

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD
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From the Pastor's Desk

"The Good Life"

How would you define the word *good*? It is a word we use a lot. We talk about good food, good weather, and a good report. We say "Have a good day." Or "He did a good job." The word *good* is used in many different ways. One phrase we hear often is "The Good Life." For some people the good life means looking good. We place a high premium on beauty and good looks. Some people think the good life means feeling good. Whatever it takes, they have to feel good. They pursue pleasure at all costs. Their standard of living is if it feels good, do

it. Still other people think the good life means having goods. They set about acquiring things. For these people the whole object of life is to make money and spend it on things.

The Bible presents a radically different picture of the good life. God says in His Word that the good life is not based on looking good, feeling good, or having goods. He says the good life is a life filled with goodness, being and doing good. When you are being good and doing good, you are going to feel good. Genesis Chapter One records God's creating of the universe and tells us that when he saw everything He created, He said it was good. Why? Because it fulfilled the purpose for being. God made you for a purpose. When you live the way He intends for you to live, you will feel why it was created. Goodness means fulfilling a purpose. It is being what God meant you to be. Your life will become meaningful. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." We are not saved by good works, we are saved for good works. The Christian lifestyle is to be a lifestyle of goodness. By God's grace and power we are re-created and given the ability to do good deeds. God works from the inside out, not from the outside in. Here are five simple suggestions for learning to do good. First, become a student of God's word. Read and study it and memorize

significant portions of it. Fill your mind and your life with it. Second, if you want to do good, you must learn to control your thought life. This is essential because as a man "thinks in his heart, so is he." Prov. 23:7. Sin always starts in the mind, Satan plants ideas called temptations in your mind. So you must guard your mind and think on good things. Third, if you want to learn to do good, you must develop some convictions. What do you stand for? It has been said that if

Enjoy The Joinery

Pastor Clayton

Easter Week Events

It is hard to believe that it time for Easter, but what time of celebration, Jesus is alive, the church is alive and you are alive!

Thursday, March 20 at 7pm: We will have our Maundy Service, Foot washing, and Communion.

Easter Sunday, March 23 will be a full day starting with the **Sunrise Service** at **6:30** followed by a breakfast served by our men of the church. Then our **Sunday School at 9:30 am and the Morning Service at 10:40**. There will be no Service on Sunday Evening. So make plans now to be here to help us celebrate Easter living. Take time to invite at least one person to this special service.

Sermon and Service Outline

March 2008

March 2 "Five Star Award Sunday"

AM Service Candy Niemeyer will be speaking

PM Service Youth will be in charge of the evening service

March 9

AM Service "How Much Faith is Enough" Matt. 17:20 by Pastor Clayton

PM Service Children's Program

March 16 "Palm Sunday"

AM Service "The Word of the Cross: Forgiveness!" Luke 23:34-46 by Pastor Clayton

PM Service Fresh Service led by Pastor Brian

March 23 "Easter Sunday"

Sunrise Service 6:30 AM "You Mean The Tomb is Still Empty?" John 20:1-10 by Pastor Clayton

Breakfast 7:00 AM Served by the Men-4-Him
Sunday School 9:30 AM

Morning Service 10:40 AM "Is Jesus Still Missing in Your Life?" John 20:11-18 by Pastor Clayton

No Evening Service

March 30

AM Service "These Boots are Made for Walking!" Eph. 4:1-3 by Pastor Clayton

PM Service Fresh Service led by Pastor Brian

February Sermon Notes

February 3rd

“Sanctification, why we need it!” John 17:17

The meaning of Sanctification

1. Separation
2. Dedication
3. Spirit Filling

Checklist for being Spirit Filled
(You answer for yourself)

1. I have submitted to the Holy Spirit asking Him to lead me.
2. I am learning from the Bible through regular reading, study and meditation.
3. I am relying on the Holy Spirit to help me live a holy life.
4. People who know me think of me as a happy, joy our Christian.
5. When trouble comes I am at peace in my innermost being.
6. When I become aware of sin in my life, I immediately confess it and ask God to help me gain the victory.
7. I am gentle in my relationships with other people and patient with God.
8. I can point to certain times when the Holy Spirit has given me the power to perform a certain task or carry a heavy burden.
9. I am growing in self-control.

Do you have the confident assurance that you are a Spirit-filled person?

Would other people call you a Spirit-filled person?

February 10th

“Building blocks of Marriage” Matthew 19:4-6

Marriage isn't so much finding the right person as being the right person!

BUILDING BLOCKS OF MARRIAGE

1. Life long commitment
2. Shared identity

3. Absolute faithfulness
4. Well-defined roles
5. Unreserved love
6. Mutual submission
7. Open Communication
8. Tender Respect
9. Spiritual Companionship

Qualities of Spiritual Companionship

1. They both worship the Lord
2. They both seek to do the will of God
3. They both are accountable to Christ
4. They both pray for each other.

It is only through knowing the architect and His plan that we can build our marriage on the surest foundation!

February 17th

“The Ephesians Factor” Ephesians 1:3

Who am I really?

1. The person we think we are.
2. The person others think we are.
3. The person we think others think we are.
4. The person we really are.

The Ephesians Factor:

1. God seems me as chosen in Christ!
2. God seems me as rescued in Christ!
3. God seems me as adopted in Christ!
4. God seems me as honored in Christ!

What do you think of God?

Are you living as a citizen of Heaven?

Are you growing in your Christian life?

What does God think of me now?

SENIOR ADULT BIBLE CLASS: NEW AND VIEWS

Our class has been very pleased with the class room we now occupy, and we have enjoyed decorating it with the theme of this

year's Sunday School emphasis. A big thanks go to the Campbell's for doing such a great job. We even have a window to let the beautiful sun shine through.

A number of our classmates have enjoyed a birthday the past few months; congratulations and best wishes go to each. Yes, even senior citizens have birthdays.

Three of our class members along with many others, are going on an Alaskan cruise. Remember the Titanic? With global warming, we hear icebergs have been sighted in the Bermudas!

Just kidding folks, just kidding. However you just might want to wear your life jackets just to be sure!!!!!!!!!!!!.

We have been working hard to garner additional members to the class. However, seemingly no one seems to be getting any older in our church. Not all bad, eh?

With the Sunday lesson Feb 24, 2008, will mark the end of Unit III, God Summons Us To Respond. The three units have been great, with the key word "Called." We are all called to: *Love the Lord, Work at being and doing the work of a Christian, and having the Hope of all Hope of reaching our Goal*. Our next group of studies includes three units of March through May. They include: *Signs of God's Covenant, The Covenant In Exile, and Restoration and Covenant Renewal*. Wow, is that exciting or what?

Come join us, our door will be open and you will be most welcome. You will not be disappointed.

More next time.

Yours in Christ,

Ivan DeHart, Teacher

V.O.I.C.E.S.

(Veterans of Instructional Christian Educational Service)

We have a wonderful class and invite you to come and join us as we continue to study "The Purpose Driven Life". We have been working on gleaning all the information we can from this book for over a year now. One might think we are very slow or we don't stay on track very well. Well, quite the opposite is true. We have found that regardless of the number of years we have been in church and given our lives to Christ, we have much to learn. Through our discussions we dig deep into God's word to help us better understand what God expects from us and how he assists us in our everyday lives. New revelations or information we just have not thought about in a very long time are revealed each week. We learn about each other and how we fit into God's plan using the written word and life experiences. If you are looking for a relaxed atmosphere, a discussion group open to everyone in attendance, fellowship with other Christians who truly care about each other, come and join Gary and Darlene, Carol and Don, Bill C. and Brenda, Jan and Bud, Karen and Bill, Peggy and Floyd our teacher.

Karen White reporting

Singles Class

Grover Johnson is our teacher. We appreciate him. He is usually there. Marge King, Jody Jackson, and Viola White are regular attendees. We are a small group, but we enjoy our lesson and fellowship time together. Each week we give to a donation project. We use it for charities and needy families.

Viola White reporting

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

Men4Him

Our Italian Valentine celebration was an evening of fun and fellowship enjoyed by all. "Forgiven" from St. Matthew Methodist Church did a fantastic job of entertaining us. Thanks to all who took part in making this a success.

The Grand Prix race at 5:00pm Saturday, Feb. 24, is open to all. You can personalize your car for the competition. If you still need a car, see Marshall or Gary. Hope you will come out and cheer on your favorite car!

March 23 is Easter. A breakfast will be provided following the Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. Everyone is invited.

Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. we enjoy having a cup of coffee and fellowship together. If you have time, come out and join us. We take care of any maintenance needs made known to us at that time and discuss future plans. Men of all ages are encouraged to join us. It is a great time of sharing.

Be on the lookout for future events. If you have suggestions for activities, etc. please do not hesitate to present them for discussion.

Bill White reporting

Pictures of Church

A picture display of the different church buildings used by our congregation is being developed for our library walls. Presently, I have two pictures to be displayed = the clapboard church building in Washington Park and our present building in Fairview Heights. I am looking for a picture/photo (to

be enlarged) of the red brick building at North Park Drive and Kingshighway in Washington Park. Please see Phyllis Field if you have this picture/photo.

D.U.C.K. Class

The D.U.C.K. Class is always in 'active' mode as only nine 5th & 6th graders can be! January found us learning about Jesus' choosing the 12 disciples and his public ministry. February found us learning how to overcome grief (Ruth and Naomi), pride (Naaman), doubt (Nicodemus), prejudice (Samaritan woman). We love to learn thru play performances, music, crossword puzzles, word searches, 'hidden' activities, and more. We have times of reflection and meditation with candles lit and soft music playing. Each student owns a 'Hands On Bible', making our readings and discussions so much better with everyone being 'on the same page'. As the teacher, I love using this version of the Bible!

Our classroom has an 'open door policy', so feel free to come by to see what we have been doing during the Sunday School hour by looking at our 'Memory Wall' of butcher paper panels displaying our learning activities for each unit of study. Each time I put up a new panel of the last month's study, the children are amazed at all we did to know more of God's Word.

A teacher who is always learning!

Phyllis Field

FHCOGY

During December the Youth had a lock-in at the church. Mr. Jim and Mrs. Candy took us the Shrine and we drove through the Way of

Lights. Other than doing that, we were privileged to see the new laser light show. This show struck us in awe because of all of the different lasers, and how they created the birth of Jesus. After going to the Lady of the Snows, we hopped back in the van and headed back to the church. We all stayed up until 3 o'clock in the morning hanging out with each other and fellowshiping.

Other than the lock-in, we have begun to study our scripture for the Illinois State Youth Convention. The Convention will be in Springfield the last weekend in April. The theme for this year is "The Great Banquet" and is based on Luke 14:15-24. All of our projects and our services will revolve around this theme. When we come back, we will be glad to tell you all about it!

We also are still doing our year long project of Tunes 4 the Troops. This is a nationwide project started by Kaylee Radminski. The organization collects Cd's, DVD's, books on CD, and computer games. The collections are sent around to our intrepid troops in combat. The donations can be dropped of in the box by the mailboxes or given to one of the youth. We can accept only originals---no copies.

Plan on being here for the both services on Sunday, March 2 as the youth will be in charge of both services. Hope to see you there!

Vicotoria Pope on behalf of FHCOGY

Youth Calendar

Feb 27--Grand Prix-- Youth will meet after the races to finalize plans for Youth Sunday Services on Mar. 2

Feb 27--deadline for registering for youth convention for 7-12th graders.

Mar 2--Youth Service Sunday... AM and PM services.

Mar 19-22nd-- Youth outing to "The Joy of Easter" at St. Matthews. More details to come---we will pick one of those days to go.

Mar 23--Easter, No youth meeting

Mar 29--"The Core" training for pre-registered youth and adults.

April 25-27th-- Illinois State Youth Convention---Theme of "The Great Banquet".

May 25--No youth meeting--Jim and Candy gone.

June: date to be announced to welcome all the graduated 6th graders into the youth group--PARTY!

June 30-July 4th--Senior Teen Camp

July 7-July 11th-- Junior Teen Camp

Jr High/Sr High Youth Group Age Clarification

Jim and I want to apologize for some apparent confusion on the part of some of our 6th graders and/or parents regarding the transition from ROCK to the Youth Group. I met with the Board of Deacons last fall to discuss this issue. Jim and I became aware of the fact that there are at least 11-6th graders who will be turning twelve during the school year or this summer. Based on a few factors, we and the Board agreed to the following: All graduating 6th graders will be welcomed into the youth group in June 2008 instead of some being able to enter the group based on turning 12. They will be eligible to attend their first state youth convention April 2009.

We understand that in the past there have been various criteria used for entering the youth group with the age "12" being used the most because the State Youth Convention will accept 12 year olds. Because of the large number of 6th graders and the fact that not all of them would be 12 by this year's convention, we felt that it would be more fair to have them all be able to attend together for the first time next year. This will also allow our "newest" youth members the opportunity to participate in the youth fundraisers that generate the funds for being able to attend the convention.

Another reason for the change is just plain logistics. Jim and I are new to youth ministry and we felt that it would be difficult for us to have a new youth member joining the group every couple of months particularly if we are in the middle of a particular study. We also are still trying to plan and prepare for such a large change in the group. When we add the new 7th graders, our youth group will grow to around 20. We would appreciate your prayers as we work to meet the needs of the youngest members and balance them against the needs of the current group who will all be in high school next fall. We are also looking for adults who might be willing to help us with this transition as we may need some small group leaders, help with transportation issues and possible prayer partners.

The current youth group will be planning a "welcoming" party for our newest members sometime in June. We want to make this transition a celebration of their coming to the youth group! Please feel free to see Jim or I if you or your 6th grader have any questions.

Candy and Jim Niemeyer

Youth Leaders

Email Stories

We all receive many stories from the internet. Thanks for sending these to me. Some are true, some false, and some we wish were true. I don't know which category the following stories fall into, but I know which one I hope they belong.

Your Editor,
Debbie

Death! What a wonderful way to explain it...

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know." "You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?" the sick man questioned.

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there, and that is enough."

Pass it On!

One day a man saw an old lady stranded on the side of the road. Even in the dim light of day he could see she needed help. So he pulled up in front of her Mercedes and got out. His Pontiac was still sputtering when he approached her.

Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the

last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry. He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fear can put in you. He said, 'I'm here to help you, ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan Anderson.'

Well, all she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady that was bad enough. Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tire. But he had to get dirty and his hands hurt. As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from out of town and was only just passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid.

Bryan just smiled as he closed her trunk. The lady asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped. He never thought twice about being paid. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way, and it never occurred to him to act any other way.

He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed, and Bryan added, "And think of me."

He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed for home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road the lady saw a small cafe. She went in to grab a bite to eat,

and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude. The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a hundred dollar bill. The waitress quickly went to get change for her hundred dollar bill, but the old lady had slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something written on the napkin.

There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote: "You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you." Under the napkin were four more \$100 bills.

Well, there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard.... She knew how worried her husband was, and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, 'Everything's going to be all right. I love you, Bryan Anderson.'