "The Luggage of Life...
Bag of Hopelessness"

Text: Psalm 121, Romans 8:24-25

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: By Pastor Clayton

EVENING SERVICE: This is my Story: Guest Speaker

July 24

MORNING SERVICE: "The Luggage of Life...
Bag of Self-Reliance"

Text: Jeremiah 17:5-8, I Cor. 4:7

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Handbells

EVENING SERVICE: "Operation Out Reach 2005!"

July 31

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Brian

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Pastor Brian

EVENING SERVICE: All Church Singing and
Fellowship

**SPECIAL EVENT SUNDAY-JULY 3, 2005

This will be a special day to celebrate our freedom as Americans. After the morning service we will have a cook-out with the meat furnished by the church. Bring a covered dish and join the Family Day Celebration. We will have games for the kids and a co-ed soft ball game in the afternoon. Our closing service will be at 3:00 p.m. as we share about what our freedom means to us. This a great time to invite someone new to our service.

*Outreach Committee
Enjoy The Journey
Bro. Terry*

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Summer is here and many will be traveling visiting family and friends, sight-seeing, just getting away. Just as we all need a physical rest/renewing, Paul in Romans 12:2 reminds us that we need to 'be transformed by the renewing of your mind'. This is not a single event but a process. Sunday School is a wonderful time of learning and growing. Sometimes the lesson can be challenging and move us out of our comfort zone and sometimes just a time of reflection is needed.

The Board of Christian Education has been meeting monthly and plans are already underway for the new Sunday School theme in Sept. and for a Teacher Appreciation Banquet set for August 6th. We are needing a substitute teacher for the J.A.C. class and another teacher for the Nursery. Please let one of us on the Board know if you are interested. The Board reviewed material requested by Candy (JOY Class) from Summit Ministries – "Thinking Like A Christian and Countering Culture".

We were able to recognize 15 for Perfect Attendance for the 3rd quarter: Ivan DeHart-SABC, Phyllis Field-JOY, Jeffrey Fiutzmaurice-KK, David Floyd-SWAT, Amanda Floyd-SWAT, Belinda Floyd-SWAT, Darlene Hamilton-VOICE, Gary Hamilton-VOICE, Grover Johnson-SNGLS, Marge King-SNGLS, Anna Rose Miller-SNGLS, David Pollard-JOY, Benjamin Pollard-SWAT, Viola White-SNGLS, Jayn Willeford-JOY. Thank you for your faithfulness.

If you are not in a Sunday School Class, I would invite and encourage you to try one of the classes.

Jayn, Phyllis, Carol H., S.S. Leaders

Or we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. I Cor. 3:9 and 11.

J.O.Y. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We have now completed about half of our current study on "The Dream Giver". It has been a wonderful study and I believe that "much fruit" will be coming forth.

We had to say good-bye to Sheila Fitzmaurice as she and her family follow the dream God laid out for them many months ago to move back to Maine to be with family and meet the needs that God showed them were theirs to

meet. We also have other class members who are recognizing calls upon their lives and are starting to leave their comfort zones and learn to trust that God will meet all of their needs as well.

We will finish this study in August and will then turn to a current study that is in the Summer Quarterly on Jesus' Ministry. We will actually do this study as preparation to a new study called "Thinking Like a Christian" which will start in Nov. This study will help Christians understand that the truth of God's word applies to all of life. They need to be able to discern truth from error, whether sitting in a university classroom or watching the evening news. As parents or grandparents, we need to make sure our children are taught how to think, live, and see the world as a Christian so that they can shape the culture and not the other way around.

Please join us for Sunday School—you are never too old to learn about God's word!!

*Candy Niemeyer
Teacher*

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM SENIOR ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Gwen spent some time in the hospital with an infection but with the antibiotics given, she was home again in a few days. Much prayer was given for her complete recovery.

Our prayers and sympathy go to Larry, over the loss of his niece, who passed away in Benton, KY.

Gene Logsdon had a pacemaker implanted on 5-26-05 and had to endure some pain in the process. He is now doing better and is able to drive again.

Larry and Gwen attended a shower for the wife to be of Larry's grandson, Lance Campbell. Our best to the young couple.

Our fellowship group trips are doing quite well. Some from our class, and many others went as a group to Lambert's Restaurant in Sikeston, MO That's the place where they throw the buns at you. We heard that someone in the group yawned, the guy thru a bun at him and before you know it, the person ate the whole thing in a matter of seconds. Must have been pretty hungry, eh?

Four from our class, along with others, went to the Whitman Hotel in Brussels. (Yes, it's in Illinois not Europe) It was a family style meal , the food was scrumptious and plenty of it. Brother Larry said he did not have any chicken, but I thought we heard him cluck a few times going home. A big thanks to Bill and Shirley Beltz who used their van to take us up there and back. We stopped on the way back at the Museum located at the Alton Dam. One area was, you got to move a tow boat thru the middle part of a bridge using the controls. Not an easy task, Ivan ran the boat into the bank, Larry was doing pretty good, but time ran out time. Before he could get it thru the bridge, the Pastor got the prize, he did a prefect job. Missed his calling, should have been a tow boat operator. Just call him Mark Twain. Just kidding.

Agnes went with a group to Grants farm in South St. Louis. Adults took their children and all had a great time.

Ivan, Norma and Susan went to the Missouri History Museum, which had a large display on the 'American Presidency'. It was an all day affair, and featured displays and information on all the Presidents. It was truly awesome, to see, hear and take in all that was offered. We agreed that what we saw and heard , should be in all the history books now being used in all the schools nation wide.

The Summer Sunday School lessons have been nothing but stupendous, in that, they are as up to date as tomorrows newspaper. They head up with: Jesus Confronts the World; In launching the series, we have: Jesus' Baptism and Temptations: His Miracles: Experiencing True Happiness: Learning To Listen: Healing the Incurable: Receiving and Giving Forgiveness: Being a Good Neighbor: Accepting the Invitation and Meeting Human Needs. If those titles don't stir your innards, nothing will.

In the not to distant future we will be taking a little time from our lesson, to bring out the Bible method of Tithing. We will talk about, What is the tithe, Can one be a Christian and not tithe, Who owns the tithe, Walking in the light, A thrill to tithe, Tithe and Offerings and many more interesting and intriguing topics relative to the tithe. We will keep you posted when we will be

starting this study. We like to get into the area of, 'Let's Talk It Over?' and get to the meat of the lesson. That's where the discussion gets real interesting. Come join us, you won't be disappointed.

Success is won by average people who have more than average determination. *Anonymous*

Ivan DeHart, Teacher

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Well where should I begin? Group I got off to a great start this month with a trip to Grant's Farm. This group had 19 go. Leader, Darlene Hamilton had to stay home because of a hurt knee. From all reports they had a great time together. Group II went this month to the Whitman Hotel. We even got to go on a "cruise" to get there. This group had 14 go. They have a wonderful chauffeur with Bill Beltz in the driver's seat. Again, IF you are not a part of this fun and want to be, "let me know" and I will add you to a group.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

On Monday's at 1:30. We are now in the study of "Encouraging One Another" by the Women of Faith writers. If you want to know more about what is going on during this study, please, ask one of the ladies to tell you what a "baseball" means in our lives. Those attending now are Alfreda Diegel, Edna Mae Earl, Belinda Floyd, Anna Rose (better known to our Bible Study as "Mad Anna") Miller, Candy Niemeyer, Shannon Peiffer, Peggy Whittom, and Darla Clayton. We would love to have you join us! God wants to "stir up" the fires within us.

MEN4HIM

The men enjoyed a golf outing on June 11th at Tamarack. Getting better acquainted with one another is one of the goals of the men's group. Every man is invited to come and enjoy

fellowship with us. We have some fun things planned in the near future. Come and join us.

Bill White

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

Our group was informed recently that the Convention in the spring, will be here at home, in lovely Fairview Heights, IL. That means all the ladies who usually aren't able to attend will get to come and join us for a wonderful time.

Our June meeting was led by myself, Kim Brooks. We had a wonderful time sharing our family "roots". We had some deep thoughts on how to be better women. Some shared stories about specific people listed on their family trees. We were reminded that the vine exists to bear fruit. We were challenged to share our story to help others find their way to Jesus. To pray & ask for certain people God wants us to reach. We were asked some soul searching questions that called us to rise above and step out of our comfort zone & give glory to God.

Our July meeting is based on our Home Mission, Service Project titled Women Called by God to Be Disciples. We will learn who the "poor" in our church and community are and how we can be involved. The date is July 19 at 7 p.m.

Come and join us for a great night.

Kim

Brooks

VBS

Summer is here and it is time for VBS. YAHOO!!! Our theme is titled "Heartbeat Hospital". Lessons will be based on spiritual and physical conditions of our hearts. VBS begins on the 25th of July and will run through the 29th which is a Friday. They will start at 6:30 and end at 8:30pm.

There is a place for you at VBS. Won't you join us as we celebrate summer here at FHCOG. Don't let this opportunity pass you buy. If you are thinking of volunteering please do so.. contact Kim Brooks. Thank you and God Bless.

SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

Middler Camp

July 5-8, 2005

“Yes, I Can”

Grades 3,4, 5

Cost \$110

(if mailed before June 14)

Teen Camp

July 18-23, 2005

TBS#1 Reality Network

Grade 9 –Age 19

Cost \$110

(if mailed before June 27)

225 Max Campers

Jr. Teen Camp

July 25-30, 2005

TCBS # 1 Reality Network

Grades 6,7,8

Cost \$110

(if mailed by July 5)

225 Max Campers

BUILDING THE FUTURE

The **Building the Future** program has been developed in order to eliminate the church debt involving the construction loan we took out in 2000. We have set a goal of \$2002 per month, which would add an additional \$250 to the principle on a monthly basis and would save us over \$39,000 in interest and pay off the loan about 4 years sooner. We are calling this goal a “Grace Giving Goal”.

In a recent radio broadcast, I heard Pastor Adrian Rogers make the following points about “Grace Giving”.

1. We don't give so we can build.
2. We don't give to keep the church afloat.
3. We don't give for appearances.
4. We give because of the love shown us at Calvary. All of our giving (time, talents, and possessions) is wrapped up in God's unmerited Grace!

Please be sure to see a Board Of Trustees member if were unable to make a Faith Promise to our **Building the Future** program and you

would like to do so. We know many of you have been busy with summer travels and may have missed Faith Promise Sunday on June 26. Please remember that a Faith Promise is a commitment to give a certain amount beyond your tithes—it is an offering not a pledge. It is understood that if God does not provide the funds, you are not obligated to give them.

The Message Bible says in 2 Cor. 8**So here's what I think: The best thing you can do right now is to finish what you started last year and not let those good intentions grow stale. Your heart's been in the right place all along. You've got what it takes to finish it up, so go to it. Once your commitment is clear, you do what you can, not what you can't.**

*Sincerely,
Board of Trustees*

Editor's Note

Thank you for your assistance in providing interesting and informative information to share. 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*

