

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD
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Volume XI No. 9

September 2007

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From the Pastor's Desk Is Your Live Productive? "Facing Your Giants"

Have you ever wondered why some people are able to accomplish so much with their lives? What makes them so productive? Suppose each of us were issued an individual productivity report each month. How would yours look? Would it show positive or negative results? Growth or decline? Think about the future. What do you want to do so that at the end of your life you will be able to say, "I lead a productive life." I wonder do we really understand God's definition of a productive and fruitful life? In John 15:8 Jesus says, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." God wants us to bear fruit. He wants

us to be productive. If we want to be fruitful, we must cultivate some roots. Jeremiah 17:7-8 says, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when the heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Roots are the lifeline of nourishment for the entire plant or tree. You have to have roots if you are going to make it through a dry spell.

The second thing we need to do to be productive is to eliminate the weeds in our life. It doesn't take much effort to grow weeds! Weeds are a sign of neglect. When you neglect Bible readings, prayer and fellowship with other Christians, weeds will grow up and choke your Spiritual life. We face Giants every day, and the fact is many of us are being defeated by these Giants. God will protect us from the Giants. One of the most powerful means he uses to do that is the church. You don't find soldiers going out on their own to do battle with enemy forces. They go in groups called companies or platoons. They know they need each other. Some people don't realize they are in a battle. It is a battle with Giants who will destroy their lives. The Christian life is not easy, but it is eternally worthwhile. And doing good is not always easy, but there is a reward. Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

I hope you are making plans for our Church Retreat on Oct 5-6; this will be the weekend we are going to kill some Giants! We will be talking about renewing the church's vision and purpose. It takes time for fruit to ripen. And God is going to need time to ripen the spiritual fruit in our life. We all need to be growing in the Christian life because there will always be bigger Giants. So you don't want to miss this weekend because it will be life changing for you and for our church.

With God's help we can face our giants one at a time because with my God nothing is impossible!

Enjoy The Journey,
Pastor Clayton

Sunday School Picnic Sept 2

Everyone is invited to a picnic after the morning worship service to help kick off the new year of Sunday School. The church will provide the meat so please bring a dish and/or a dessert (or both!) and enjoy the fellowship.

All Church Retreat

I want to share something very exciting with you all! It is something you and your family can and should be a part of. On October 5-6 we will be having our first annual All Church Retreat. It will be held at Camp Warren in Decatur. Food, fun and fellowship will be a big part of our agenda. Are you willing to invest 24 hours of your time for this very important weekend?

Here are some of the questions we will be talking about: What is our church becoming? Do you like that? What do you want people to say about our church in ten years? What do we do well? What do we need to improve?

Wow! Those are some deep questions; that is why everyone is needed. We need you to help us set the course of our church. Our theme will be "Facing the Giants."

All the meals will be provided by the church; the only cost will be for the lodging. If you stay in the retreat center, it will cost \$20.00 person. If you stay in the cabins, it will cost \$5.00 per person.

We are called to be the people of God and are made His people by our salvation in Christ. We must continue the process of becoming God's people in our generation and in our culture. So my final question is "Will you commit to this weekend?" Everyone is needed to help face our Giants and to do the work for the Kingdom of God.

Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton

Friday, October 5

Starting at 4PM Check in

6 - 7PM	Light Dinner by the WCG in the Dining Hall (Dinner will be served for late arrivals too)
7- 8PM	Free time! Walk around the lake, rest, relax
8 -10 PM	Movie "Facing the Giants" Retreat Center
10:30 - 12:00 AM	Campfire/Devotions/Songs and Games in The Retreat Center
MIDNIGHT to 6 AM	ALL QUIET!

Saturday, October 6

7 - 7:30 AM	Morning Prayer Time at center of cabins
8 -9 AM	Breakfast served by the Men4Him
9 - 10 AM	Conferences/ Three break out sessions
10 – 10:30AM	Break!
10:30 - 11:30 AM	All Church Unity Vision and Sharing
11:30 AM	Break!
12 Noon	Lunch served by Peggy and Jan
1PM	Prayer and Departure

Sermon Topics and Service Outlines September 2007

September 2

"Preaching Series: Facing the Giants"

AM SERVICE: How to be a Great Church!
Matthew 19:26 Pastor Clayton

PM SERVICE: No service because of the Sunday School Picnic

September 8

AM SERVICE: Pastor Brian will be preaching

PM SERVICE: Fall Small Groups will begin

September 16

“Preaching Series: Facing the Giants”

AM SERVICE: Reaching our Friends for Christ 1 Peter 3:15 Pastor Clayton

PM SERVICE: Small Groups

September 23

“Preaching Series: Facing the Giants”

AM SERVICE: Reclaiming a Sense of Responsibility! Luke 15:4
Pastor Clayton

PM SERVICE: Small Groups

September 30

“Preaching Series: Facing the Giants”

AM SERVICE: Rediscovering a Sense of Urgency! Luke 15:8-10
Pastor Clayton

PM SERVICE: Small Groups

Fall Small Group Classes Sunday Evenings 6:00PM

Be sure to read the handout in your mailbox about the groups and choose the one you are most interested in attending.
The group topics are as follows:

Cultivating Contentment taught by Becky Ball (women only).

Discipleship 101 taught by Marshall Field (men only).

The Unchurched: Harry and Mary taught by Richard Knowles (everyone welcome).

Blue Like Jazz: Non Religious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality taught by Brian Pope (everyone welcome).

SPLASH is the title of the kid's small group study taught by Pam Knowles.

August Sermon Summaries

If you missed or want to review the sermons of the past month, here they are!

August 5 “Faith in Action”
by Richard Knowles Mark 10:46-52

1. No matter what, never let yourself be silent.
2. Sometimes we need to strip ourselves for Christ (instead of hiding behind our cloaks.)
3. When Christ calls, leave everything and go.

August 12 Extreme Makeover Series
“Ever Had a Bad Hair Day?”
by Pastor Clayton Acts 27:9-13

1. Wrong guidance from the experts! (vs 11)
2. Wrong guidance from a vote! (vs 12)
3. Wrong guidance from circumstances! (vs 13)

What not to do in a crisis:

1. Don't drift (vs 15)
2. Don't discard (vs 24)
3. Don't despair (vs 29)

Truths that you can build your life on:

1. God's presence (vs 23)
2. God's purpose (vs 24)
3. God's promise (vs 25)

August 12 Evening Fresh Service
by Pastor Brian

Following is the poem Pastor Brian read in the service:

FOOTPRINTS...A New Version

Imagine you and the Lord Jesus are walking down the road together. For much of the way, the Lord's footprints go along steadily, consistently, rarely varying the pace. But your footprints are a disorganized stream of zigzags, starts, stops, turnarounds, circles, departures, and returns.

For much of the way it seems to go like this, but gradually your footprints come more in line with the Lord's, soon paralleling His consistently. You and Jesus are walking as true friends! This seems perfect, but then an interesting thing happens: Your footprints that once etched the sand next to Jesus' are now walking precisely in His steps. Inside His larger footprints are your smaller ones, you and Jesus are becoming one.

This goes on for many miles, but gradually you notice another change. The footprints inside the large footprints seem to grow larger. Eventually they disappear altogether. There is only one set of footprints. They have become one. This goes on for a long time, but suddenly the second set of footprints is back. This time it seems even worse! Zigzags all over the place. Stops. Starts. Gashes in the sand. A variable mess of prints. You are amazed and shocked. Your dream ends.

Now you pray:

"Lord, I understand the first scene, with zigzags and fits. I was a new Christian; I was just learning. But You walked on through the storm and helped me learn to walk with you."

"That is correct," he replied.

"And when the smaller footprints were inside of Yours, I was actually learning to walk in Your steps, following You very closely."

"Very good. You have understood everything so far," the Lord answered.

"When the smaller footprints grew and filled in Yours, I suppose that I was becoming like You in every way."

"Precisely," He said.

"So, Lord, was there a regression or something? The footprints separated, and this time it was worse than at first."

There is a pause as the Lord answered, with a smile in His voice. "You didn't know? It was then that we danced!"

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

Ecclesiastes 3:1- 4

August 17 Extreme Makeover Series "You Mean I Have to Change?"

by Pastor Clayton Genesis 32
(the story of Jacob)

The Four Step Process:

Step One is Crisis
Step Two is Commitment
Step Three is Confession
Step Four is Cooperation

Two More Insights:

1. Let God do It!
2. Don't Run; but Stand!"

Do you want God to change your Life?
Do I have to change?

God is like..

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in some way to communicate ideas about God.

God is like..... COKE.....He's the real thing.

God is like..... HALLMARK CARDS.....He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like..... TIDE.....He gets the stains out others leave behind.

God is like..... GENERAL ELECTRIC.... He brings good things to life.

God is like..... SEARS..... He has everything.

God is like..... ALKA-SELTZER.... Try Him,
you'll like Him

God is like..... SCOTCH TAPE.....You can't see
Him, but you know He's there.

God is like... DELTA... He's ready when you are.

God is like..... ALLSTATE....You're in good
hands with Him.

God is like..... VO-5 HAIRSPRAY.....He holds
through all kinds of weather.

God is like..... DIAL SOAP.....Aren't you glad
you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?

*God is like... BAYER ASPRIN.....he works
miracles*

God is like..... a FORD...He's got a better idea.

Middler Church Camp

It was exciting to see so many of our children/youth go to church camp at Camp Warren this year. I had the opportunity to go to Middler Camp along with Benjamin Pollard and be camp counselors. Hannah and Cayce Brooks, Mikalah Johnson, Cody Gerlitz, Neal Middler Camp this year!

The theme this year was "Wild About Jesus." They learned about Love: "Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12; Forgiveness: "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13; and Service: "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men." Eph. 6:7. The saw Max Lucado movies on being made special and making good choices, had Scripture Memory time, campfire and swimming time, music (loud) under the Pavilion, worship time with their puppet friends, and a carnival complete with prizes, popcorn, and cotton candy.

I would encourage you to keep these children in your prayers as some accepted Jesus for the

first time, some rededicated their life to Jesus, and some just saw a glimpse of Jesus for the first time. The children who attended these camps come from all walks of life. I believe God's Word does not return void. It is great to see kids who went through Middler Camp, Teen Camp and now are working as counselors and serving in their own local churches!

To make these camps possible the offering that we take up in July is for Illinois Day Ministries. Also, thank you to our church family who helps financially send our own children to camp. You may even hear God's calling you your life to serve at one of these camps!

Jayn Willeford
Sunday School Coordinator

Family Life Weekend to Remember

Discover God's purpose for your marriage. How will your marriage be remembered? No matter where you are in the process, now is the time to take steps that will make your marriage everything that God intended it to be. Mark your calendars and plan on attending the **Weekend to Remember** sponsored by Family Life Ministries.

This year the dates for St. Louis are November 2-4 (Hilton St. Louis Frontenac) or November 16-18 (Hyatt Regency St. Louis).

Exciting news is that we no longer have to have a minimum of five couples attend to get the group rate. You only need to have a special group code and you can register only by phone or mail. The cost is 79.00 per person and includes all the materials you will need for this weekend event. More information will be coming to your mailbox soon. You will also be able to pass on the group number to other friends or family across the nation so that they can attend an event close to them and still get the discounted rate.

Look for more information coming next month or see Jim and Candy Niemeyer if you have questions.

J.A.C. Class

“The Things We Did this Summer”

Recently we have been studying about Paul. We learned he traveled about preaching about Jesus even though many told him it would be dangerous. We had a “Lesson on the Beach” with an umbrella, beach towels, and a beach ball. We were like the people who prayed on the beach for Paul’s safety. We searched through the sand for questions to answer about our lesson.

“Judge” Adam also charged each student with a crime he or she had not done so Paul was placed in danger for doing things people assumed he had done. The class jury decided “Guilty or Not Guilty.”

The class really misses Catherine Fuller. We made cards to tell her that we miss her and pray for her each Sunday.

Ms .Becky traveled to Danville, IL to see her granddaughter Paige perform in the Wizard of Oz. She also will be going to Decatur, IN to her brother’s 50th anniversary. She enjoyed talking kids to Jr. Teen Camp at Camp Warren. She also enjoyed hearing from Mikala, Hannah and Nathan about the fun they had at Middler Camp. Hannah Brooks said, “This summer I went to Church Camp and took care of Brianna. I caught a fly with my mother. I went bowling and ate pizza with R.O.C.K. I went swimming with my mom. I went to the zoo with Jim.”

Mikalah Johnson said, “I went to camp and I took care of Brittany, and I had a GREAT TIME. I celebrated my birthday on July 15th on a Sunday. I went swimming. I went bowling and had pizza. I went to church. I went to R.O.C.K.”

Carlos Wicks said, “I went to Louisiana, and I got a chain to wear. I played football. I went to laser tag. I went swimming in the ocean.”

Nathan Hamilton said, “ I went to Camp Warren. I went on a trip to Arizona and Mexico. I saw Tombstone, Sedona, and the Grand Canyon. I visited Destin, Florida. I will start school on August 17th.”

Adam Pfeiffer added, “ I really haven’t done that much this summer. Working really cut into playtime. I have been able to go to a few Cardinal games including one in a party suite which was awesome! We’ve been to the zoo a couple of times and saw the Marvel Heroes

exhibit at the Science Center. Of course, Shannon’s birthday party was this summer.”

Our class misses Christina when she isn’t with us. She always has a big hug when she is here. She is good with lesson questions and games.

We also love having Kelsey and Chelsey. The both have beautiful smiles and are really great additions to the J.A.C.’s class when they are able to come.

We’ve had a great summer, and are looking forward to an even better fall!

Becky Ball

Teacher

King’s Kids

The King’s Kids have been having a busy summer with all of the birthdays, vacations, and summer activities. Alysia Ball’s birthday was on August 5th, Cody Gerlitz’s birthday was on August 9th, and Carrie Brook’s birthday was on August 12th. There were four from our class who were able to go to Middler Camp Warren. Brianna, Brittany, Cody and Neal all had a good time. They agreed that their favorite parts of camp were the swimming pool and campfire. Myasia and Dazia have been enjoying their summer and trying to stay cool.

Throughout the summer we have been learning about Paul and his ministry. We have a map in the classroom. Each week we have been marking places Paul traveled to and have been learning about what he did at each place. The kids have learned that

“Paul had a message,

The message was the same.

Every time he had the chance,

Paul would preach in Jesus’ name.”

We also have been making passports. Each week a new stamp is placed on the passport to remind us of what we learned about Paul that week such as be firm, be courageous, etc.

Our unit memory verse from the beginning of the summer was “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and work.” 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17. The kids have been coming to class and writing down their good deeds and words. They have been doing a lot of good deeds and words this summer. I am very proud of them.

Please remember to pray for this class that the Lord will continue to work in each one of their lives. Although they may be young, they are very important to the work of the Lord. I'm sure the kids would love for you to see their good deeds and words. If you would like to see them, come on down to the King's Kids room and check out our bulletin board.

Jennifer Willeford
Teacher

Men4Him

For all of the help at the yard sale by setting up, selling, and taking down, Thank You, Men! For all of you who are coming on Thursday mornings to take care of needs as we are made aware of them, Thank You Men! Your dedication to our church family could not be appreciated more.

We would like to invite all the men who have not been meeting with us to come on out whenever you have the opportunity. We have a great time of fellowship as well as accomplish many tasks. Many hands make light work holds true for us. We meet Thursday mornings at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

God Bless You for Your Dedication and Friendship

Bill White

Youth Soda- New diet selections

The youth now have three new selections of diet soda available in the kitchen refrigerator. They are: Diet 7-up, Diet Dr. Pepper and Diet Pepsi Caffeine Free. Diet Coke is still in the soda machine located in the basement. All sodas are 50 cents. Please place monies in the paper cup marked "Soda" in the refrigerator. If you have other recommendations for soda, please place a note in Jim and Candy Niemeyer's mailbox.

Thank You

I would like to thank the church for presenting me with the Five Star Award for August. This was a wonderful surprise and a great honor. I was overwhelmed by the generous gifts and kind words of encouragement given to me by my church family. I really appreciate all of the prayers and support given to me since I started teaching the King's Kids Class. I am also very blessed to have such a wonderful, loving church family. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Willeford

House for Rent

Wanted: Responsible renter for small two bedroom house in Caseyville. No smoking, no pets and no children. Contact Marshall Field 618-345-5470.

Marshall asked for this announcement to be included in the newsletter as he believes our church family would be a good source for a reference of someone who is trustworthy and has common sense.

WCG

2007 Illinois State Prayer Retreat

Friday, September 21st at 7:00 PM
until Saturday the 22nd at noon.

Camp Warren, Decatur, IL

"Women Charged by the Spirit to Model Christ"
Jesus says, "Come with me to a quiet place."

Speaker: Sister Dee Hall

Prayer Coordinator: Fran McNemee

Newsletter by Email

If you or someone you know would like to have **Bridging the Gap** delivered by email, please send me the email address(s).

dshp50@yahoo.com

A paper copy will still be delivered to your church mailbox.

Your Editor