

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. 2

September 2004

IN THIS ISSUE

From The Pastor's Desk.....	1
Look What's on the Agenda.....	2
New Children's Program	2
Fellowship Groups	3
Sunday School Spotlight	3
Men4Him.....	4
Food Pantry Update.....	4
Reflecting on Middler Camp	4
Thank You	5
To Think About	5
Editor's Note	6

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Key to Commitment

The greatest days of your life are when you sense your commitment to the work of the Lord and realize that you are important in God's eyes. There are so many great things happening in the life of our church and we need your commitment to reach more people for Jesus.

Our concept of God in crisis situations will determine our commitment. If we think God will fail us, we will never make strong commitments. But if our concept of God tells us he is sure, steadfast, true and faithful, then we can make those commitments confidently. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego were able to make the right kind of commitment because they had the right concept of God. So if we begin to see God as one who expects us to do right regardless of the consequences, we won't waiver.

Commitment doesn't depend on abilities or gifts. Commitment is the result of choice –it is

not a condition. People make great commitments because they choose to do right in spite of the conditions. Most people can look back over the years and identify a time and place at which their lives changed significantly. Whether by accident or design we are forced to seriously reappraise ourselves and the conditions under which we live to make certain choices that will affect the rest of our lives. So make some choices, make a commitment, take a risk. Don't allow circumstances or age to limit you. People who are going to affect their world for Christ are the leaders who take a stand on the principles of God. This kind of commitment will free you and let you choose to do great things for God. The Apostle Paul was never satisfied to just maintain the work. He never settles for the good when the best was a possibility. He did not have a maintenance mind-set, his goal was not just to maintain the status quo. Don't be content to carry on when you need to press on.

The average church in America, regardless of denomination, has about seventy regular attendees, because that is about how many people it takes to survive.

Once churches get there many of them stop growing because they can meet their own basic needs and they lose the purpose of being a church. We have developed a society in which people would rather take the easy way out. Commitment is not easy but we must remember we are not in a Boy Scout camp, we are in the army of God.

We need to trust God for the courage to go forth and pay the price to help build the kingdom. We need to ask ourselves some real personal questions. Are we really committed to the Fairview Heights Church of God? Can we be counted on to help in the ministries of the church? Do we support the church with our tithes and offerings? Do we really have a burden

for the lost and are we praying for revival? We need to break the 100 mark on our Sunday morning attendance and we need more people in Sunday School to learn about God's Word. It all starts with commitment, from the Pastors, leaders and members. We must teach and live commitment. If everyone in the church was just like you, what kind of church would we be in the area of commitment? My prayer for our church in the coming months is that we will be a place where everyone knows your name.

*Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton*

LOOK WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA...

September Sunday Highlights

- 5th AM Sunday School Kick Off—"Let Us Start Building"
PM "Members or Disciples?"
12thAM "Grandparents Day" Pastor Brian
PM "The Problem with Tradition"
19th AM "Is Your Gate Broken?"
PM "How Can I Sense God's Presence?"
26th AM "Clearing Out the Rubbish"
PM Film Night

(Remember our time change for Sunday Evening Services which now begin at 6:00 PM. We don't want you to miss a single blessing!.)

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S PROGRAM --FAITH WEAVER FRIENDS

Hello, for those of you who don't know I have been asked to be the director. I am very excited about this program called Faithweaver Friends. This program is going to be such a blessing to our adults and children alike. We will be having it from 6:45 to 8:15, beginning September 15th, 2004. Anyone who is interested in helping or attending, please feel free to contact me.

Please be in prayer for this program, the most important guest is God.

Thank you and watch for more details, *Carmen Hamilton*

SPECIAL EVENT-- SUNDAY EVENING SEPT.26,2004

We are having a Film Night. We will be showing from World Wide Pictures a film called "CRY FROM THE MOUNTAIN!"

Larry Sanders had promised his 10 year old son, Cal, a wonderful kayak trip through the Alaskan wilderness and a chance to enjoy the beauty of nature and to have a good time together. But Larry's mind wasn't on Cal. He was thinking about a problem hundreds of miles away--a marriage on the brink of disaster, and a life beginning to look hopeless and a family torn apart. But they were thrust into a chain of events that changed their lives for ever. "Cry From the Mountain" is a video experience filled with beauty of the wilderness, the simple trust of a child, the hope that heals shattered lives and the wonder of God's love. You don't want to miss this film starring James Cavan, Wes Parker, Rita Walters and Chris Kidd. This is a great time to invite your family and friends to a film with a great evangelist outreach. The film is 1 hour and 16 minutes long.

Ladies and gentlemen bring your favorite dessert and win a prize! We will have a time of fellowship after the film. So start looking for your best recipe and plan to be here ready to have some fun! We will give awards for the best:

Looking dessert

Tallest dessert

The I don't know what it is dessert

And others

Don't forget, Sunday, September 26, starting at **6:00 p.m.**

SPECIAL MISSION DAY-OCTOBER 3RD

Bill and Shirley Beltz will be our speakers from the NICE Foundation for this very special day. The vision for the Foundation is to bring hope for a better tomorrow through Christ, education and medical care. I hope you will make plans to be here to support the Beltz's in their Mission Outreach.

Nicaragua is a very poor country and they need our prayers and support. You may not be able to go on a work camp but you can pray and give of your resources to make it possible for others to go. Also, there are many projects being developed from the school, to the hospital that you will hear about. We will be taking a special offering to help them in their mission outreach in Nicaragua.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

First, if you are reading this article and was not at the Sunday night service when we organized our groups and have not been called by "your" group....."You need to talk with me soon!" You don't want to miss out on anything your group has planned. Each person in this congregation that calls this "your" church then your name is on a list for a Fellowship Group. Second, the purpose of Fellowship groups are getting to know our brothers and sisters that we attend church with on a more personal level; reach out to friends, neighbors, and family members to invite them to your group; to build our church stronger through our fellowship groups. Third, each group was given "ideas" for them to do. WOW! Some of the ideas you came up with are great! Some groups will be getting together for breakfast; some will be riding the Metro Link over to St. Louis and then having supper together; some will be having a bonfire and cookout, and the list goes on and on. Our prayer is to have fun together, get to know one another better, have a relationship with one another. Remember, the three top things by showing love!

1. Relationships! 2. Relationships! 3 Relationships!

Enjoy The Journey!
Darla

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

September 5th begins our new Sunday School Year and we are excited about "**Building Our Sunday School Brick by Brick!**" Each Sunday school class is being challenged to bring in Visitors, to have each member bring their Bible to class, and to have Perfect Attendance each week. We will be building a wall in front of the Sanctuary with different colored blocks (each color representing a different class).

Our Sunday School Teachers for this coming year are:

Nursery: Sheila Fitzmaurice, Amy Timmermann, Tammy Weakley, and Brian Pope

Toddlers: ages 2 & 3 (Rm 103) Debbie Pope
God's Little Lambs: ages 4 & 5 (Rm B7) Carmen Hamilton, Debbie Pope Assistant
King's Kids: ages 6&7 (Rm B3) Jane Knowles, Carol Hamilton Assistant
J.A.C. (JR. All-Star Christians): ages 8&9 (Rm B6) Becky Ball, David Bryan Assistant
Duck (Don't Underestimate Christian Kids): ages 10&11 (Rm B5) Ruth Pope, Stella Simms Assistant
S.W.A.T. (Super Worship Action Team): Ages 11-17 (Youth Rm B4)
Single Adult: (Rm 101) Grover Johnson
JOY (Just Older Youth): (Fellowship Hall) Candy Niemeyer, Volunteers/Assistants
VOICES (Veterans of Instructional Christian Education): (Rm 102) Floyd Whittom, Bill White Assistant
Senior Adult Bible Class: (Rm B2) Ivan DeHart, Darla Clayton Assistant
JR. Church Worship Leaders: (Rm 203) Carol Pollard, Jayn Willeford Assistant

We would like to continue the Assistants to teach on the 5th Sunday and other times as needed.

Thank you for accepting the responsibility of teaching a class this year! We are excited about how we can apply some of the Principles of tools to the Building of our Faith as well as our Sunday School.

"So we built the wall and the entire wall was joined together up to half it's height, for the people had a mind to work". Nehemiah 4:6

Jayn Willeford, Phyllis and Marshall Field
Sunday School Leaders

J.O.Y. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS (AKA ADULT 1)

We are growing in numbers in our class and are blessed to have such wonderful fellowship and study. We are welcoming Kim and Steve Brooks to our class. It is wonderful to worship with them again. It has been great to have some of our new college students visit our class as well—Denise, Alex, and Richard Ryan. By my last count we have approximately 34 regular class members. Unfortunately due to work schedules and vacations we never seem to be all together at once.

Our class will be having a "fun night" at our home, Fri. Sept 24th at 6:30 pm. We will be having chili and all the fixin's and a time of fellowship outside by the lake with a fire pit to help take the chill off. If you are not in a Sunday School Class, I invite you to come to our class and check us out or at least come to our Friday Night Fellowship to get to know us better. You can help us build our Sunday School Program "brick by brick"---come be a brick with the rest of us bricks!!

I also want to thank Richard Knowles for teaching a class this past month while we took Denise to college.

See you Sunday at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Come and let us give you JOY!

*Candy Niemeyer,
Teacher*

MEN4HIM

We had 9 guys attend the Promise Keepers event this year. Floyd Whittom, Grover Johnson, Pastor Clayton, David and Ben Pollard, Bill White, Warren and Brian Pope and Marshall Field attended. It was an awesome time for all. Approx. 15,000 men attended this year at the Savvis Center. Around 1,500 men dedicated their lives to Christ on Friday evening. The worship was awesome! Men learned that they need to take responsibility as the spiritual leader in the household and raise their families in Christ. Preachers and Teachers gave examples of how to live better lives for God and our families. Marshall, Brian, and Warren helped feeding lunch to the men on Saturday, the work was a blessing for all involved. Promise Keepers will be back in St Louis July 2005. Visit promisekeepers.org for schedules. There is also talk that Promise Keeper Ambassadors will be coming back and visiting the local churches and do rallies. Let's continue to pray for men as they lead their families to Christ.

Brian Pope

FOOD PANTRY--2003 REPORT

The Fairview Heights area Food Pantry, in existence since May 1988, has once again proven to be a community effort. Members of our

board are from many of the twenty-six participating Fairview Heights churches and rotate from year to year. Volunteers, food items and money come to us from these churches and from various organizations, businesses and individuals throughout the community.

The big food drives supplying needed items for this year came from postal drivers in May and the Boy Scout drive in November. An emergency drive was held by students from Grant School in October. Many people in the area provide support through these drives and through individual gifts of money, others give of their time and effort, especially during these organized drives.

2003 Statistics

Volunteers-59 total of 1,266 hours

Donations-\$7,637.72

Expenses=\$9,319.42

Served 648 families comprising 2,073 people

We ask Pastors and organization presidents to please share this report. Since the Clergy Association originally organized us, our board is derived from members you send. We meet at the Pantry, 10034 Lincoln Trail at 7:00 p.m. the third Tuesday of January, March, May, August, October and November.

We ask that you continue to remember in prayer both our volunteers and these we strive to serve. God has indeed blessed our endeavors.

"Feed the hungry! Help those in trouble! Then your light will shine out from the darkness and the darkness around you shall be as bright as day." Isaiah 59:10 LB

REFLECTING ON MIDDLE CAMP

We had a great time at Middler Camp this year. There were 116 children in attendance. Our church sent 9 of them: Heather Hamilton, Gracey Gerlitz, Morgan Brown, Victoria Pope, Paige Ball, Elizabeth and Kenny Fitzmaurice, Andrew and Daniel Pollard.

This was the camp's 25th anniversary. Our theme was Celebrate the Call to Salvation..to Serve, to Go. We know the children enjoyed all the fun activities, but there were many opportunities for them to hear about God. They had daily Bible memorizations, devotions twice daily in their cabins, conferences, Christian films, evening Worship services, puppets and plenty of adults to be their with a hug and smile. The

children enjoyed the movies used by Max Lacado. "You are special" and You are mine".

One of the traditions of camp is receiving badge pins that carry the message of the week. Each child has a pin that says: special person, I am a child of God, the bible verses and one with their own picture from camp.

Carol Pollard received a plaque for 15 years of service. Jayn Willeford received one for 10 years as the camp nurse.

Thanks for the opportunity to take our children to camp. This is a memory maker event for each child. Keep our children in your prayers as they make good choices for God.

*Jayn
Willeford and Carol Pollard*

THANKS!

Pastor and I wanted to say once again how much we both appreciated your love shown to us during our Birthday parties. Words can never say how much your love means to both of us. Our prayer for each of you. "Great is your faithfulness, Your everlasting love, Unending faithfulness poured on your people from above, You make provision with grace and compassion, Great is your faithfulness, You everlasting love." You are loved!

Pastor and Darla

BOARD OF TRUSTEES TREASURER REPORT

What a loving and giving congregation you are!! We have had several special offerings this past summer and you have been a true blessing to those needs. (Shaun Floyd, Mathew Kennedy, Illinois State Day Offering and the purchase of a new exterior cross for the church).

I want to update you on the status of giving for the Building Repayment Fund and our Tithes and Offerings. We are currently at about 91% of our budget for the Loan Repayment fund (down about \$700.00) and at 87% of our budget for Tithes and Offerings (down about \$6000.00). Please be prayerful in the coming months for the church's financial needs. We have many programs and events upcoming that are apart of the budget and we want to be able to meet those needs.

If you have any questions concerning the budget please see the posted financial statement on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary or see me.

Sincerely,
Candy Niemeyer, Treasurer

TO THINK ABOUT

A Word From Paul Harvey

...If I were the devil,

I would gain control of the most powerful nation in the world; I would delude their minds into thinking they had come from man's effort, instead of God's blessings;

I would promote an attitude of loving things and using people, instead of the other way around;

I would dupe entire states into relying on gambling for their state revenue;

I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership;

I would make it legal to kill unborn babies;

I would make it socially acceptable to take one's own lie, and invent machines to make it convenient;

I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that the life of animals are valued more than human beings;

I would take God out of the schools, where even the mention of His name was grounds for a lawsuit;

I would come up with drugs that sedate the mind and target the young, and I would get sports heroes to advertise them;

I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the mind of every family member with my agenda;

I would attack the family, the backbone of any nation;

I would make divorce acceptable and easy, even fashionable. If the family crumbles, so does the nation;

I would compel people to express their most depraved fantasies on canvas and movie screens and call it art;

I would convince the world that people are born homosexuals, and that their lifestyles should be accepted;

I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out of date, and the Bible is for the naïve;

I would dull the minds of Christians and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional;

Hummm...I guess if I were the devil...I'd leave things pretty much the way they are.

Good Day!

The Lord's Baseball Game

Freddy and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team. The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs. They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love.

Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because Love never fails.

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love.

The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were now loaded. The Lord then brings in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Freddy said, "He sure doesn't look like much!"

Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. He

went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; then it continued over the fence for a home run!

The Lord's team won!

The Lord then asked Freddy if he knew why Love, Faith and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Freddy answered that he did not know why.

The Lord explained, "If your love, faith, and wisdom had won the game you would think you had done it by yourself.

Love, Faith and Wisdom will get you on base but only My Grace can get you home.

Psalm 84:11 "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly."

God is the source of my existence and Savior. He keeps me functioning each and everyday. Without Him, I can do nothing, but with Him I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

Dear Lord, I bow before you in stillness and feel you very near. Here are my problems. Help me find your way for me.

"He that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for your contribution to this newsletter. Every item submitted is greatly appreciated. Please put your name on the items you contribute so credit can be given where credit is due. It is not always possible due to space to include every item, but I will continue to include as much as space allows.

Please submit articles by the last 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