

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD

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Volume X No. 10

May 2006

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Calling All Leaders

Let's take a look at the important balance between natural and spiritual leadership. A leader obviously must have some God-given natural qualities that cause others to respond to his or her influence. At the same time the Christian leader must possess a marked degree of Spirit-directed, humble devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ lest we fall into the category of a self-appointed person who simply loves the spotlight. Spiritual leaders are not made by majority vote or by going to some conferences. Only God can make them! Psalm 75:6-7 says: "For not from the east, nor from the west, nor from the desert comes exaltation, But God is the judge, He puts down one, and exalts another." This means that God makes it His responsibility to prepare, nurture, train and promote people to places of leadership. But we are programmed to think in terms of promotion, advertisement, public

image and appeal. Solomon's words fit well here, "For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths. His iniquities will capture the wicked, and he will be held with the cords of his sin." Proverbs 5:21-22.

But here is the positive side of leadership. God knows best in all situations. If He has you sidelined or out of action for awhile, He knows what He's doing. We must stay faithful, flexible and available. God is preparing you for His service. God has placed you in His family and has given you a special calling that makes you unique. Nobody else is exactly like you. When you operate in the realm of God's agenda, your life is so much richer. It is really about impacting lives for Jesus.

I would like to share four characteristics usually found in leaders who impact lives. First there is consistency. They are not here today and gone tomorrow. They are always on the job doing what God has called them to do. We can depend on them to further the work of the Kingdom. Second is authenticity. People who impact others are real. There is no put on; what you see is what you get. Third is unselfishness. Those who impact us the most watch out themselves the least. They notice other's needs and reach out to help. Fourth is tirelessness. In other words these leaders refuse to quit. So take a long look at the inner you, the real you. Call to mind those qualities He has developed within you. Find encouragement in the fact that you have a unique combination of inner qualities found in no one else. You have a contribution to make to the Kingdom. We can be thankful for the leaders we

have here at the Fairview Heights Church of God. Not only the ones we have now, but also the ones God is developing and preparing to be leaders. In one sense we are all leaders if we know Jesus as our Savior. He has a purpose and a plan for our lives. As we continue to serve the Lord this year, my prayer is that we can all be stronger leaders and impact lives around us. We have a wonderful church with a great history and a great future. Will you be the one to answer the call of leadership? Don't ask what the church can do for you; ask what you can do for the church. We need more soldiers on the front lines of the battle!

Enjoy the Journey!
Pastor Clayton

SERMON OUTLINES FOR MAY 2006

May 7	Sunday Services
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MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
"Why Do I Feel Guilty?"
Text: Romans 3:10-25
Children's Moments by Pastor Clayton

EVENING SERVICE:
Special Singing Group "Fortress"

May 14	Mother's Day
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MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
"Why Am I Lonely?"
Text: John 5: 1-9; Luke 19: 1-10
Children's Moments: Hand Bells

EVENING SERVICE:
No service to allow time with our families

May 21	Sunday Service
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MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Brian

Children's Moments by Pastor Clayton

EVENING SERVICE:
Teaching on *The Da Vinci Code*
Pastor Clayton

May 28	Sunday Services
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MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
"Why Am I Afraid?"
Text: Mark 4:35

Children's Moments: Hand Bells

EVENING SERVICE:
Teaching on *The Da Vinci Code*
Pastor Clayton

Calendar of Coming Events

May 6 -10A.M. Mother/Daughter Brunch
\$6.00 Adults; \$3.0 Children

May 7 - New Member Luncheon
after service with Pastor and Darla

May 8, 9, 10 & 11 - City Wide Crusade
Kinlock Church of God
Pastor will be speaking on the 10th

May 16, 17, &18 - Senior Adult Retreat
Decatur Camp Warren

The Da Vinci Code

Everyone will be talking. What will you say? *The Da Vinci Code*, the new movie based on the best selling book of the same name, will be released May 19th in theatres. Produced by Ron Howard and starring Tom Hanks, there is little doubt it will be a blockbuster. The book is raising questions such as "Were Jesus and Mary Magdalene married?" "Did the church create the divinity of Jesus?" "Was Jesus really God, or was that story added to church history a century later?" "How reliable is the Bible?" "Is it just a collection of sorties or true history?" *The Da Vinci Code* challenges history in such a convincing way that it has raised doubts in the minds of many people.

So together we need to sift through facts and fiction to uncover truth. Don't miss this very important study beginning on May 21st in the evening service. "How can you tell the truth from fiction?" Join us as we evaluate the claims and review the historical evidence. You won't want to miss this special study.

Celebrate Jesus! 50 Day Spiritual Adventure

Can you believe that the adventure has come and gone? I sure can't. I was blessed and my prayer is that our entire congregation that participated was also blessed. I have "so" many to thank. I want to first thank our Pastor for bringing this to us. We were truly blessed by his messages from God. Pastor Brian did a great job with our Children's messages each Sunday. They gave each one of us things to think on. The skits! Weren't they great? Adam did a wonderful job getting everyone for each week to play their parts. He did so much in the background that no one knew anything about. So, Adam a BIG thank you for all you did. I pray that I don't leave anyone out. I really don't like doing list because it always seems that someone's name is missed. So, I will apologize ahead of time if I do. Those in our skits were Caycee Brooks, Denise Droege, Marshall Field, Phyllis Field, Amanda Floyd, David Floyd, Verda Gauldin, Caithlyn Graham, Alexis Nelson, Andrew Pollard, Benjamin Pollard, Carol Pollard, Stella Simms, and Jason West.

Our small group leaders were Belinda Floyd, David and Carol Pollard, Richard Ryan Knowles, Shannon Peiffer, Darla Clayton, Pastor Clayton, Floyd Whittom, Edna Mae Earl, Stella Simms, and Ivan DeHart. As you can tell from all the above names this was an event that the most of the congregation had to get involved in just to pull it off. God blessed us in so many ways through this adventure. Please let Debbie hear from you so she can add those commits in our next newsletter. My prayer is that this was just not a good time had by all BUT that our lives were changed forever because of something that was said or a change because we have now gotten into a habit of reading and studying our

Bible daily. Remember "Celebrate Jesus" everyday and everywhere you go in your daily lives!

Annual Business Meeting April 26, 2006

The Board of Deacons will welcome new members Ruth Pope and Carol Hamilton. The two alternate members will be Sella Simms and Peggy Whittom. They will be joining Pastor Clayton, David Pollard, Pam Knowles, Marshall Field and Stella Simms.

The Board of Trustees new member is Floyd Whittom, and the alternate members are Diane Taylor and David Floyd. They will be joining Pastor Clayton, Gary Hamilton, Bill White and Candy Niemeyer.

The Boards thanked retiring members Jim Niemeyer, Darlene Hamilton and Ivan DeHart for their dedicated service.

Approval was given to the following Christian Educations positions: Sunday School Superintendent -Jayn Willeford; Sunday School Assistant Superintendent - Darla Clayton; and Sunday School Secretary - Belind Floyd.

Candy Niemeyer presented the financial report and a budget for 2006-07. The budget was approved.

Senior Adult Bible Class- News and Views

Our classmate Edna Mae told us about the great four day revival she attended at West Frankfort Camp. Spirit was very real, preaching by Claude Robolt was excellent, and the singing lifted the hearts toward heaven. She also added her voice to the choir. (P.S. - She stayed in the Executive Wing, too.) We are glad she had a safe journey there and back.

Norma has been released by the doctor and no longer needs the walker, but she uses the cane because of a back problem she has had for many years. She is back driving, running stop lights, cutting people off and doing the Indianapolis 500. (Just kidding folks! She is really a very good driver.) Again, she appreciates all

the prayers, food, phone calls and visits. She wants to especially thank Pastors Clayton and Brian for their visits during her hospital stay.

Edna Mae will be meeting with her brother and two sisters on May 2, 2006, in Southern Illinois. One sister and her husband will be coming in from the State of Washington. It will be a great time for some reminiscences and catching up on all the news in each of their lives. Our prayers and joys will be with them.

It was great to have Gene Logsdon in our class on Easter Sunday. It has been the teacher's privilege to know Gene for a number of years having been employed by the same company. He says he is feeling better than he has for the last ten years. Thank God for His healing grace. Gene is always welcome to come and be a part of our class.

Brother and Sister Campbell enjoyed a beautiful visit with their newly born Great-Granddaughter on Saturday, April 4, 2006. Yes, Granddad Larry popped all the buttons off his shirt and is real proud of this pretty little girl. She does have some physical problems and needs all our prayers.

We had four ladies from our class (Stella-Edna Mae-Gwen and Agnes) attend the WCG Meeting the last week end in April. A total of 35 ladies from our church attended. We're looking forward to hearing all about it. We are praying for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all in attendance.

The two lessons in our Sunday School class will be entitled "Finding Life's Meaning" and "God's Time." Sounds interesting, eh? We will be looking at the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes and the Book of John in the New Testament. Have you ever considered the real meaning of "What is the meaning of Life?" Do we see life as being focused on the present world and its values? Not only can we learn from Solomon's mistakes, we also have Jesus and the New Testament to give us redemptive insights. In our studies the passages will let Solomon pose some problems then let Jesus propose some solutions. It is going to be great; come join us!

In the not to distant future we will be looking at the word TITHE. Questions might include: What Is the Tithe? Can One Be A Christian And Not Tithe? Who Owns The Tithe? Tithe And Offerings, and What Do We Pay First? We invite you to come and be a part of this study.

Ivan DeHart, Teacher

JO.Y. (Just Older Youth) SS Class

We will be winding down our study of "Thinking Like a Christian" sometime in the month of May. Most recently the class has looked at what the Bible has to say about Law and Politics. We will be continuing our study by looking at Economics and History from a Biblical Worldview. I want to thank Denise Droege for stepping in and leading the class while Jim and I were in Nicaragua. In April, I have also had to be gone and the class has been watching videos that were taped at the 2005 Worldview Weekend in Branson, MO. I understand the message brought by Star Parker entitled "The Impact of Your Worldview". I have heard several people quote her worldview about the Bible: "There are no decisions to make---only instructions to follow!"

Jim and I had a wonderful experience in Nicaragua and while we have had the chance to share with many of you, we hope to get together o power-point presentation of our pictures. You know the old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words" is very accurate for this trip. I want to welcome Ruth and Warren Pope back home from their travels to Florida. It is always good to have the family back among us.

Please come join us in the fellowship hall for a wonderful time of sharing and learning about God's word.

Candy Niemeyer, Teacher

W CG Notes

The WCG convention was held April 21-23, 2006, at The Fountains in Fairview Heights. It was a wonderful spiritual time with over 200

women in attendance. Congratulations to the newly elected state officers from our church: New Membership/Enlistment Coordinator Ruth Pope and Mission Resource Coordinator Kim Brooks.

The WCG met on Tuesday, April 25th and new officers for the coming year were installed.

President Kim Brooks

Vice-President Stella Simms

Secretary/Membership Jayn Willeford

Treasurer/Membership Phyllis Field

Financial Coordinators Belinda Floyd and Carol Hamilton

Parliamentarian Edna Mae Earl

Program Coordinator Diane Taylor

Historians Alexis Nelson and Carmen Hamilton.

This year's theme was introduced and will be "Women Changed by the World." The evening's program was about equipping ourselves to live in today's world.

WCG invites all girls and ladies to come to the meeting the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M.

Diane Taylor, Program Coordinator

Smiles from the Bible

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?

A. German Shepherds

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant Lawbreaker in the Bible?

A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

A. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

Q. Who is the greatest baby sitter mentioned in the Bible?

A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

Q. Which Bible character had no parents?

A. Joshua, son of Nun.

Q.. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

NEWSLETTER

This is the first newsletter from me, and I know I have a lot to learn. Your advice, suggestions and corrections will be greatly appreciated.

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 dshp50@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

Debbie Porter