

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

Rev. Brian Pope, Associate Pastor

www.fhcog.org

Volume X No. 4

November 2005

IN THIS ISSUE

From The Pastor's Desk.....	1
Coming This Month	2
Sermon Outlines for November	2
Pastor's Dream Team	2
A Prayer Ministry	3
Discipleship.....	3
J.O.Y Report.....	3
Faithweaver Friends	4
Men4Him.....	4
Fellowship Groups	4
Mom's Club	4
Family Life Seminar.....	4
To Think About	5
Editor's Note	5

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"What is Worship?"

Nothing is higher on God's agenda for himself and for His people than true worship. In the very act of creation God was expressing His love. He created Adam and Eve for Himself and he gave them all they would ever need. Not one thing was missing, and everything He provided was perfect. They were in turn to love God, commune with Him, worship Him and enjoy Him forever.

Every one of us is a worshiper of something or someone. That which is most important to us will be the object of our worship. But what does it mean to worship God in Spirit? We must understand that worship comes from within. God is not at all impressed with outward expressions of worship that does not come from the heart. Romans 1:9 "God whom I serve with

my whole heart in preaching the gospel of His Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you."

Worship is an encounter with God where He turns everything toward Himself because He is our life. Many today think that worship is music, that music is worship and some actually worship music. It is also easy for people to become the center of attention, the focus of a service. But to really worship in the Spirit our total focus must be on God. So the foundation of true worship is the Word of God.

Every letter Paul wrote every prayer he prayed and every sermon he preached was shaped by his view of God. To worship in truth means that we will study God's word. The Hebrew word for worship used in Genesis 22 is the word shachah. It is not so much something we do as much as it is someone we are. The acceptance by God of what we do in worship depends on the attitude of the heart. Psalm 95:6 "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

It is the love for God that motivates our worship? In worship we are constantly reminded of God's holiness. The Holy Spirit helps us come face to face with God. He reveals his nature and draws us to a closer look at our own lives. So the way we live and worship will let the world know God and how to respond to Him. The way we live and worship first transforms us, and then through us other lives are transformed as well. When the early church worshiped the entire city of Jerusalem trembled, Acts 2-4. I wonder are others seeing God in our worship, and our life. People ought to be convinced of several things about God as they watch us worship: they should see that God is holy, that He hates sin and redeems the sinner. They should see that God's mission is to redeem the world and that He

requires obedience. Everything in our life and worship depends on His name: We are called by His name, we gather in His name, we pray in His name, we live by faith in His name, we are baptized in His name and we put our hope in His name.

In true worship the pattern is never how people are responding to us but how God is responding. The real issue in worship is not how much we can create excitement, but rather has the fire fallen? Are lives being transformed by an encounter with God? I am thankful that we have great worship here at Fairview Heights, don't miss a service because God is truly blessing our lives as a church. May we never take our worship and those who lead us for granted. May our lives continue to experience transformation through worship.

*Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton*

Coming In This Month: Teaching Session on the Mormon Church:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints emphasizes family values, clean living and missionary outreach. But beneath these teachings are less well known beliefs such as, Jesus and Satan are Spirit brothers, man can become God, Scripture is still being written today. Learn more about the Mormon Church on Nov. 13 in our evening service.

Teaching Session on Homosexuality:

The homosexual lifestyle has become so commonplace that many people believe its message that homosexuality is genetic and that being gay is as natural as being heterosexual. So how should the church respond to homosexual issues today? Learn more about this lifestyle on Nov. 20 in our evening service.

SERMON OUTLINES FOR NOVEMBER 2005

November 6

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Brian

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Children's Choir

EVENING SERVICE: Pastor Brian

November 13 **Sermon Series:**
"Extreme Home Make Over"

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
Part 1- "Remodeling: Dealing with an Imperfect Family"
Text: Gen. 2:15-25

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Hand Bells

EVENING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
Teaching Session- "Everything you always wanted to know about the Mormon Church"

November 20 **Sermon Series:**
"Extreme Home Make Over"

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
PART 2 "Laying a Foundation for an Enduring Marriage"
Text: Eph. 5:22-23

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Pastor Clayton

EVENING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
Teaching Lesson- "Everything you always wanted to know about Homosexuality"

November 27 **Sermon Series:**
"Extreme Home Make Over"

MORNING SERVICE : Pastor Clayton
PART3 "Weather-Proofing Against Life's Storms"
Text: 2 Cor. 4:16-18

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Pastor Brian

EVENING SERVICE:
Hanging of the Greens: Darla Clayton

PASTOR'S DREAM TEAM

Starting in December we will have a 12 member team that will meet once a quarter. The purpose of this team will be to gather information,

to plan, dream and promote ministry. It will share input and evaluate everything we do as a church. The team will make sure everyone knows what each board and committee is doing to help the church grow. It will bring together every board, committee, chairman and ministry for a united effort to focus on making a difference in our community.

A PRAYER MINISTRY

“ACTS 1:14”

“They all joined together constantly in prayer.”

This prayer ministry will meet twice a month. Prayer will be specifically for the Church. In the next few weeks you will be learning more about this important ministry. Rev. Jeanette Flynn reminded us that we must pattern our church on the Acts church. Meeting together, praying, waiting on the Lord was the foundation for all that was accomplished during that vital time.

A MONTH OF PRAYER WALKING

Every Saturday for one month during the month of January, we will be meeting at the church for one hour. We will walk through the church, stopping to pray for every Sunday School class, teacher, student, all church equipment, including: musical instruments, pews, doorways, etc. We will be asking God's blessings on everyone and everything so that all may be used for the glory of the Lord God.

JERICO PRAYER WALK

7 Days Walking the Perimeter of the Church

Dates to follow.

We are praying for your commitment to one or more of the above ministries. We need your prayers. We need God's power so we can effectively do the work He has given us to do.

DISCIPLESHIP

What is discipleship? It is the study of God's word on a one to one basis. Who needs Discipleship? Everyone! Are you a new Christian? Have you been a Christian for years but have never been discipled? Then now is the time and this is the place! We are excited to offer

Discipleship Classes. We have four people lined up for our teachers. You will be going through a "Beginning Discipleship" book. Yes, there is "some" homework on your part but remember, you will be learning and growing in the Lord. How exciting! Some of the chapters will be "But, How Can I Be Sure?"; "You Mean I have to Go Under The Water?" and "You Mean There is More?" just to name a few! So, if you would be interested in digging deeper in what the Lord has for you please contact me and I will set up a time that would be convenient for you to get started.

Darla Clayton

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

It is so good to have people back home and in class again. We have been missing many folks due to travels. Bill and Shirley Beltz have returned from a very wet trip to Nicaragua but a very productive trip with lots of work being accomplished on the new Church of God church and parsonage. Richard and Pam Knowles were gone for business and pleasure in Sept. They were able to visit many of the places dedicated to our Founding Fathers and then came home and shared how God was at work then and is still at work now in this great country. They also made a few of us envious as they were able to worship with the congregation at the Brooklyn Tabernacle. Debbie Porter has returned from caring for her father who is recovering well from bypass surgery and now Debbie is ready to move into her new home in Shiloh. Pastor, Darla, David and Belinda returned from their cruise well rested and fed and report that they all had a good time. We thank God for how he has watched over them all and returned them safely to us.

Starting Nov. 20, we will begin a 12 part study entitled "Thinking Like a Christian." I want to encourage all of you who are not part of a Sunday School class to come join us for what I believe will be a powerful study. I am so excited about this study and I believe God is going to bless us in ways that we can't even imagine. We live in a world where the culture is constantly changing and people are confused and hurting. This study will help us to discover what God has to say about all areas of our life---not just religion, family and social issues. But we will also

discover what God says about law, politics, our money, human nature, truth, and so much more.

I invite you to tell friends and family about this study as well. The lessons plans are fun and interactive, so come on in and join us.

Candy Niemeyer, Teacher

FAITHWEAVER FRIENDS

Hello from FWF! We have been busy! Our wonderful team of leaders has been guiding 18-19 children a week. Such fun! They have tremendous energy.

We now have a new mascot, his name is Isaiah. He is a traveling bear. He is chosen each week to go home with a child to spend the week. He has a journal of his adventures. I can't wait to read them. Alexis P. was the first one to take him home.

Special BIG huge thanks to all who have helped with the dinners they are turning out to be awesome. If you don't feel like cooking, join us for dinner on Wed. night at 6:00. We'd love to have you! AND if you like to cook--*well* come and see me. I have a few more dates open. Thank you to all who come eat and help support FWF.

In general thank you to all who love and support this program.

I LOVE the way HE works when you let him "let go and let God"

*Love and Thanks,
Carmen Hamilton,
Director of Faithweaver Friends*

MEN4 HIM

The men's fellowship will meet for coffee Saturday, October 29 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Louis Bread Company, on N. Illinois near Office Depot in Fairview Heights. We will be planning our Christmas nursing home distribution and upcoming events. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

What a spring and summer of great fun for both Fellowship Groups! THANKS to Darlene Hamilton Group 1 and Stella Simms and Edna Mae Earl Group 2 for all of their work and planning for the activities of their groups. We

could not have done it without you! Both groups have ended with a party together at the Pollard's home. Our plans now are to let everyone rest(?) for the months of November and December. Now, that is if you can with all of the holiday things that all of us will be involved with. After the first of the year, we plan to have "Coffee Houses" on Saturday evenings at the church for ALL that would be interested in coming. We are hoping to have a "Karaoke Night" along with other theme nights during this time. We will again have sign up in the spring for our Fellowship Groups. In all we do, we want God's church to grow. We want to love people into God's kingdom. All of these activities are good avenues to invite your friends and families too!

Darla Clayton

MOM'S CLUB

I just wanted to give you a heads up on our plans for the coming month. Starting in November we will have an errands day twice a month! The second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9am to 3 pm., Pam Knowles and I will be at the church to provide day care for anyone who needs it! Don't forget that Mondays at 1:30 is the Ladies Bible Study and the ladies who attend have agreed to have someone watch your children if you would like to participate. We are starting a new study on Mad Mary!

We are also wanting to provide a shopping day in December! We've scheduled it for the first Saturday in December. We are looking for volunteers for that day to help us out. We were hoping perhaps for some couples to come in together and spend a few hours. If you are available and willing to help, just let me know what hours work for you and we will schedule you in.

We are going to try a Babysitting Exchange! We have been working on a date night for couples, but since everyone's schedules are so conflicting, we thought we'd give this a try. How it works:

Contact me and let me know if you need a sitter and/or are willing to sit. Tell me when and where (your home, our home, or the church whatever you prefer). I will connect you with someone who can sit for your kids or who you can sit for in exchange!

Kind of like an online dating service, only you've already got the date. :)

Every third Friday of the month The Magic House has a family night! It is free for your entire family to come between 5:30-9pm! If you would like to try to go as a group, please contact me!

If you have any ideas for me or any opinions on these ideas I would LOVE to hear them! You can email me at shay_46064@yahoo.com or call me at 618-580-8158

Please pass this info along to your friends and family! Give me any email addresses or phone numbers of those you think would be interested, so we can keep them informed.

Thank you!! Have a blessed week!
Shannon Peiffer

FAMILY LIFE MARRIAGE SEMINAR

It's not too late to sign up for the Family Life Marriage Seminar entitled "A Weekend to Remember". Come join Jim and Candy Niemeyer, Bill and Karen White, Bill and Shirley Beltz and Terry and Darla Clayton. The seminar is November 11-13th at the St. Louis Hyatt Regency at Union Station. For more information see Candy Niemeyer or check out the web site at www.familylife.com.

TO THINK ABOUT

Colossians 2:6-7 reads: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (NIV)

David's Armor

David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off (1 Samuel 17:39).

David, the young shepherd boy, heard the challenge from the Philistines to send someone to fight Goliath. No one volunteered to fight except David. King Saul reluctantly agreed and offered David his armor. David put on the weighty equipment, but quickly concluded he could not fight in this heavy armor.

God equips each of us in such a way that is unique to our strengths and abilities. David was trained as a shepherd to use different weapons. For David, it was a slingshot. David

showed great maturity in realizing he could not be effective with Saul's armor.

What are the gifts and talents God has given to you? Have you ever tried to accomplish a task with tools you were not trained to use? God allows each of us to develop skills that are unique to our life. He will not call you to use someone else's tools.

However, this is only half of the equation. These talents must be mixed with faith. Talent alone is not enough. Faith alone is not enough. It is only when the two are combined that the power of God is released and manifested in the physical realm.

Mix your unique gifts with faith today. You will be surprised at the power of God that will be manifested.

Marketplace Meditations

I am Thankful

I can walk.

There are those who have never taken their first step.

I can see the beauty all around me.

There are those whose world is always dark.

I can hear music playing.

There are those whose entire life has been spent in silence.

My heart can be broken.

There are those who are so hardened they cannot be touched.

I can move about freely and express my beliefs.

There are those who live in constant fear.

I have been loved.

There are those for whom no one has ever cared.

I can work.

There are those who have to depend on others for even their most basic needs.

For the opportunity to help others.

There are those who have not been so abundantly blessed as I.

Editor's 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!

Karen White, Editor