

# BRIDGING THE GAP

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## From the Pastor's Desk

### Life is full of Change!

"Unless you change and become like little children  
You will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven"  
Matthew 18:3

The dictionary defines change as "putting something in place of something else." In other words, change is the process of alteration and replacement. Today our world is changing at a fast pace. If you look back two centuries, people lived in quite a different manner. Here's how a newspaper columnist described the America of 190 years ago. "Life expectancy was thirty-eight years, the average workweek was seventy-two hours, and the median annual wage was \$300.00. On occasion, epidemics claimed the lives of

entire families. Rivers carried cholera, typhoid and yellow fever; one of these diseases killed one out of five residents of Philadelphia in 1793."

Change is never easy. When trains were first introduced years ago, some people predicted that passengers would get nosebleeds because the trains were traveling at the speed of fifteen miles per hour. Another real concern expressed was that travelers might suffocate when going through tunnels. Joshua Coppersmith was arrested in Boston for attempting to sell stock in a company that would design and build telephones. His arrest was based on the fact that well-informed people knew it is impossible to transmit the human voice over a wire. Wow! Think of the change in your world today!

Genesis Chapter 32 records an incident in the life of Jacob that illustrates the positive aspects of change. The Bible says: "So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man." This encounter with God changed Jacob's life forever. The Bible gives us a view from God's perspective. He doesn't change us so that He can accept us; He accepts us so that He can change us! In the end, it is important to remember that we cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are. Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself. May we

here at Fairview Heights always be open to change which brings growth.

Enjoy The Journey,  
Pastor Clayton

## **Sermon and Worship Outline for June**

### **June 3**

AM Service: "What does it feel like to be lost?"

Matt. 18:10-14 Pastor Clayton

PM Service: Fresh Service led by Pastor Brian

### **June 10**

AM Service: "Do You Believe?"

John 20:24-29 Pastor Clayton

PM Service: A Generation in Crisis!  
Pastor Clayton

### **June 17 FATHER'S DAY**

AM Service: "The Compass"

Prov. 3:5-6 Pastor Clayton

PM Service: NO SERVICE BECAUSE OF FATHER'S DAY!

### **June 24**

AM Service: Pastor Brian will be speaking

PM Service: Family Fun Night!

## **"Murder, Mayhem, and Marshmallow Salad"**

The Youth and Women of the Church of God are presenting this Dinner Playhouse on **Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** with hors d'oeuvres being at 6:00 PM and our play and meal beginning at 6:30 PM "sharp"! Everyone needs to be seated by 6:30 so as to not

interrupt the play as the actors move around tables and the room as part of the play

This is a murder mystery dinner theatre comedy written by Shelly Sellepack. It will be produced by special arrangement with Contemporary Drama Service and directed by Mike Niederer. (This is Brother and Sister DeHart's son-in-law.)

Can marshmallow salad be a murder weapon? Who turned up dead? Could it be Pastor Evan Keal or his lovely wife Molly? Did Reverend Penny Piper Porcupine, Previous Pastor of Pleasant Valley Pious Church, Pleasant Valley, PA have anything to do with it?

Well, you will just have to come and find out the answers! Get your tickets "today" from a WCG member because they are going fast, and we only have seating capacity for a certain number of people. You "DON'T" want to miss this one!

## **COFFEE HOUSE STUDY**

Starting in July we will be having our Coffee House Bible study again this summer. On Wednesday July 11 we will start the study in small groups. The book that we will use this year was written by Lillie McCutcheon entitled Faith, Our Experience in Action.

Chapter 1 What is Faith?

Chapter 2 Is Doubting Wrong?

Chapter 3 Steps to Building Faith

Chapter 4 Faith Alive!

There will be a time of fellowship and refreshments before each session

## **WCG**

Greetings to you! As we begin a new year in the WCG, let us not forget our founding women who prayed and worked for 75 years to get us this far. Amen! As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we need to give them credit and thank God for His many

blessings. I would like to recommend that you read a book titled Madam President. It is a story about Nora Hunter; the lady who founded the WCG, and her passion for missions. If you have read it, I encourage you to pick up a copy and read it again. Perhaps you have never even heard of her, and you aren't interested. I encourage you to just read it; you won't be disappointed.

The WCG invites you to our Color of Celebration Birthday Party on Wednesday, May 30, 2007, at 7:00 pm. Birthdays are a time of reflection and a time of looking toward the future. The program for our celebration will be "Women Charged by the Spirit to Give to the Poor" presented by leader Diane Taylor. Following the program we'll have cake, ice cream, fun and games. Join us as we celebrate life in Jesus Christ.

A note to all the officers: we will meet at 6:00pm for a short meeting to discuss some old business. Please be sure to submit your ideas in writing by the deadline Sunday, May 27th.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Kim Brooks  
President

## **Our Testimony**

written by Kathy Bowman

As many of you know, Ken and I moved here from North Carolina. What is not known are some of the difficulties that came with that move. Well, two are about to be revealed – the selling of a house and me getting a job. Like most of you, we heard the sermon Pastor Clayton delivered with his "90 day-back-guarantee" in reference to tithing. Now I did not go out of that sermon thinking, "I'm going to take him up on that," but I left thinking, "I'm going to try something different than what I've been doing." Before that day I would pay the tithes with whatever was left from paying everything else. As of that

sermon I started making out our tithes before I paid anything else.

Our house in NC was on the market since late August or early September. As of that sermon we hadn't even had an offer. That was getting ready to change. I was also out of a job (since Oct 20<sup>th</sup>), and we were depending only on Ken's pay to take care of everything. Needless to say, things were rough at times. That was also getting ready to change.

The first Sunday in February I put that first tithe check I had written out before all else into the offering plate. Then I sat down and paid all the bills we owed. The next pay period I did the same. By the end of February two things happened: we received an offer on our house, and I had a job interview.

That isn't the end though. The next pay period came shortly after, and again, I made out or tithe check first. I paid bills and told Ken we were going to be late on three bills because the money wasn't there. He came and looked at the bills and found....(You guessed it) three bills that could wait. Our realtor called stating that the person who was buying our house wanted to close on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. And I received a call for my second interview which led to a job offer. When accepting the job offer, I told them of the impending sell in NC and was told that wouldn't be a problem. Their reference and security checks would take approximately ten business days to receive the results, and then I would have to pass a drug screening test. I received the call that the checks were completed before I left and had 48 hours from that notification to have the drug screening done. So I did the screening the day before I went back to NC. I still, however, made out my next tithe check even though I knew I wouldn't be at church until the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

This is still not the end of God's wonderful love and provision. I went to NC, signed the sell papers, and turned over the keys to the house (that didn't look like it was ever going to sell). The proceeds from the sell came out to be more than expected, and it took care of

those three bills set aside. I also started that job on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

The end is that even after the sell and I got a job, the miracles are still happening. This last pay period we had to put some bills aside to pay after I received my first paycheck, but there was another miracle. We received an unexpected check for overpayment on escrow that was enough to pay those bills.

Even though I wasn't trying to prove Pastor Clayton wrong, God used us to prove His point that He comes first and all else will fall in place.

## **Celebrate!**

In celebration of Shaun Floyd's graduation from Mid-America Christian University with a pastoral degree, he will be bringing us the message during the morning Worship Service on Sunday, July 1st. You are invited to a luncheon reception following and will have a chance to catch up with him on what he has been doing and what his current plans are after college.

We hope to see you all there!

David & Belinda Floyd

## **Life Is A Gift**

Today before we think of saying an unkind word

Think of someone who can't speak.

Before we complain about the taste of our food

Think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before we complain about our husband or wife

Think of someone who's crying out to God for a companion.

Today before we complain about life

Think of someone who went too early to heaven.

Before we complain about our children  
Think of someone who desires children but they're barren.

Before we argue about our dirty house,  
someone didn't clean or sweep  
Think of the people who are living in the streets.

Before whining about the distance we drive  
Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet.

And when we are tired and complain about our job  
Think of the unemployed, the disabled and those who wished they had our job.

But before we think of pointing the finger or condemning another  
Remember that not one of us are without sin and we all answer to one maker.

And when depressing thoughts seem to get us down  
Put a smile on our face and thank God we're alive and still around.

Life is a gift  
Live it  
Enjoy it  
Celebrate it  
Embrace it  
And fulfill it

Let The LORD & The LIGHT OF THE WORLD Bless You!

## **Vacation Bible School**

Yeah! We are planning a great VBS this year! So mark your calendars and tell your friends! The date is June 11th through the 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be having it in the evening from 6-8pm. There is still time to sign up!

Carmen Hamilton