

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

Brian Pope, Associate Pastor

www.fhcog.org

Volume X No. 10

May 2005

IN THIS ISSUE

From The Pastor's Desk.....	1
Sermon Outlines for May.	2
Sunday Highlights	2
Men's Bible Study.....	2
Mother Daughter Banquet.....	3
Women of the Church Of God	3
Men4Him.....	3
Notes From the Treasurer	3
To Think About	5
Editor's Note	6

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Insight!

Do you know that you blink twenty-five times every minute? Each blink takes you about one-fifth of a second. So if you take a ten hour automobile trip, averaging forty miles per hour, you will drive twenty miles with your eyes closed. I know a fact far more surprising than that. Some people go through life with their eyes closed. They look but don't really see, they observe the surface but omit the underneath, vision is present but perception is absent. Remove insight and you suddenly reduce life to existence with frequent flashes of boredom and indifference.

Those without insight dwell mainly in the real of the obvious, the expected, the essentials. A good illustration, think about the story in Mark chapter 6 where Jesus fed thousands of people with a few loaves and fish. After that great miracle he sent the disciples away in a boat as He slipped off to a quiet place on the mountain to pray. A storm later came up on the sea and the disciples were afraid and began to panic. Jesus

came to their rescue and calmed the sea and assured them there was no reason to be afraid. Had they applied what they observed earlier that day when the thousands were fed, their response to the storm would have been different.

Hebrews chapter 5 talks about Spiritual Immaturity. Verse 12 says "for though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God and you have come to need milk and not solid food." This verse says some have become dull of hearing, lacking insight, maturity. Has it been a while since you thought about where you are going. Taking a hard look at the years you have remaining. Here are a few insight questions for personal consideration.

1. Am I really happy, genuinely challenged and fulfilled in this life?
2. In light of eternity am I making a consistent investment for God's glory and His cause?
3. Is the direction my life is now taking leading me toward a satisfying and meaningful future?
4. Can I honestly say that I am in the center of God's will for my life?

Insight is important in the life of the believer and in the life of the church. I love the sparing of the year with the new life everywhere. Spring is a time of new beginnings, time for cleaning, time of growing in Christ. As we move forward at the Fairview Heights Church of God we will need more and more insight as to what God really wants for our life and the life of this church. As I write this letter I am so thankful to be the Pastor of such a great church. I can truly say that we have great insight as a church to what God really wants. We have much to do as a church to reach the lost, disciple the believer, and glorify the Lord and it will take people with insight to get the job done. So

the challenge for all of us is to open our eyes. Think! Apply! Listen! THERE IS A LOT OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NECESSARY BLINKING AND UNNECESSARY BLINDNESS.

*Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton*

SERMON OUTLINES

May 1

AM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON
THE STORY OF NAAMAN THE LEPER

TEXT: 2 KINGS 5:1

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS BY PASTOR BRIAN POPE

PM SERVICE: HOUSE OF PRAYER BY
DARLENE HAMILTON

MAY 8

AM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON

MOM KNOWS BEST!

TEXT PROV. 3:1-10

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: HANDBELLS

NO PM SERVICE BECAUSE OF MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 15

AM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON

THE STORY OF THE RICH MAN

TEXT: LUKE: 19-31

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: CHILDREN'S CHOIR
BAPTISMAL SERVICE IN MORNING SERVICE

PM SERVICE: OUTSIDE SERVICE WITH
"CHURCH SINGING"

MAY 22

AM SERVICE: PASTOR BRIAN

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS BY PASTOR CLAYTON

PM SERVICE: CHILDREN'S TALENT NIGHT AND
FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE
SERVICE

MAY 29

AM SERVICE: PASTOR CLAYTON

THE STORY OF THE MARRIAGE IN CANA

TEXT: JOHN 2:1-12

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: HANDBELLS
TIME OF COMMUNION IN THE MORNING SERVICE

PM SERVICE: THE SIGN OF THE SAVED
BY MAX LACADO

SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Outdoor Service—May 15

We will have an all church singing on the grounds starting at 6:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chair and special music, poem or reading and join us for a great evening together. This is a good time to invite someone.

Children's Talent and Cookie Night—May 22

This will be a special time for our children to share their talents with us. You don't want to miss this special night and don't forget your camera. Bring your favorite homemade cookies and we will provide the punch so we can fellowship after the service.

The Sign of the Saved By Max Lacado—May 29

On May 29th in the evening service, we will have the above named video by Max Lacado with discussion questions to follow the 30 minute presentation.

NEW MEMBERS DINNER—SUNDAY, MAY 1

May 1, Pastor and Darla will host a new member's dinner after the morning service. If you are new to our church, we would like you to stay with us for dinner so we can get to know you and you can get to know us. If you have started attending our church in the last year or even in the last few months we want you to be a part of this special day together. We also want to hear any questions you have about the church and we will try to answer them as best as possible. We also would like any new ideas you might have to help us in meeting the needs of our community.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—MAY 12

We will have our first men's Bible study on Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. This is open to all men of our church and to others you would like to invite. We will begin by doing an in-depth study of the book of John. You don't want to miss this special time together to study God's Word.

MOTHER DAUGHTER BANQUET

Attention Ladies!
The Mother Daughter Banquet
Will be May 6th at 6:30 p.m.
The cost for ladies 5 years of age and up is \$6.00.
(4 and under free)

Mark your calendars so you don't miss it!

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH OF GOD NEWS

"Let's Celebrate the Journey with Joy" was the theme for our Illinois WCG convention. There were 18 of us who went to Peoria for this event. Our keynote speaker was Rev. Arnetta McNeese Bailey (grew up in E. St. Louis). She is on staff at our national WCG office. We came back renewed and refreshed and was 1st place winners in attendance.

April is membership month and we hope we can count on your membership this year. Membership dues go to our national office for missions. Basic membership is \$6, Challenge \$12 and Life \$100.

The officers met last Monday night for a planning session and worked on the budget for our year 2005-2006. Fund raisers are a challenge, but we feel God has blessed with some fresh ideas so you will probably be hearing more about some of these soon!

Our Mother/Daughter Banquet is May 6 and we are expecting a great time as our Banquet Committee has worked hard to make it an entertaining evening. Be sure to sign up, so they will know how many to plan for.

Our theme for this year is "Women Called by God" and our meeting Tuesday night (4/26) will be focused around this theme. We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month and we look forward to seeing you!

Ruth Pope

CELEBRATE THE JOURNEY WITH JOY

The Journey is not a straight road. There is a curve called Failure, a loop called Confusion, speed bumps called Friends, red lights called Enemies, and caution lights called Family. You will have flats called Jobs.

But, if you have a spare called Determination, an engine called Perseverance,

insurance called Faith, and a driver named JESUS, you will make it to the place called Joy.

MEN4HIM

Hope you have kept May 14th open for the Men4Him Auction. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us as we auction many valuable items. Please see the flyer attached for more information and then pass it on to friends and family. Everyone is invited to join us as we raise funds for the Men4Him's group to use for worthy causes this coming year.

See you there....

Bill White

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER Annual Business Meeting

The Board of Trustees urges all members to attend the Annual Business Meeting, April 27th at 7:00 pm. The End of Year Financial Statement as well as Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Proposed Budget has been posted on the bulletin board just outside the Sanctuary (bulletin board by the stairs going up to Jr. Church). In addition to voting on the Proposed Budget, there are positions to fill on the Board of Trustees and Board of Deacons and approval of the Christian Board of Education.

If you are unable to attend, please see a Board of Trustee member about an absentee ballot. You must request the ballot at least 3 days prior to the Apr. 27th meeting and it must be given to the Chairman (Gary Hamilton) before the meeting.

Current Board members are as follows: Gary Hamilton, Candy Niemeyer, Ivan DeHart, Brian Pope (leaving the board) and Floyd Whittom (leaving the board).

Candy Niemeyer, Treasurer

**Happy Mother's Day
Mom's
Everywhere**

TO THINK ABOUT

"...He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young." ISAIAH 40:11 NIV

When God Created Moms

By the time the Lord made mothers, he was into his sixth day of working overtime.

An Angel appeared and said "Why are you spending so much time on this one"? And the Lord answered and said, "Have you seen the spec sheet on her?"

She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; have 200 movable parts, all replaceable; run on black coffee and leftovers; have a lap that can hold three children at one time and that disappears when she stands up; have a kiss that can cure anything from a scraped knee to a broken heart, and have six pairs of hands."

The Angel was astounded at the requirements for this one. "Six pairs of hands! No Way!" said the Angel. The Lord replied, "Oh, it's not the hands that are the problem. It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers must have!"

"And that's just on the standard model?" The Angel asked. The Lord nodded in agreement, "Yes, one pair of eyes are to see through the closed door as she asks her children what they are doing even though she already knows. Another pair in the back of her head, are to see what she needs to know even though no one thinks she can. And the third pair are here in the front of her head. They are for looking at an errant child and saying that she understands and loves him or her without even saying a single word."

The Angel tried to stop the Lord. "This is too much work for one day. Wait until tomorrow to finish." "But I can't!" the Lord protested, "I am so close to finishing this creation that is so close to my own heart. She already heals herself when she is sick AND can feed a family of six on a pound of hamburger and can get a nine year old to stand in the shower."

The Angel moved closer and touched the woman, "But you have made her so soft, Lord." "Yes, she is soft", the Lord agreed, "But I have also made her tough. You have no idea what she can endure or accomplish." "Will she be able to think?", asked the inquisitive Angel. The Lord smiled and replied, "Not only will she be able to think, she will be able to reason, and negotiate."

The Angel then noticed something and reached out and touched the woman's cheek. "Oops, it looks like you have a leak with this model. I told you that you were trying to put too much into this one." "That's not a leak." The Lord objected. "That is a tear!" "What's the tear for?" the Angel asked. The Lord said, "The tear is her way of expressing her joy, her sorrow, her disappointment, her pain, her loneliness, her grief, and her pride."

The Angel was impressed. "You are a genius, Lord. You thought of everything! Truly, You do all things well ... Moms are truly amazing!"

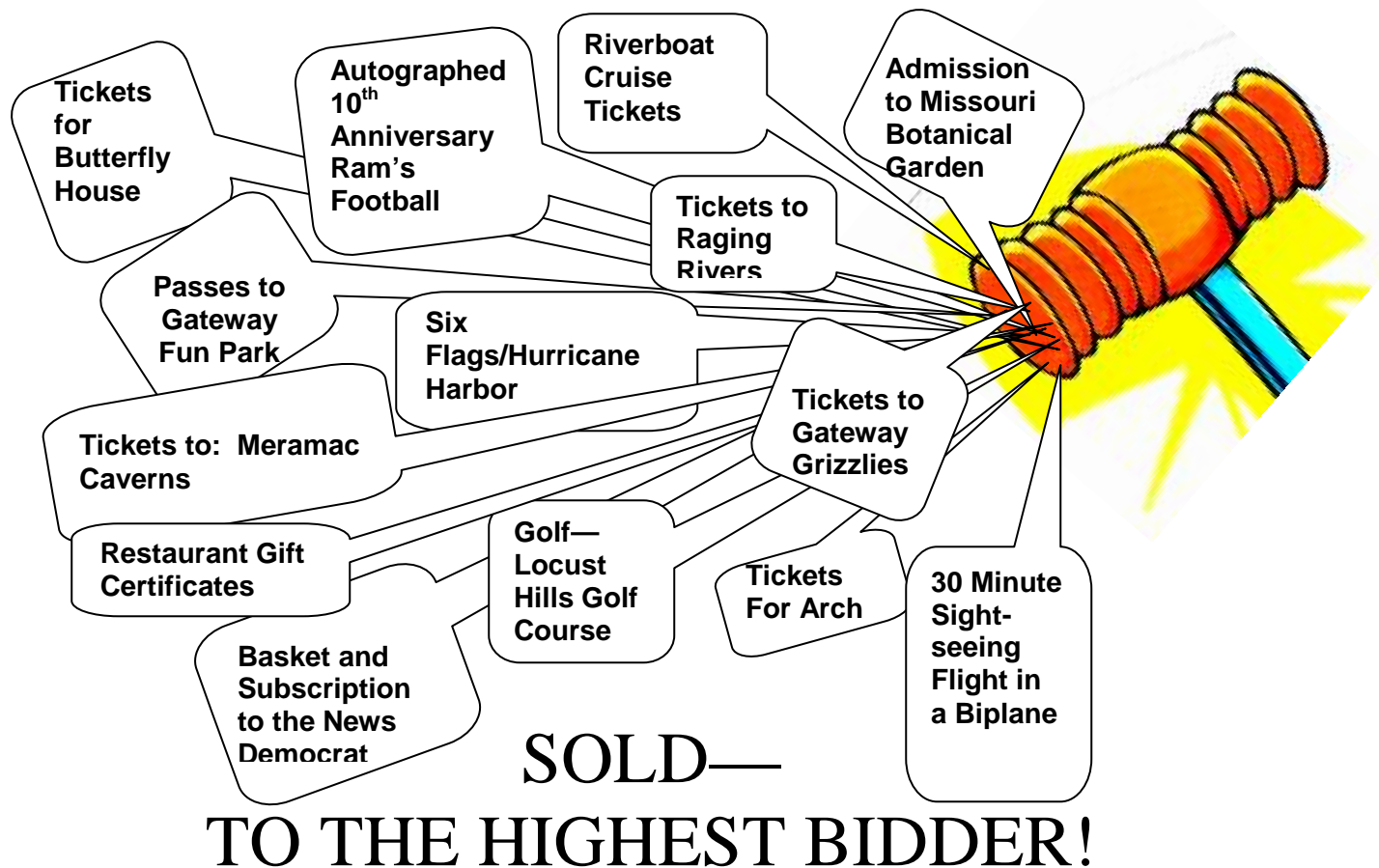
One autumn evening an old Cherokee chief told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between 2 wolves.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson sat by the fire thinking about it for a long time and then finally asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins? "

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."



What? MEN4HIM AUCTION

**Where? Fairview Heights Church of God
5500 Old Collinsville Road, Fairview Heights, IL**

When? Saturday, May 14nd at 6:00 p.m.

Why? To increase funds enabling the Men's Group, Men4Him, to continue their support of the NICE Foundation, Nursing Home Gifts, Annual Valentine Dinner, Fill needs as they arise in the church--just to name a few.

How? Come out –become the highest bidder on some fantastic items and help us help others.

Join us for an evening of fun and surprises!

Need More Information: Phone: 632-1438