

# BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD

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between 5 and 10 hours a day. Some good things started to happen, families played games, listened to the radio, and enjoyed just being together. The families had to admit four facts:

1. Their family members were brought closer together.
2. More eyeball to eyeball time between parents and children took place.
3. There was a marked increase in patience between family members.
4. The biggest thing was that of creativity.

It is not so much about watching TV as it is about how we use our time. So I believe it makes good sense. Since He has an appointed time for everything, for every event under heaven, an ideal method of time management is trust. Is time dragging? Trust. Are deadlines arriving? Trust. Prayers aren't being answered? Trust. Recovery taking longer? Trust. Finances fading fast? Trust. Dreams becoming distant? Trust. School less satisfying? Trust. Dreading winter? Trust.

"Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and dwell on the fine, good things in others." Phil. 4:8

The TV is just one of the things that seem to rob us of our time. Just think we are only a few months away from the end of another year. It is hard to believe how time moves so quickly. Every moment is precious in His

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### The Plug-in Drug

A fascinating experiment on addiction was reported in an issue of Good Housekeeping years ago. It was not drug addiction. It was not alcohol addiction. It was on television addiction. A Detroit newspaper made an offer to 120 families in the city. The families were promised \$500 each if they would agree not to watch TV for one month. Guess how many turned down the offer. Ninety three. Of the twenty-seven families that said yes, five were studied and reported on in the magazine article. Right away you realize it was quite an adjustment for them. Each family had been watching television from 40-70 hours a week, that is

sight. I challenge you to turn your TV off for one day or even one entire week and fill those free hours with at least one good book, listening to some new music, playing a game, taking a walk, visiting with someone you have not seen in a while. Believe me the ultimate benefits you will enjoy will be worth much more than \$500 and they will certainly last a lot longer. So for a change, unplug the plug-in drug. Maybe we all would have some more time to go fishing for Jesus. Life is brief at best and we must not waste any opportunity given to us to serve the Lord. We must work with a vision, with enthusiasm and enjoyment. The millions of people in the world today will never see Jesus if they don't see Him in those of us who are saved. The most important day in your life was the day you trusted Christ as your personal Savior. Our theme for the new Sunday School year is Fishers of Men. So may we all manage our time in a way that Jesus will always come first and the message we need to tell others. After all there will always be re-runs! Our responsibility is to follow Him and He will take care of the rest.

*Enjoy the Journey,  
Pastor Clayton*

## **PASTOR BRIAN SHARES**

### **WHAT CAN I DO?**

What can I do? The Church has long been one to tell people what they can't do and not what they can do. A lot of negative feelings over the years have resulted from this. As a child we are brought up hearing don't do this and don't do that. We go to church and are told don't do this and don't do that. It is no wonder we harbor negative feelings against the Church and our parents.

Bottom line is this It isn't about religion and Church. It is about a personal relationship with Christ--A relationship of sharing, caring, communication. It isn't about what you can't do, its about what you can do. One thing I do know there is nothing you can't do thru Christ. There are no limits of

what you can do thru Christ. Only God can judge, nobody else can. People have a tendency to talk and we can't change that. Never let someone else come between you and your relationship with Christ. Never let what someone else says or thinks affect what you do in your life.

Our Church is about making your relationship with Christ more. More personal, more beneficial, more lasting. Thru worship, thru Bible study, thru fellowship, thru the spoken Word. The Church is a collection of one on one relationships with Christ working together for the good of all. What can you do?

*Pastor Brian*

## **SERMON OUTLINES FOR OCTOBER 2005**

### **October 2**

MORNING SERVICE : Pastor Brian  
"CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Children's Choir

EVENING SERVICE: Pastor Brian

### **October 9**

MORNING SERVICE : Pastor Brian

EVENING SERVICE: Pastor Brian

### **October 16: Sermon Series: God is Closer Than You Think!"**

MORNING SERVICE :

PART 1 "Seeing God in the Ordinary"  
Text: Matthew 13:1-17 Pastor Clayton  
CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Handbells

EVENING SERVICE:

Teaching Lesson by Pastor Clayton  
Subject: The Bible and Today's Tongues

### **October 23: Sermon Series: God is Closer Than You Think!"**

MORNING SERVICE :

PART 2 Spiritual Hiding:

"God, Don't Look at Me!"  
Text: Luke 10:25-37 Pastor Clayton  
CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Pastor Clayton

EVENING SERVICE:

Teaching Lesson by Pastor Clayton  
Subject: The Fullness of the Spirit,  
A Second Work of Grace

<b>October 30:</b>	<b>Sermon Series:</b>
<b>God is Closer Than You Think!"</b>	

MORNING SERVICE :

PART 3 "If God is Always with Us, Why is He So  
Hard to Find?"

Text: I Kings 19"1-12 Pastor Clayton  
CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: Hand Bells  
Communion in Morning Service

EVENING SERVICE:

Video Presentation from  
the Anderson Camp Meeting  
Reach the Lost: "Responding to His Command!"  
Speaker: Bob Marvel

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT:**

Sunday September 4th began the new  
Sunday School year. I would like to thank all  
the Teachers / Assistants for decorating their  
classrooms with the new theme "Fishers of  
Men". The classrooms look so "cool" and  
inviting.

The Sunday School Teachers/  
Assistants for the 2005-2006 classes are:

**Nursery:(0-23 months)**

BrianPope  
Amy Timmermann  
Tammy Weakley

**God's Little Lambs: ( 4 & 5 yrs.)**

Carmen Hamilton

**King's Kids: ( 6 & 7 yr's. )**

Jane Knowles  
Assistant - Carol Hamilton

**J.A.C.: ( 8 & 9 yr's. )**

Becky Ball

**D.U.C.K.: ( 10 & 11 yr's. )**

Phyllis Field

Assistant - Stella Simms

**S.W.A.T.: ( 12 - 18 yr's )**

Belinda Floyd

Assistant - Debbie Pope

**J.O.Y.:**

Candy Niemeyer

Assistant - Volunteers

**Singles:**

Grover Jonhson

**Voices:**

Floyd Whittom

Assistant - Bill White

**Senior Adult Bible Class**

Ivan DeHart

Assistant Darla Clayton

Just as Jesus called His Disciples to  
make them Fisher's of Men, He is calling us  
to be Committed to reaching the lost and  
loving them as God loves us. We want our  
boat to be so full of fish that we need 2  
boats to bring them in! If you are not in a  
Sunday School class, we would encourage  
you to try one!

"Come, follow me." Jesus said, "and I  
will make you fishers of men." Matt. 4: 19.

*Your Sunday School Leaders,  
Jayn, Phyllis, Carol H.*

**NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE SENIOR  
ADULT BIBLE CLASS**

Gwen and Larry traveled to  
Springfield, IL to do some home  
improvement work for Jeff. These folks, as  
you know, are very active in the Fairview  
Heights Food Pantry.

Congratulations are in order for our  
classmate Verla. She celebrated, along with  
many members of her family, her 80th  
birthday. Our prayers and best wishes go  
with her and husband Gene.

Agnes visited with her granddaughter  
and her husband in Wichita. KS. Had a very  
nice time, but glad she is back home.

Stella and Gwen walked in the WCG  
Walk for Missions? in Longacre Park . They  
didn't quite make the 10 miles but came  
close. Congratulations to all who

participated.

The ladies prayer retreat was held at Camp Warren with 11 ladies from our church. Agnes and Gwen attended from our class. There were 50 to 60 ladies in attendance.

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We're well into our Unit 1 entitled "In Jerusalem", with the last lesson for this month titled "The Time for Boldness". These studies focused on the early church in Jerusalem. Our lesson for the 25th explores how the new leaders continued to witness boldly, even when their lives were threatened.

Unit 11, "In All Judea and Samaria" has 5 sessions that focus on how the gospel traveled to outlying communities and to people who had been considered outsiders. Come, be part of the action.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Guard well within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness.*

*George Sand*

*Ivan DeHart, Teacher*

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

Our class finished its study on The Dream Giver and I believe most of us have come away changed and willing to step outside our comfort zones and head out in pursuit of what God is calling us to do. Some of us have already headed back to school in pursuit of a higher education, some are looking at possible new ministries for our church and our community; many more of us now understand where the path will take us when we listen to God's call and we are better equipped to stay on the path to dream fulfillment. How wonderful it is to know that God has a purpose and a plan for my life!

We are now doing a study on Jesus Life and Ministry and I am receiving excellent teaching assistance. During this 13-week

study, several class members have volunteered to "be the teacher" for that week. We have been blessed to have Pastor and Darla and Diane Taylor to start us off. We look forward to having Shannon Peiffer, Ruth Pope, Richard and Pam Knowles, Adam Peiffer, and Steve and Kim Brooks "Lead us in the next couple of months.

The end of November we will begin a new 12-week study entitled "Thinking Like a Christian—Understanding and Living a Biblical Worldview". I am very excited about this study and I encourage and invite all of you to join us. We are living in an anti-Christian culture and secular views are creeping into our lives and especially those of our children and grandchildren. We live in a world that teaches evolution versus creationism, lifestyle tolerances instead of the traditional family; that all belief systems have value and should be embraced, materialism versus stewardship, separation of church and state, and judicial activism over consensus of the people. Before we can respond to our changing culture, we must first understand how the Bible relates to ALL of LIFE. What does the Bible say about Biology, Psychology, Ethics, Sociology, Law, Politics, Economics, History, Philosophy and Theology? I believe this study will better equip us to talk with our children, grandchildren, co-workers and friends and help us do our part to return this country back to a Christian Worldview.

*God Bless and remember to Dream BIG!  
Candy Niemeyer, Teacher*

## **LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

We will be starting a new series in the Monday Ladies Bible Study. It will start on Monday, October 10th at 1:30 PM. We will be studying the book "Mad Mary" by Liz Curtis Higgs. Please let Darla know if you would like to join this study group!

## **WCG REPORT**

We are living proof that WALKING pays off! To date our total for our Missions Walk-A-Thon is \$4,132!!! PTL!! Again we want to express our thanks to all who participated in this effort. We met at Long Acre Park in Fairview Heights and 23 of us starting walking at 8 am (or before). We finished up about noon. It was very hot that day but with plenty of water and some fruit we were able to keep going.

We encourage you (if you haven't already done so) to send thank you's to your sponsors! If your sponsor requested a receipt, get with Phyllis and she will see that a receipt is sent!

Ten of our ladies attended the Illinois State Prayer Retreat at Camp Warren this past weekend. Session leaders were Verda Beach and Janet Watson. Our focus was being intimate with God in prayer. Camp fire by the lake Friday night was a fun time - roasting marshmallows and/or making smores. Camp Warren is a great place for a retreat.

Tuesday, September 27, at 7 pm will be our regular WCG meeting. It is "Guest Night" and our program coordinator, Kim Brooks, is urging us to all bring a guest with us. The program title is "Women Called to be a neighbor." Why not bring your neighbor! We have missed some of you the last few months, so we hope to see every lady in our church at WCG! It's a great ladies night out!

*Ruth Pope, President*

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPORTANT TO CHURCHES**

Two new studies are showing just how important new technologies have become to churches within the last five years. A new report from the Barana Group indicates the following:

- Nearly six out of ten Protestant churches (57% now have a website. That is up from just one-third of all Protestant churches in 2000, an increase of 68%.

- More than six out of every ten Protestant churches (62%) presently use a large-screen projection system in their communications. That is up 59 percent since 2000, when just 39% used this technology.
- A majority of churches (56%) rely on e-mail to reach their congregation's members.
- The use of electronic funds transfer for donations has expanded, now being used by 12% of the churches, versus 7 % who offered this service in 2000.
- Live drama and video segments in church services are now standard in six of our ten churches use either drama or video in their services. During the next half of this decade, the researcher commented we expect increased broadband access, podcasting and handheld mobile computing devices to further help churches conduct ministry.

Thanks to all who had a part in helping our church to move forward in this new technology of the projection system and may we always use it for the glory of God.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER**

### **Building the Future Campaign and Other Blessings.**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!! Contributions to the Building The Future campaign are up 48% in July/Aug compared to Apr/June time periods. In July, you contributed \$2157.66, August was 1789.66 both of which covered the loan repayments for the month, and NO monies had to come from the General Fund. The last time this happened was December 2004. PRAISE GOD!!

Our Faith Promise Totals are still around \$1200.00 which tells us that many of you are giving to the Building the Future Campaign but have not necessarily filled out a Faith Promise. We want to encourage the

use of the Faith Promise so that we may be better Stewards of the resources that God does provide. The current level of the Faith Promise does not cover the loan payment of \$1758.72 and does not allow for planning of debt elimination. We encourage you to fill out a Faith Promise form at any time and place in the offering plate on any Sunday Morning or give to Floyd/Peggy Whittom. The forms can be found on the Building The Future Board or see Candy Niemeyer.

Besides this Blessing, God has provided many other Blessings thru our Congregation this past summer which include the following: A Love Offering for Mark Helton (\$447), installed A/V Media system thru offerings given this past year of \$3000, Hurricane Katrina relief--\$525 cash in addition to all the physical supplies driven down to Meridian, Miss.; and the Medical Love Offering for Pastor and Darla for \$820. God also blessed us by providing \$2180 from Insurance money to help cover costs of 2 new A/C units that had to be installed in August with the remaining costs coming from our Emergency Fund.

Scriptures tell us that when we trust in the Lord and offer out of our abundance (no matter how much or little that is), that we will be blessed. Do you have a testimony of how God has blessed you because of your giving? Please share it with the congregation so that you may be an encouragement and witness to others.

*There is JOY in the Lord!!  
Candy Niemeyer, Treasurer  
Board of Trustees*

## **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 11-13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.familylife.com).

## **SUPPLIES APPRECIATED**

The supplies for the hurricane Katrina victims collected and packed on Sept. 11, were delivered to Meridian, Mississippi, and were much appreciated. The need was great and prayers were answered. Thank you for all you did to support this effort to help those less fortunate.

## **TO THINK ABOUT**

### **The Lowly Path**

I seek not to rank among the great  
or be known in realms of fame,  
but I can humbly fill my place  
and serve in Jesus' name.

I can meekly do the Master's Will,  
though the world may never see,  
and know the joy of secret prayer  
where Jesus talks with me.

I can fill my life with deeds of love,  
just a smile or a word of cheer,  
and I can lend a helping hand  
of strength to those who fear.

And when my life is ended,  
if I've shared another's pain  
and helped to bear another's cross,  
I have not lived in vain.

Written by: Cleo E. Beam Pletcher

*Submitted by Sara Sorrell*

## **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](mailto:billandkaren@mail.com). Thank you!

*Karen White, Editor*