

BRIDGING THE GAP



Rev. Terry L. Clayton
Senior Pastor

Rev. Brian Pope
Associate Pastor

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD

5500 Old Collinsville Road May 2007 Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208
(618) 632-1438
www.fhcog.org

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2. Develop rigidities that make desirable change impossible. We are snared by fixations.
3. Become slaves to what others think of us. We are hindered by our image.
4. Become addicted to making severe moral judgments that hurt rather than help. We stumble over our criticism.
5. Become so uptight and defensive that our lives become uptight and defensive that our lives become unattractive and unattracting.

From The Pastor's Desk

"How Religion Gets in Our Way"

Matt. 12:1-14 Does your religion get in the way of the good that God may want for you? Instead of being your strength and resource, does it contribute to your distress and difficulties? Religion gets in our way when we:

1. Make an improper separation between the sacred and the secular. We are trapped by piety.

Healthy religion abounds in love and strives on service to others. Healthy religion frees persons of guilt. It lives with an open and searching mind, and it develops significant intimacy with others. Healthy religion can move among secular persons with neither compromise nor defensiveness nor pride nor withdrawal. It shares it's faith with others as good news, respecting every individual's liberty and choice. It sees God through his world, not just in the confines of its own institution. Healthy religion transports us on God's highway to the fullness of life, abundant, meaningful and eternal. So

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what happens when God builds a church? Obviously a building isn't a church, but a structure that houses God's people who are the church. The people of God are the church. We have existence as a church; we have a present and a future. Incidentally when God starts building a church, it is never finished. He is always working on us. We don't wait for completion before we are functional. When God builds a church, he is working on the basis of careful plans. The church isn't the result of some heavenly fantasy or a diving passing whim. When God builds a church, it is laid on a sure foundation. Jesus Christ himself being the cornerstone that both completes and holds together the church. When God builds a church, he uses sturdy materials. He doesn't use brick and mortar or wood and steel. God uses living stones that are committed to the cause of Christ by, growing, loving, serving, and by being dependable, faithful and flexible. God is trying to build spiritual structures, not religion, which will be expressions of his handiwork. Let the Church be the Church here at Fairview Heights.

Enjoy the Journey
Pastor Clayton

Sunday Service Outline for May

May 6 Morning Service

“ So how's That Working For You?”
Dr. Phil Says!
Text Luke 17:5-6 Pastor Clayton

PM Service Fresh Service
Pastor Brian

May 13 AM Service Mother's Day

“If the Shoe Fits, Wear It!”

Luke 12:34 Pastor Clayton

PM Service No evening service to
spend time with your family!

May 20 AM Service

“It's Been a Hard Day's Night”
Luke 5:5 Pastor Clayton

PM Service Appreciation Dinner for the
families that are moving starting at 5:00 PM

May 27 AM Service

“I can't Get No Satisfaction!”
John 6:35 Pastor Clayton

PM Service Fresh Service Pastor Brian

Appreciation Dinner May 20, 2007 Sunday at 5:00pm

This will be a potluck dinner for the whole church to honor those families that will be moving in the next few weeks. The church will furnish the meat so bring a dish and help us show these families how much we love them. You can also bring a card or note for each family to encourage them. The families that will be moving are the Fuller's, Knight's, Norton's, and Ann Rose Miller.

WCG

The WCG has just stated a new year. Our first meeting will be May 1st at 7PM. We will be installing new officers for the year and kicking off our brand new theme “Women Charged by the Spirit.” We will have an enjoyable time as Diane Taylor leads us with our first program for the year. If you haven't attended a meeting before and would like

to see what the WCG is all about, then please feel free to join us next Tuesday night. If you can't be there for this one, then our next meeting will be May 29th at 7PM as well. There will be child care provided for these meetings for those who need someone to watch over your little ones.

Following is a summary of the Illinois State WCG Convention '07. You will all be happy to know that 28 ladies represented our church and won first place for attendance. This convention was a blessing to me, and I want to thank each of you for your prayers and hard work to get all those fine details in order. The church is such a strong force when we all pray and work together. Thanks a bunch and may God bless you all.

Through Him And In Him All Things Are Possible
Kim Brooks, President.

Food Pantry

The pantry is doing fine as of this report. The shelves are supplied with canned goods and a lot of other items that people use.

It's all with the help of the wonderful goodness of God. We are so amazed how good the Lord is to us, and we give Him all the glory.

The churches of Fairview Heights have been so very wonderful, and also the private donations are coming in too.

We really like our new place; it has lots and lots of room. We've enjoyed showing the youth through the Pantry. The mail carrier food drive is Saturday May 12th (which is the day after Mother's Day). If anyone is interested and would like to help that day, just come on in. We would be glad to put you to work!

In January we served	199 people 55 families
February	150 people 39 families
March	250 people 64 families

God is good all the time and all the time God is good.

Praise the Lord.

Gwen Campbell, Vice President

Church Library Has New Location

The library is on the move again. Through the years, the library has had many 'homes' – Upper Room, room to left of sanctuary platform, room across from nursery, and now to its new location.

A Leadership Meeting of our congregation was held in January in which it was suggested that the library be moved to the 'old entranceway' area of the building. The adjoining room could also be used as part of the library. The idea was reported to me and we were off and running.

Last summer I had gone to my local public library (Caseyville Village Library) to request any 'old' shelving units that an area library was disposing, but none were available at the time of the request. Low and behold, in January the Caseyville Village Library received an Illinois State Library Grant for new shelving units throughout its building. The librarian contacted me stating I had 'first choice' of any 'old' units to purchase for our church building. 17 units were purchased at \$20 per unit. The monies came from the library budget and from donations by 2 families in our congregation.

Why did I get first choice you ask? It was definitely a 'God Thing'. During the last 15 years of my teaching career, I went to a thematic approach to teaching in my Kindergarten classroom. I would develop themes over the summer months then I would meet with the village librarian giving her a list of the themes and specific books I wanted to borrow to use in my classroom. Well, each Friday evening during those years, I would carry bags and bags of books out of the library to be taken to school on the following Monday morning to be used and read in my classroom during that week. Over the course of a year, I averaged borrowing over 1,000. That number greatly enhanced the total number of borrowed items from the library shelves, allowing the library to show higher numbers when requesting grants. So....the librarian sends favors my way, when possible. A definite blessing for our church

library, don't you think?

The Men4Him Group transported and set up the shelves, painted the adjoining room, and installed new light fixtures in both areas. THANK YOU!

The 'Children's Book Nook' is decorated in primary colors with child size table and chairs and bean bags (contributed by another family in our congregation) to make it comfortable for our boys and girls.

The librarian now has a 'work area', a true treasure in her book!

The library is a 'constant work in progress, and is at your disposal whenever the church doors are open.

Church Librarian,
Phyllis J. Field

5 Star Award Recipient for April

My sisters and I would like to take this opportunity to share a Huge 'THANK YOU' to all that filled the decorated basket. The cards, letters, and pictures have been treasured as we have read them each day during our visits with our mother, Verla Logsdon. Those who wrote memories of the many years (45 to be exact) she served as Sunday School Secretary brought smiles to her face and chuckles to her daughters.

You see, during our growing up years we would arrive early (no later than 30 minutes before Sunday School began) to unlock the church doors and turn on the lights. We girls knew where every light switch was in the church building! Then we would assist Mother in distributing the 'roll' books to the classrooms. We were her 'assistants' until the grandchildren came along. My children, Rebecca and Matthew, learned so much by being Grandma's helpers – punctuality, service, and to this day they have a love for dates and family histories.

Also as part of our growing up years we not only sat down at the breakfast table to eat, but to have the daily question of 'Guess

whose birthday/anniversary is today?' asked of us. To this day when we have a family get-together, birthdays and anniversaries are always discussed. Mother passed on her love of numbers to her daughters, and it shows in our love for details and in the careers we chose to follow.

Mother is no longer able to be in our church services, but all of you are cherished in her memory bank.

We are so appreciative of the many visits by Pastor Terry and Darla Clayton. They have a special touch in bringing laughter to Mother's surroundings. One of Mother's 4 daughters visits with her at Maryville Manor and with Daddy at Charles Gardens each day.

Thank you for honoring our mother,
Phyllis Field
Betsy Middleton
Karen Logsdon
Carol Murphy

“Murder, Mayhem, and Marshmallow Salad”

Does this sound intriguing? We hope so! Your **Youth Group** is presenting this **Dinner Playhouse** on June 2nd with hors d'oeuvres starting at 6:00 PM and the meal will be served at 6:30 PM. The R.O.C.K. group will also be working with serving and other jobs. Our Women of The Church of God will be in charge of the meal complete with dessert! This is a “new” undertaking for all three groups. We are looking forward to a great night together. Tickets go on sale to the congregation on May 20th at \$10.00 each. See one of our Youth or one of the ladies in the W.C.G. for tickets.

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

VBS

As many of you may or may not know, we are having VBS this year June 11-15th. I'm a little excited about this. During my prayer time this morning I had this "thought" come to mind. If you don't ask for help they won't know you need it.

So here I am asking....I know some of you have already said you will help, and I know some of you have other things that have to take priority. But IF you can help please let me know.

People I need:

actors

shop keepers

a rabbi

tribe leaders

tribe leader's assistance (these can be youth)

costume makers/dressers

some one to build a Styrofoam well 🏠

cookies

I'm sure there are more...

And most importantly we need prayer that will inspire everyone who comes to walk closer to God. This is going to be so awesome!

Thank you! If there is someone that you think might want to help, I don't have everyone's e-mail...please by all means pass this along. I wouldn't mind at all 😊

Praying for guidance,
Carmen Hamilton

WCG Membership Time!

Calling all Ladies!

It would be great if we had all our ladies join Women of the Church of God and attend our monthly meetings (whenever possible). There are no age limits in WCG! We have some very young members and some who have been members for a long time.

There are three levels of membership:

Basic \$6.00

Challenge \$12.00

Life \$100

We are linked with the WCG on the State and National Level. Think about investing in Missions this year and enjoying fellowship with other ladies!

Ruth Pope and Gwen Campbell
VCG Membership Team

Joy Sunday School Class

We are still having great lessons and discussions in our study of *The Purpose Driven Life*. We are about ready to begin Purpose #3 "You Were Created to Become Like Christ."

Our attendance has been up and down. Many of our ladies were at the WCG Convention and several members will be counselors for the Youth Convention. We miss class members when they are gone, but it's so important to attend conventions, seminars, classes, etc. outside the wall of our local church. We get new and fresh ideas and come back energized and ready to work and share. Also some of our regulars are now teaching or helping out in other areas, and we're thankful they have stepped up when they were asked or saw a need. So.....we are looking for new members! If you are not in Sunday School, we'd like to have you in our class.

Diane, our class secretary, tells me we are coming up a little short with our project money. We support a Child of Promise and make a monthly contribution to New Beginnings Pregnancy Center.

Special thanks to Pastor Clayton who taught the class in my absence this winter.

See you in Sunday School.

Ruth Pope
Teacher

Children of Promise

Several classes, WCG, and individuals have recently received pictures and letters from their sponsored children. How exciting to see how

much they have grown and how well they are doing in school. They are so grateful for our support. Remember to send birthday cards and monetary gifts to your child six weeks before their special day.

Change a Life, Sponsor a Child
Ruth Pope

Annual Mother-Daughter Banquet Apron Strings—Ties to the Past

Friday, May 11th at 7 PM in the Church Fellowship Hall will be the annual banquet catered by The Sandwich Shop. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$6.00 for kids 10 and under.

We are asking you to bring or wear an apron. Maybe you have a special memory or story behind an apron you have and would like to share it with those at your table or later during the program.

There is a signup sheet on the WCG bulletin board; we are asking you to prepay. See Ruth Pope for tickets (tickets will also be used in the drawing for door prizes.) Invite a friend and come expecting a good time!

Phyllis, Belinda and Ruth
Banquet Committee

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

Written by kids.....

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. -- Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. -- Kristen, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then.

-- Camille, age 10

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. -- Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that Usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. -- Martin, age 10

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. -- Lori, age 8

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING SOUR?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. -- Craig, age 9

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

When they are rich --Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - - Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. -- Howard, age 8

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.

-- Anita, age 9

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck. -- Ricky, age 10