

# BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD  
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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### The Law of Echos

A young boy lived with his grandfather on the top of a mountain in the Swiss Alps. Often, just to hear the sound of his own voice echoing back to him, he would go outside, cup his hands around his mouth and shout, "HELLO!" Up from the canyons the reply came "HELLO....HELLO....HELLO". Then he would call out, "I LOVE YOU!" "I LOVE YOU....I LOVE YOU....I LOVE YOU". One day the boy seriously misbehaved and his grandfather disciplined him severely. Reacting violently, the child shook his fist and screamed, "I HATE YOU!" To his surprise, the rocks and boulders across the mountainside responded, "I HATE YOU....I HATE YOU....I HATE YOU!"

And so it is in life. Call it one of the immutable laws of human nature. We get in return exactly what we give. It all comes back. The results are often embarrassing. Jesus said, treat men exactly as you like them to treat you. Don't judge other people and you will not be judged yourselves, don't condemn and you will not be condemned. For whatever measure you use with other people they will use in their dealings with you.

We can call it the LAW OF ECHOES! The law of echoes applies to a marriage, family, children, work place and church. The place to begin is with the person we see in the mirror every morning. The law of echoes runs through all of life. If you want others to judge and condemn you, you start it. If you want them to be understanding, broad-minded, allowing you room to be you then begin by being that way yourself to others. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS AS CONTAGIOUS AS THE FLU! Whatever you deposit in the echo bank you draw in return. Sometimes with interest.

Life is challenging. Because it is short, every moment brings challenging possibilities. Because it is uncertain, it is filled with challenging adjustments. Could this be what Jesus referred to when He promised an abundant life? Abundant with challenges, brimming with possibilities, with opportunists to adapt, shift, alter and change. This is the perspective that keeps people young. It is also the path that leads to optimism and motivation. Every morning life makes a delivery to your front door, each package is cleverly wrapped. Put together

they comprise a series of challenging opportunities. They are wrapped in paper with big print. One package reads, watch out, better worry about this! Another, danger this will bring fear! And another, impossible you will never handle this one! When you hear the ring in the morning, try something new. Let Jesus answer the door for you. It is vital if we want to keep strong and keep growing. It is important to always remember the law of echoes, what goes around, comes around. As we journey into this new year, I pray that we as a church can echo good things. Things like love, unity, forgiveness, hope, joy and kindness. May the Lord always help us to respond in the right way to everyone so that the love of Christ is seen in all we say and do.

Our church must be the echo to a lost and dying world, the only hope we have is in Jesus. **HAVE YOU LISTENED TO YOUR ECHO LATELY?**

*Enjoy the Journey,*

*Pastor Clayton*

## **SERMON OUTLINES FOR JANUARY 2006**

### **February 5**

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton  
 "Celebrate Jesus!"  
 Text: John 12:12-22  
Children's Moments: Led by Pastor Brian

EVENING SERVICE: The Visual Bible  
 Led By Pastor Clayton

### **February 12**

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Brian -- Speaking  
Children's Moments: led by Pastor Clayton

EVENING SERVICE:  
 Men 4 Him Valentine Dinner at 5:00 P.M.

### **February 19**

### **50-Day Spiritual Journey Begins!**

MORNING SERVICE : Pastor Clayton  
 "Jesus Stayed Spiritually Connected  
 and Directed"  
 Text: Mark 1:29-39  
Children's Moments: Hand Bells  
 Led by Darla Clayton

EVENING SERVICE: The Visual Bible Led by  
 Pastor Clayton

### **February 26**

MORNING SERVICE : Pastor Clayton  
 "Jesus Shattered the Stereotypes  
 of Us and Them"  
 Text: John 4:1-42  
Children's Moments: Led by Pastor Brian

EVENING SERVICE:  
 All Church Dinner Sponsored  
 By the Youth Group

### **PASTOR BRIAN'S CHALLENGE**

I would like to issue a challenge to every person of the Church. We need to get to know each other better. I believe if you sit on the right side of the Church you need to know the people who sit on the left side of the Church. It is easy for us to talk and fellowship with the people we already know but we need to get to know everybody. I would like you to invite somebody you may not know well to your house, out to lunch, or whatever you like. Find out what kind of work they do, or did, where they grew up, and how you can pray for them. It is hard to get to know everybody in the short time we are at Church. It is through one on one relationships and love that we grow together and through out the community. Give the gift of time with those who love God. It will be a blessing to all. Are you up to the challenge?

*Pastor Brian*

## 50-Day Spiritual Adventure “Celebrate Jesus”

As I sit in silence for the service to begin, I wonder how the living Lord might speak to me again. Will it be the songs we sing or in the pastor’s prayer? It just might be his sermon or a need somebody shares. Maybe God will touch my heart through laughter or a sigh, or even through distractions like a newborn’s hungry cry. Whatever means God chooses to bend my ear His way, I will worship Him expectantly for there is something He will say.

Imagine the freedom and possibilities waiting for all of us once we realize the truth God has laid on our heart isn’t confined to the twenty-five minutes of a message. What if the essence of what God is trying to get across was in every ingredient of the worship service from the prelude to the postlude? The scripture lessons and special music, the choruses and hymns, the drama and prayers, can all illustrate one central idea.

The Adventure is based upon ideas from pastors, church leaders, and laypersons all across North America. It is estimated that nearly ½ million people around the world will go on this Adventure. Think what can happen when hundreds of thousands of people celebrate Jesus and discover what makes him attractive to so many people.

God will be using the 50-Day Adventure to change people’s lives. It will increase daily Bible study. People will become doers of God’s Word. Churchwide unity will be occurring as everyone gets on the same page spiritually. Spiritual momentum is generated for all ages within our congregation. “Celebrate JESUS”

*Darla Clayton, Adventure Coordinator*

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

**J.O.Y. Class**

Happy New Year to you all!! Our class is now back from the holiday travels

and have picked up our study on “Thinking Like a Christian”. During the next two months we will be looking at what the Christian Worldview has to say about Biology, Psychology, Ethics and Sociology.

We started our study establishing how Christian Worldview defines Theology and Philosophy and how we differ from the Humanist and Post-Modern Worldviews. We have discussed that what people believe about a god or no god and what or who is at the center of your belief system will affect every other aspect of modern life.

For instance, because the Christian Worldview believes in the Triune God and supernaturalism is our philosophy (there are natural and spiritual components to reality); then our view of Biology is that God created everything. But the Secular Humanist Worldview of atheism and a philosophy of only the natural world exists, leads them to Neo-Darwinian Evolution for their Biology. We will discover in our study of Psychology that Biblical Christianity teaches moral responsibility, whereas Humanism blame individual moral failings on society or the environment.

It is not too late to come join us for this study. Col. 10:4-5 says: “We demolish arguments and every high minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

*See you on Sunday,  
Candy Niemeyer, Teacher*

### **MEN4 HIM**

January 14<sup>th</sup> was a great day of working together to prepare cars for the big Gran Prix race to be held on Saturday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m. and the race will commence at 10:00. Everyone is invited to participate and encouraged to bring friends as well. Trophies will be awarded Sunday Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> during the worship service.

Plans are underway for the upcoming Valentine Dinner on Sunday evening, Feb. 12 at 5:00 p.m. The theme is the "Decade of the Sixties". Everyone, single, married, young and old is invited to share in this special event. The main entertainment will be provided by Fortress from the St. Matthews Church. You won't want to miss this.

*Bill White*

## **NOTE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

As you all have experienced this winter season, the costs of heating has gone up and the church bill is no exception. The Board is asking that you be mindful of the thermostats before leaving the church. The Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary are programmed control. Please do not change the programming. You may however, temporarily raise or lower the temperature settings as needed. We would prefer that you not use the "Hold Temp" setting but if you do be sure to return the program to its original setting by using the "run program" button. We have found the Fellowship Hall set at 70 degrees on non-use days several times because the "hold temp" feature was active. Please do everything you can to make sure that the settings are returned to normal and that we are all doing our part to be good stewards of the resources we have.

Please see Jim or Candy Niemeyer if you need help understanding the thermostat systems.

## **THANK-YOU NOTE TO THE CONGREGATION**

I want to thank the Congregation and the Board of Trustees for remembering me with your special gift at Christmas. I feel truly blessed to be in a Congregation that is so loving and caring. I am so thankful and I have been blessed as I strive to be obedient to God and use the gifts and talents he has given me in whatever way I can. I am looking forward to the coming year as God

continues to bless this congregation as we become more obedient to His word and will.

Sincerely,  
Candy Niemeyer, Treasurer

## **Heartprints**

Whatever our hands touch---  
We leave fingerprints!  
On walls, on furniture,  
On doorknobs, dishes, books,  
As we touch we leave our identity.

Oh please where ever I go today,  
Help me leave heartprints!  
Heartprints of compassion  
Of understanding and love.  
Heartprints of kindness  
and genuine concern.

May my heart touch a lonely neighbor  
Or a runaway daughter,  
Or an anxious mother,  
Or, perhaps, a dear friend!

I shall go out today  
To leave heartprints,  
And if someone should say  
"I felt your touch,"  
May that one sense be...YOUR LOVE  
Touching through ME.

Author Unknown

## **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