

# 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

[www.fhcog.org](http://www.fhcog.org)

Volume XIII No 8

August 2009

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Dealing with Change!

Most of us can say change is good most of the time, but no one ever said change is easy. We here at the Gathering Place Church of God will be going through a lot of changes this month. Change is constant, change is tough and change can be managed. I was thinking about how we sometimes deal with major changes in our lives. The first word that comes to mind is *panic*; how will we get through this? And then when *reality* sets in, we put things in perspective, and we continue to live consistently as people of faith that do the following:

1. Surrender the situation to God who knows the end from the beginning.
2. Do all you can to minimize the consequences of the change. Find godly people and take seriously their counsel.
3. Keep your head up.
4. Stay as positive as you possibly can.
5. Remember, people are watching and depending on you.
6. Be thankful in all situations.
7. And be expectant.

God has all the Grace we need to see us through the changes in our lives. Remember the words of the Psalmist in Chapter 18: 25-28 "To the faithful you show yourself faithful; to the blameless you show yourself blameless; to the pure you show yourself pure...you, O Lord, keep my lamp burning, my God turns my darkness into light." Change is coming and that is for sure. Every day we face changes in our lives, in our jobs and in the church. How we accept the change will determine what we learn through the process. This is your day! Some of you entered this day with rejoicing, and some of you in despair. And some of you must enter the day without a plan.

First: may I suggest to you that **Every Day Is a Gift!** "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). God has ordered and ordained the day. He has put us in His plans for the day and that should make us feel really good. The Psalmist does not say how the day will go or what it will look like, he just simply says, "The Lord has made it." So I encourage you to surrender to the day with thanksgiving and live in awe that God has given us permission to join Him in its unfolding. Even in this new day of the life of our church.

Second: **Every Day Passes Quickly!** It always amazes me how some can really get so much out of 24 hours while others waste much of their day. The Psalmist says, "Show me O, Lord-the number of my days" (Psalm 39:4). The Psalmist was frustrated. He was being assailed by the enemy. Like a lot of

us, he was wondering if he was making any difference. The days were just flying by. What is the use? The day may not look exactly like you want it to, but wait patiently for the Lord. Just make your day count.

Third: **Every Day Is An Opportunity!** Do you begin each day with a purpose in mind? Do you have goals for each day, or do you just start your day with no specifics in mind? When we have a plan, it is God who completes that plan. So God has given us a plan for the Gathering Place Church of God. The question is will we use each day to complete this plan?

Enjoy The Journey  
Pastor Clayton

## **Sermon and Service Outline August 2009**

**August 2** Pre-Grand Opening!  
The Gathering Place Church of God

AM Service: "How Can We Be Better  
Christians?"  
Luke 6:27-49 Pastor Clayton  
Children's Hand Bells

PM Service: No evening service at the church.

**Rock the River in St. Louis!**

**August 9**

AM Service: "U-Turns Accepted!"  
Acts 9:1-22 Pastor Clayton  
Reponses Reading # 104

PM Service: Praise, Prayer and Preaching!

**August 16**

AM Service: "Watch Out for the Snakes!"  
Acts 28:1-10 Pastor Clayton  
Children's Moments

PM Service: Car Race, and Dinner for the Children's Program 5:00 PM.

**August 23**

AM Service: "Do You Smell Like the World?"  
Daniel 3:27 Pastor Clayton  
Youth Skit: The Stool

PM Service: Family Film Night:  
Fire Proof 5:00 PM

**August 30**

AM Service:

Pastor Fred Phillips will be preaching.  
Time of Communion

PM Service. Time of Prayer and Outreach to our community!

## **I'm A Little Tea Cup....**

Love this story or not, you will not be able to have tea in a tea cup again without thinking of this.

There was a couple who took a trip to England to shop in a beautiful antique store to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

They both liked antiques and pottery, and especially teacups. Spotting an exceptional cup, they asked 'May we see that? We've never seen a cup quite so beautiful.'

As the lady handed it to them, suddenly the teacup spoke,

'You don't understand. I have not always been a teacup. There was a time when I was just a lump of red clay. My master took me and rolled me pounded and patted me over and over and I yelled out,

'Don't do that.'

'I don't like it!' 'Let me alone,' but he only smiled, and gently said; 'Not yet!'

Then WHAM! I was placed on a spinning wheel and suddenly I was spun around and around and around.

'Stop it! I'm getting so dizzy !I'm going to be sick!', I screamed. But the master only nodded and said, quietly; 'Not yet.'

He spun me and poked and prodded and bent me out of shape to suit himself and then he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat.

I yelled and knocked and pounded at the door. 'Help! Get me out of here!' I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as he shook his head from side to side, 'Not yet!'

When I thought I couldn't bear it another minute, the door opened. He carefully took me out and put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. Oh, that felt so good! 'Ah, this is much better,' I thought. But after I cooled, he picked me up and he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Oh, please, Stop it, Stop, I cried.' He only shook his head and said. 'Not yet!'

Then suddenly he put me back in to the oven. Only it was not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I just knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried I was convinced I would never make it. I was ready to give up. Just then the door opened and he took me out and again placed me on the shelf, where I cooled and waited and waited, wondering

'What's he going to do to me next?'

An hour later he handed me a mirror and said 'Look at yourself.' And I did. I said, 'That's not me; that couldn't be me. It's beautiful. I'm beautiful!!!'

Quietly he spoke: 'I want you to remember,' then, he said, ' I know it hurt to be rolled and pounded and patted, but had I just left you alone, you'd have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I know it hurt and it was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you

would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened. You would not have had any color in your life. If I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't have survived for long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. Now you are what I had in mind when I first began with you.'

The moral of this story is this: God knows what He is doing for each of us. He is the potter, and we are His clay. He will mold us and make us and expose us to just enough pressures of just the right kinds that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing and perfect will.

So when life seems hard, and you are being pounded and patted and pushed almost beyond endurance; when your world seems to be spinning out of control; when you feel like you are in a fiery furnace of trials; when life seems to 'stink', try this.

Brew a cup of your favorite tea in your prettiest tea cup, sit down and think on this story and then, have a little talk with the Potter.

## Teen Camp Testimonies

Several of those who went to the Teen Camps wish to share about their summer camp experience. Speaking on their behalf, Jim and I thank you for your prayers for these very special members of our congregation.

Andria B.--Camp was a great experience for me. It was amazing seeing God at work in so many people's lives. My favorite part was the first night there during worship when the power went out. We didn't have the band or lights or anything, but we continued to worship God by singing songs and not letting electrical failure ruin our night. It was really easy to feel God's presence without the

distractions of lights or loud music. It was awe inspiring.

Lexi P--I really enjoyed the pastor and the sermon. I gave my life away to God fully and when I stood up on the second night at camp I felt the spirit move into me. And he (the pastor) referred to answering the call from God to staying on the shore or jumping in. Camp was the best year ever. Thank-you!

Morgan B--What I enjoyed the most was listening to the pastor preach. He told us that if we want to or feel like God is talking to us or wanted to dedicate or re-dedicate our life to God we needed to stand up and say "send me" as loud as we could.

Heather H--Camp Warren is my favorite place on Earth. Many great things happened to me. God's spirit really touched me. I re-dedicated my life to Christ and answered my call to ministry.

## **August Youth Group Calendar**

### **Sunday August 2**

Rock the River (Event free-need money for metro link, food, drink)

### **Sunday August 9**

Youth Meeting 5:45-7:15

### **Tuesday August 11**

Youth Outing to Six Flags

### **Sunday August 16**

Grand Prix Races and All church Dinner

### **Sunday August 23**

Back to School Party at the Niemeyer's  
12:30-?

## **ADDRESS CHANGE**

The following is a new address for Shaun Floyd (son of David and Belinda Floyd). Please change your Church directory accordingly:

Shaun Floyd  
2513 SW 42nd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73119

I'm glad this didn't happen as many of the areas of our church were repainted !

## **Repainting the Church**

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually a Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings..

Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones. He was surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint..

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried:

"Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke.

**"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"**