

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD
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From the Pastor's Desk

Easter Means.....Everything Is Going To Be Okay!

I bring to you some thoughts from H.B. London's newsletter that I receive each week called "The Pastor's Weekly Briefing." He said.

It seems impossible that the preparation for Easter season has started. Easter for me this year is wrapped up in a simple statement: Everything is going to be okay. As Jesus entered the world, it was in chaos, much as our world is today. When the angels announced His birth they said, "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord." Everything is going to be okay. When Jesus encouraged His people to hold their heads up in a world of tribulations, He told them to cheer up, "I have told you these things so that in me you can have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. Everything is going to be okay." When Jesus went to the cross, it was brutal and cruel, but His act of sacrifice signaled to all mankind that everything is going to be okay.

The statement that H.B. London made doesn't mean that we will have everything we want. It does not mean that we will not suffer loss, but it does mean that we are loved unconditionally and that God knows our situation. I love the words of Roman 8 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"
Trouble, no!
Hardships, no!
Persecution, no!

Why? Because we are more than conquerors!

So we should live like it!
We should act like it!
We should talk like it!
We should pray like it!
We should tell a lost and dying world that our hope is in Jesus!

"Nothing in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:39.

So Enjoy The Journey
Pastor Clayton

April Sermon and Sermon Outline 2009

APRIL 5 Palm Sunday

AM Service: "It's Friday! Sunday Coming!"
John 19 Pastor Clayton

PM Service Community Service Project:
Fill Easter Eggs! 5:00 PM

APRIL 12 Easter Sunday

Early Service.....7:30 AM
Were You There? Isaiah 53:5-6

Breakfast.....8:00 to 9:00 AM
served by the Men-4-Him

Sunday School.....9:30 AM

Morning Service.....10:40 AM
It's my Story, or is it?
Matt. 28:13 Pastor Clayton

NO EVENING SERVICE TO SPEND TIME
WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

APRIL 19

AM Service: "It Will Rain Again!"
1 Kings 18:41 Pastor Clayton

PM Service: God Wants You!
Judges 6 Pastor Clayton

APRIL 26 FAMILY DAY!

AM Service: "Time to Step up and Over!"
Numbers 13-14 Pastor Clayton

PM Service: 5:00 PM **FAMILY NIGHT**
Bring snacks!
FILM: THE ULTIMATE GIFT!

The Gathering Place Church of God

Report of Planning Meeting, Saturday,
March 14th

**Grand Reopening, September 13,
2009**

The following people volunteered for these committees:

Attendance: Belinda Floyd and Adam Peiffer
Gathering Publication Info. : Belynda Woods and Darlene Hamilton

Gathering Publications Info: Belynda Woods
Telephoning past members, visitors, Angel Food visitors to invite them to the Grand Reopening: Karen White, Debbie Porter, Peggy Whittom

Art Work: Designs for new letterhead, business cards, etc.: Jim Niemeyer, David Floyd, and Belynda Floyd.

Outside Sign: New name on top, where to have work done, etc.: Jim Niemeyer and David Floyd

Spring Cleaning of the Church and Property and Building Changes such as painting, parking lot, etc: Ken Bowman, James Woods, Bill White, and Shannon Peiffer

Decoration: Banners, windows, furniture, nursery, entrance, etc.: Carol Hamilton, Ken Bowman, Bill White, James Woods, and Peggy Whittom

Visitation: Ways to visit, whom to visit, etc.: Jan Evans, Bud Evans, Peggy and Floyd Whittom

Fairview Heights Food Pantry

The January and February Reports shows an expenditure of approximately \$2500 to buy food. This leaves a balance of approximately \$150. to begin March. Financial donations and checks as well as canned goods are always needed and appreciated. The Food Pantry has served 570 people so far this year.

By picking up the leftovers at The Bread Company every Wednesday evening in 2008, our church delivered the retail value of \$27,984.63 of breads, rolls, and bagels to the Food Pantry. Wow!

Not Perfect

(Fill you name in the blanks of this poem.)

Jesus came to seek and save the lost.
“Let’s go over to your house, my friend,” said
Jesus, “I’m hungry.”
No one ever considered me a friend, and no
one ever came to eat at my home.
They consider me a total disgrace, an
outcast, a “sinner.”
In a few minutes Jesus was stretched out on
a couch next to a table of delectable delight
at my house.
Everyone was aghast; Jesus seemed
completely at ease in _____’s home.
For this is what Jesus was and is about, this
is what he came for “to seek and save the
lost.”

You’re probably not perfect, maybe far from
it.
Yet I am just the kind of person Jesus came
looking for.
See the joy _____ expresses when
she/he realizes Jesus has chosen her/him.
You can have that same joy, freedom, and
forgiveness if like _____ you let
Jesus be your friend.

SILVER RING THING

What a blessing this congregation is to the
youth of this church! Through your generous
donations, ten church youth were able to
attend this live event, receive their silver
rings and obtain the small group study that
we are starting Sunday March 29th. Your
donations also covered the purchase of the
leader’s material and paid for the gas for two
cars and the big van. Besides our ten church
youth, we had three youth friends and eleven
adults attend this event in Greenville, IL.

A special thank-you goes out to Pastor,
Darla, and Amy Timmerman for coming and
supporting our youth and this program as

well as driving the parents to the event. A
shout-out to Bill and Shirley Beltz for making
the van available to us to transport thirteen
youth, Jim and I to the event. Through skits,
drama, videos and testimonies, our youth
learned that God's plan for sex is perfect
within marriage, and that outside of marriage,
sex can have lifetime consequences
including heartache, brokenness, disease,
destroyed relationships and so much more.
They heard that with God's help they can
stay strong and/or be healed from the
consequences of sin.

Our small group study will be on March 29th,
April 5, 19 and 26th from 5:30-7:30 pm. Our
studies will cover temptation, how far is too
far? consequences, and how to give God
control. Plans are being made to have a
special service in May to celebrate the
completion of the study and for the marriage
class to share a special presentation about
the meaning behind many of the traditions
we have in the marriage ceremony. More to
come...

Jim and Candy, Youth Leaders

Parent/Youth Meeting April 15th

All youth attending convention and their
parent(s) must attend a meeting on Wed.
April 15th at 7:00pm. We will be collecting
the remaining registrations fees, signing
permissions slips and medical releases and
reviewing convention and youth group rules
for those participating in this event. We will
also discuss the convention schedule
including departure and return times, how to
pack and what to bring. Failure to attend this
meeting could jeopardize a youth being able
to attend convention.

Jim and Candy, Youth Leaders

Illinois State Youth Convention May 1-3

The youth group will once again be collecting can goods and clothing to take with us to convention this year as part of our community outreach to the Springfield area. Our group will also be participating in a local mission project on Saturday afternoon. Collection boxes will be set up after Easter to collect can goods or clothing (spring/summer) that you wish to donate.

We currently have eleven youth signed up to go. There will be three female rooms with Candy Niemeyer, Shannon Peiffer and Denise Droege as counselors and one male room with Jim Niemeyer as counselor. Adam Peiffer will also be going with us to help recruit other churches for the Bible quizzing program in the So. Illinois area. This year's theme is "Convictions or Compromise".

Watch for our new youth t-shirts that were designed by our youth group. We will be wearing them for the first time at convention. Another donation to the youth group is helping to make these shirts possible. Any youth wanting a t-shirt needs to only pay \$5 to Ms. Candy before convention.

On the road again...

Jim and Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leaders

THE GATHERING PLACE Church of God

All-Church Planning Meeting March 28, 2009

Praise the Lord! We had 37 in attendance today for the second all-Church planning session. There is much excitement in the air! Pastor recommended that the first thing we need to consider is setting attendance goals. He also presented to the committee information regarding an adult daycare organization that may be interested in using

our facility Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Discussion was held on what this would entail, possible legal/financial issues, etc. Many in attendance seemed to be excited about the possibility of this going forward. What a wonderful outreach! Pastor also reported that a nice sized donation has been received for expenses that will be incurred preparing for our grand re-opening. Also, as a side, the Pastor reported that last year we received over \$27,000 in donated food items from the Bread Company which we then donated to the Salvation Army / Food Pantry.

Pastor has requested that the Board of C.E. starting putting together the plan for the new Sunday School program, secure teachers/leaders, etc. so all will be in place by August 2.

All committee leaders gave a short report on thoughts and ideas they have come up with to date. Drafts were presented by for the sign, logos, attendance record keeping, visitation forms, etc. We discussed options/pricing for advertising, as well as discussion about possible free advertising opportunities. It was discussed that the telephone/visitation committees are putting together address/phone lists of people to contact personally. Pastor recommended we set a date for "spring cleaning" of the Church and property. Ideas were discussed for visitation and for visitors as they come into the Church. Someone suggested that when we give visitors a welcome gift, we also provide the latest newsletter, as well as take a copy to those who are visited in their homes. It was decided a "comments" section will be added to the visitation form which they will turn in AFTER the service when they get their welcome gift. It was brought up that we need to do better with ensuring someone is at the door at all times to welcome visitors.

Next meeting – April 25 following Angel Food distribution. Once again, we will have lunch followed by the meeting. At this meeting, Pastor would like to set a goal for

timelines to get information out. Set a plan for each item – bulk mailing, advertising, door hangers, etc. When we come back in April, each committee should have a recommended plan in place.

Of note: these meetings are open to everyone, and all ideas are welcomed and encouraged. If you have not been able to attend yet, there is room for you so come to the meeting next month! If you cannot make it but have an idea or suggestion, please speak to Pastor and share those with him.

Belinda Floyd