

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD

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IN THIS ISSUE

From The Pastor's Desk	1
Sermon Outlines for March	2
Pastor Brian's Challenge.....	2
Home Builder's Class	2
Dicipleship Program	3
News From Senior Adult Class	3
J.O.Y Report	3
WCG Convention.....	4
Men4Him	4
Youth Notes	4
Child of Promise Letter.....	5
Food Pantry	5
Note From The Board of Trustees	5
Bid Invitation	5
New Addresses	6
To Think About.....	6

Listen to David's perspective from Psalm 139:13-16. "you made all the delicate, inner parts of my body, and knit them together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous and how well I know it. You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion! You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book!" You were prescribed and then presented to this world exactly as God arranged it. God is personally involved in the very days and details of your life. What a thought! In our overly-populated, identify crisis world it is easy to forget this. Individuality is played down. We are asked to conform to the system. Group opinion is considered superior to personal conviction. It is okay to do your thing just so long as it is similar to others when they do their thing.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"You are Important!"

There is only one you. Think about that. Your face and features, your voice, your style, your background, your characteristics and peculiarities, your abilities, your smile, your walk, your handshake, your manner of expression, your viewpoint, everything about you is found in only one individual since man first began, YOU. And by the way it did not just happen, it was planned that way. Because God wanted you to be you! He designed you to be unique, distinct, a significant person unlike any other individual on the face of the earth.

The result is called an image syndrome. It sometimes happens even in the church. The pastor should fit the image, so should all those in leadership. Our fellowship must be warm, but filled with clichés. Our love must be expressed but not without its cool boundaries. I am reminded of Amos in the Old Testament. He was a preacher that didn't fit the image but he refused to let that bother him. He once was called upon to bring the morning messages to the king and his rugged style didn't fit in the plush royal residence at Bethel. Amos 7:14-15 "I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son, but I was a shepherd and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, Go, prophesy to my people Israel." Amos was not about to be something he wasn't! God made him, God called him and God

gave him a message to be heard. Maybe you are thinking, I don't sound like every other Christian or look like the standard saint, or act like the majority. I would say to you, don't change because then you wouldn't be you. What the church needs is more faithful people who have the courage to simply be themselves. YOU are YOU! There is only one YOU. And you are important. Think about how boring this world would be if we all liked the same things, same food, same interest and same thought patterns. God made you special and He has a special plan for your life. That is what makes our church here at Fairview Heights so special. Because we have so many people who are willing to be themselves. My prayer for our church is that we will continue to be the people of God, called by God to do His work. You are You for a reason, celebrate and thank God for it.

*Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton*

SERMON OUTLINES FOR MARCH 2006 CELEBRATE JESUS!

March 5 Celebrate Jesus Week Three!

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
"He Liked People and
Drew Out the Best In Them"
Text: Matthew 9:9-13
Children's Moments: Led by Pastor Brian

EVENING SERVICE:
Small Groups Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

March 12 Celebrate Jesus Week Four!

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
"He Knew His Identity,
Yet Served With Humility"
Text: John 13:1-17
Children's Moments: led by Pastor Brian

EVENING SERVICE:
Small Groups Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

March 19 Celebrate Jesus Week Five!

MORNING SERVICE : Pastor Clayton
"He Spoke God's Truth In Everyday Language"
Text: Matthew 7:15-29
Children's Moments: led by Pastor Brian

EVENING SERVICE:
Small Groups Meeting at 6:00 P.M

March 26 Celebrate Jesus Week Six!

MORNING SERVICE : Pastor Clayton
"He Cast A Vision Of A Better Kingdom,
Now and Future"
Text: Matthew 4:23-5:12
Children's Moments: Led by Pastor Brian

EVENING SERVICE:
Small Groups Meeting at 6:00 P.M

PASTOR BRIAN'S CHALLENGE

Everybody jumps on the bandwagon when the next fad comes along. I hope you jump on the 50 day Spiritual adventure wagon. It can be an exciting time for you as an individual and as a family. Of course I mean the family we have at church. Through the small groups we will get to know each other more and learn more about each others hopes and prayers. I hope all take up the challenge of the adventure and experience the growth that God has for us spiritually and physically. It will be a lot of fun if all jump on the bandwagon and Celebrate Jesus!

Don't forget each Saturday at 9 a.m. I have the Pastor's Coffee House. It is a time of fellowship, prayer, and work. Sometimes needs of people are brought to us and we try to help out. Hope to share a cup of java with you soon!

Pastor Brian

HOME BUILDERS MARRIAGE CLASS

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." Psalm 127:1 This is your special invitation to come to our Marriage class. We are now meeting once a month at the Pastor and Darla's home. The class is a good place to discuss practical ways to implement God's plan for marriage and family. God has a plan for your life and a design for your family. God's design for the family works. And in a

broken world, things that work get noticed. So come and learn ways to make your marriage stronger and to build a bond with other couples. We meet the first Monday of every month. After all our children and grandchildren are watching our lives and they will follow in our footsteps. So how are you leading them in the example of your marriage? It is a class that we all can share and learn from each other. We need you and you need us as we rebuild the family in our broken world.

DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM

Would you like to learn more of God's will for your life? One very important way is to be apart of a one on one Discipleship Program. We have several people who are willing and ready to lead you. It usually requires about one to two hours a week working together through a workbook. The best weapon that we have against Satan is God's Word! So if you would like to be a part of this very important program please let Pastor know.

NEWS AND VIEWS-SENIOR ADULT CLASS

Congratulations to the DeHarts on their 52nd wedding anniversary, on Dec, 4th, 2005. – Lot of water under the bridge eh?

The Campbell's are enjoying their stay in Florida, but will be back the 1st of March. We're looking forward to their return. Presently, they are attending the Carter Stone Church of God in Port Richie, FL. I'm sure they will have some very interesting things to tell us when they return. Pray for their safe return.

Edna Mae is happy to be back with us and settled in very nicely. Says she sleeps like a log. Happy to have her as a member of our class, she adds much to it.

Our hearts are heavy over the passing of Lillian Hauser. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. She will be missed.

Wow, are the Sunday School studies for the quarter March, April and May 2006 out of

this world. How does this strike you; Living in and as God's Creation. Unit I, God Made Us Special, Unit II Living with Creation's Uncertainty and Unit III Lessons in Living. Sounds interesting? Come and join us, you won't be disappointed.

The sessions this quarter tell of a Creator who has a place for us in His world. We have a significant role to play as the stewards of the world God has created. Though we are sometimes beset by disasters, diseases and deep loses, God has assured us of his continual presence and the hope of resurrection in Jesus Christ, God has also given us instructions to help us understand how we can live meaningful lives of virtue and integrity that can, through the Holy Spirit, draw us closer to Him and to the lives we were meant to live for him

The late Steve Allen told of a lady named Liz who had been hurt in an auto accident. A lawyer came to visit her and said, "I've come to assist you in getting damages." Liz replied, "I got all the damages I want what I need is repairs." This is true of many hurting people we come in contact with every day. The church in general and we in particular are to assist people in making repairs to their lives. The world we live in is imperfect. It is a mixture of great beauty and ugliness, of triumphs and tragedies. Our lessons will help us to deal with the damages and make the repairs. May God help us to walk the talk and spread the WORD as He gives us opportunity.

Flossing my teeth is a giant pain. But my dentist insists upon it. "It's just so hard to reach some of my teeth," I complained. "All right, let's compromise," he finally offered. "Just floss the teeth you want to keep."

Ivan DeHart, Teacher

J.O.Y. (JUST OLDER YOUTH) SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We are continuing in our study of Thinking Like a Christian and are now moving into the Worldview Categories of Sociology, Law, Politics and Economics. We will finish in April with History and Other Worldviews. The class will also be viewing speakers that appeared at

the Branson Worldview Weekend in the spring of 2005 to help pull our discussions together. We have been having some very good discussion in our classes and I look forward to more as we look at these often controversial categories. Jim and I (along with Bill and Shirley Beltz) will be leaving for Nicaragua on Mar 11 and returning late on Mar 19. In my absence, Denise Droege has agreed to lead the class lessons while she is home for spring break. (I have an awesome daughter!!) We would appreciate your prayers for our safety and for being a "light in the world" while we are in Nicaragua. I am sure we will have lots to tell and pictures to show when we return.

*See you in class!!!
Candy Niemeyer, Teacher*

WCG 2006 ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION

The WCG 2006 Illinois State Convention, "Generation 2 Generation" will be held at Four Points Sheraton at Fairview Heights. We are excited about the convention and look forward to as many of our ladies attending as possible.

The convention convenes on Friday, April 21, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. and ends Sunday April 23, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. The hotel is planning a complimentary reception Friday evening following the evening service. The Southern Illinois women will wear green to the opening service Friday night.

There will be three conferences for us to attend on Saturday:

- Passing on The Worship – Minister Libby Flewellen Lee
- Passing on The Works – Dr. Eloise Morgan - What Women Need to Know
- About the Law-Ms. Mary West

Our special guest speaker will be Mrs. Robin Munguia addressing "Passing On The Word/ The Gospel of Jesus Christ". Our worship leader will be Mrs. Sandra Drake. The entertainment, planned by Mrs. Kim Brooks, Saturday evening, will be presented by our church ladies.

During the Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, the emphasis will be "Passing on Prayer and Praise".

Remember, we must send in the registration fees by March 1st—Saturday through Sunday the cost is \$60.00 (WCG members \$40.00) Saturday including the conferences and banquet, the cost is \$50.00 (\$30.00 for WCG members). For young ladies 12-18 years old, the cost will be \$45 for Friday through Sunday.

Remember to bring your cans for the Journey with Joy Project. They will be collected at the banquet.

Please bring your craft items to be donated to the WCG for sale. If you have jewelry you are no longer using, please bring it along also.

Check in time is 3:00 p.m. Friday and check out time is 12:00 noon Sunday.

MEN4 HIM

We had a fantastic Valentine Banquet, "Decade of the Sixties". We thank everyone for making this event a big success. Bill White and Marshall Field did a lot of leg work to organize everything and it could not have been completed without the help of all the men. Thank you everyone for participating.

Our GranPrix was a big hit with kids and adults as well. Everyone enjoyed a great time.

March will be our planning session for the events to come for the rest of the year. Come out men and enjoy our breakfast together and the planning session by inserting your input.

Bill White

YOUTH NOTES

Feb. 26, 5:00 p.m., the Youth will host a **Spaghetti Dinner**. The Youth are asking for your generous donation to offset the cost of the upcoming State Youth Convention in April. After dinner entertainment will be provided by our local and talented YOUTH! Come and enjoy an evening of great food, fellowship and fun!!!!

Sat., March 25 True Love Waits Conference for our Youth and their parents to teach Biblical application for a life of purity and abstinence will be held. Guest leaders from MidAmerica Christian University will join local leaders. Parents will attend in the afternoon and a formal banquet will conclude the sessions. At 7:00 p.m., a service of commitment and dedication highlights the day and church family, friends and peers are invited to attend. More information will be forthcoming.

Richard Ryan Knowles, Youth Leader

CHILD OF PROMISE LETTER

“Dear Sponsor,

Hi, How are you. We hope you are good just like me, also my family because we have/are always pray to God to protect us and have a happy family. I've been busy with my fourth year studies, we have just finished our third periodical test. I'm really praying that just like my record grading I will also pass and get a good grades. I have a hard time in my math subject. It's very often that my numerical ability doesn't work. I would like to thank you for giving me dress for Christmas and also love basket like corned beef, maling, mile, milk, spread, sugar, hot dog, cheese, juice, ham, chicken, rice, etc. I help my mom prepare foods in Christmas day. All of us attend church service, we are so blessed to the message of our Pastor. After that we kiss the hands of our old relatives to give love and respect to them. It's our tradition.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year,
Love, Meliza Navea”

(This is a child sponsored by Jane and Kenny Knowles.)

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS AREA FOOD PANTRY

2005 Report

The Fairview Area Food Pantry, in existence since May 1988, has once again proven to be a community effort. Members of our board are from many of the Twenty-six participating Fairview Heights Churches and rotate from year to year. Volunteers, food items

and money come to us from these churches and from various organizations, businesses and individuals throughout the community.

This year we had to relocate and again God provided a place for us. All of the moving expenses were underwritten by area businesses and individuals. A large number of hours were donated by our board members and volunteers to make the move. Our new location is the Old Firehouse on St. Clair Road and we have made the adjustment nicely.

The big food drives supplying needed items for this year came from postal drivers in May and the Boy Scout drive in November. Many people in the area provide support through these drives and through individual gifts of money. Others give of their time and effort, especially during these organized drives.

2005 Statistics
65 Volunteers total of 1282 Hours
Served – 694 Families
comprising 2176 individuals

Meetings are held at the pantry, 412 St. Clair Road at 7:00 p.m. the third Tuesday of January, March, May, August, October and November.

We ask that you continue to remember in prayer both our volunteers and these we strive to serve. God has indeed blessed our endeavors.

Rod Hannes, Manager

NOTE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Invitation For Bid

Janitorial Services
April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

This is an invitation to bid on the job of custodian for the Fairview Heights Church of God. Please make your bid in the form of payment due weekly. Cleaning services are to be performed between Thursday and Saturday each week. The church will provide the cleaning supplies. Bids will be accepted from the congregation as well as outside. If a bid is received outside the congregation, a personal recommendation from within the congregation is required. The board reserves the right to reject any bid. Applicants should be aware that if they

fill this position, they are self-employed. As such, you are responsible for your own income tax (Federal and State) and self-employment (FICA) tax.

Please see the posting on the Church bulletin board by the stairs leading to the upper room for a detailed explanation of duties and expected frequency levels when considering your bid. Bids may be submitted to any Board of Trustee member and need to be turned in by March 18th to be considered at the next board meeting.

*Sincerely,
Fairview Heights Board of Trustees*

NEW ADDRESSES

Eugene and Verla Logsdon
Available At Church

Carolyn Hiddleson
Available At Church

(Rev. William Hiddleson resides in a nursing home in Fairborn. Rev. and Mrs. Hiddleson are former pastors of our congregation. They moved from Arkansas to be near their son and wife, Nathan and Shelia (Fant) Hiddleson.)

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Order Soda With Long Conversation on the Side

In high school, Matt and I were great friends, but we were different in many ways. He was tall, slender, smart handsome, Protestant, and a talented baseball pitcher, while I was shorter, Catholic, and a decent first baseman. I tend to believe that he only hung out with me because I made him look so much better (joking). Despite our differences, we were always there to support, help, and encourage one another in baseball, in spirituality and everything else in life.

We would talk all the time about a variety of things in many different places. We would talk on the phone, in our cars, as we ran, as we played basketball, and also during classes. (On a side note, this was before the wide use of cell phones and the Internet. Man, I am old.) Even though our conversations happened everywhere, the most important ones happened at Hardees. We both knew that whenever something was really bothering us and we needed to talk, we only had to say “I need to go to Hardees.”

For us, Hardees was a great place where we could sit, relax and talk about everything on our minds. As we sat, listened and drank our small sodas with our normal seven or eight free refills, we would share with each other all of our thoughts, dreams, goals and desires. We would talk about everything, especially our walk with the Lord.

For teenagers, it is hard to live a Christian life, just as it is not easy for people now as adults. There are so many pressures pulling us away from the Lord and few resources to strengthen and encourage us along the way. For this reason, I am totally grateful for having someone in my life who would give me Christian insight and encouragement, someone who supported my ambitions to grow closer to god and most importantly held me accountable.

Whether you desire to improve yourself in faith, diet, exercise or any other resolution, the likelihood of success is greater with a partner who will hold you accountable. An accountability partner who will challenge you, support you, and understands you is essential for accomplishing any great task. As you look at your life, are there areas that you wish to improve? Do you desire to set goals for yourself in regard to your faith life? Whether it be to read the Bible more, go to Mass more, pray more, give more money to charities or church, send your kids to PSR, learn more, volunteer more or even just be a kinder person, I encourage you to find someone to hold you accountable—someone who will push you, motivate you and encourage you. Do not forget that you can make as big of an impact on his or her life as he or she can make on yours.

A close and personal relationship with God is a difficult mountain to climb, but do not make it harder for yourself by scaling it on your

own. Whatever resolutions you decide to make for yourself, make sure that choosing accountability partners for those goals for your life is the top of that list.

I often wonder, where would I be and what would I have done with my life, if I did not have a friend like Matt to listen to my struggles and hold me accountable. I pray that you find someone to help you in your pursuit of your goals, because with help from friends, you can come to realize the great plan that God has in store for you.

(This article was written by Kevin Muniz in the Catholic Times January 8, 2006 issue about Matt Field)

WHAT IS COURAGE?

- Confronting the dragons
- Overcoming the obstacles
- Understanding the risks
- Really living
- Always believing
- Going the distance
- Expecting the best

Strickly Mathematical Viewpoint

What equals 100%? What does it mean to give MORE than 100%? Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been in situations where someone wants you to give over 100%. How about achieving 101%? What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions:

If:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W
X Y Z

Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,
18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K
8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98%
And

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E
11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96%

But

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E
1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100%

AND, look how far the love of God will take you

L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D
12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = 101%

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

While Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the love of God that will put you over the top!

Hebrews 13:21

...Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen.

EDITORS 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.

Thank you! Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Karen White, Editor