

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD
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Volume XIII No. 2

February 2009

Thoughts from the Pastor

My Favorite Valentine!

Just think how many valentines you have received through the years. Your mom probably gave you some, your Sunday school teacher did, and then there was that very first one from your very first boyfriend or girlfriend. Remember the valentine you opened the year you were married? Probably kind of mushy, but special. Then your kids came along, and there were little valentines and homemade valentines and for some of us now there are grandchild valentines. Maybe you have saved some through the years especially the special ones that really touched your heart. I would like to share with you a love note:

“Love is patient, Love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. It is not rude; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails.” I love you --God

Genuine love is found in word and deed. You don't just say the words, you live them out. People are always better for that love. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 is a love letter from God. It is a description of how He chooses to love you! It is one thing to tell someone how much you love them, but true love is

when those words are backed up with patience, kindness and selfless support. Someone wrote that the price (value) is set by what someone is willing to pay. Christ, because of His love, paid the ultimate price for us. That is how valuable we are to God.

This is the month we spend a great deal of money on candy, flowers, and cards to that someone special we love. And that is a great thing to do. This is a special year for Darla and I as we celebrate 40 years of marriage together. We have been through a lot as a couple, but God has always been in the center of our lives and our marriage. She truly is my help mate. So I thank God for 40 years of oneness, for the call to ministry, and a wonderful son and daughter-in-law and our grandson Ty. I am also thankful for a great church that we have been called to pastor. I have been blessed more than I deserve from the Lord. So we need to celebrate life! Maybe you are going through some tough times, but always remember God's love letter to you. He will see you through. So how about giving it away this month? That is your love for others. Do something for someone special in your life. The greatest thing we can give is our time maybe to just to listen while someone talks. As new people come into our church, I pray we can all show God's unconditional love to them. So many in our world don't know or don't care about God's love. We have to tell them! It may be the only hope they have. So when you buy that candy, flowers, or card this year, think about the people who have

no one to love them, or no one to care and take time to show them a little love. They will be blessed and you will make God smile.

Enjoy The Journey
Pastor Clayton

I can't wait to see what the next 40 years marriage will bring!

Sermon and Sermon Outline February 2009

February 1 5-Star Sunday and
Children's Hand Bells

Morning Service: Bill Beltz will be
preaching

Evening Service: Small Groups, Youth
and Children's program

February 8

Morning Service: "Adam and Eve: How it
all Began" Genesis 2:7-24
Pastor Clayton

Evening Service: Valentine's Dinner for
the Whole Church
Sponsored by Men-For-Him
Starting at 5:00 PM

February 15

Morning Service: "Guess Who is Coming
to Dinner?" Luke 14:16-24
Pastor Clayton

Evening Service: Small Groups, Youth
and Children's Program

February 22 Unforgettable Sunday!

Morning Service: Pastor and Candy will
be addressing more of your Questions

Evening Service: Small Groups, Youth
and Children's program

January Sermon Notes

Jan 4th

"To give or Not to Give: That is the Question"
Malachi 3:8-10

"Will a Man Rob God?"

Five Reasons Why I Give:

1. Because God says so
2. Because I don't want to rob God
3. Because I trust the Lord
4. Because I realize there is more after I die
5. Because I want to keep my focus on Christ

The cycle of victorious giving begins with trust.

Trusting god reminds us who is in control.

Trusting God verifies He is our source of Everything.

God's bank account is still full!

What size is the container you are using to
dip into God's supply?

How big is your measuring cup?

Jan 11th

"What does the Bible say about
Homosexuality?
Romans 1:24-28

Homosexuality used to be a clear issue that every Christian agreed on.

God has designed marriage as being one man and one woman.

So what does the Bible say?

Gen. 1:27

Leviticus 18:33

1 Cor. 6:9

Romans 1:26-27

2 Cor. 5:17

Romans 5:8

Homosexuality is a powerful sin!

But the saving grace of Jesus can handle it!

Jan 25th Candy Niemeyer

“Truth of Life”

Colossians 2:8

S.L.E.D. acronym developed by Scott Kluesendorf for talking with people who are not pro-life. (Visit Scott's web site for more in-depth info at <http://www.prolifetraining.com/>)

S--size

L--level of development

E--environment

D-degree of dependency

Size, level of development, location (environment) and degree of dependency are not morally relevant. The question really is "are the unborn human and if so what rights do they really have".

Christians need to head Paul's warning to the believers at Colossus when he warns in Col 2:8: "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."

What should we do? Be Informed, Be Compassionate, Be Active, Be Prayerful.

J.A.C. Class

The J.A.Cs class is a great group of kids from 8-10 years old. We love each other and love learning all about God's word. We love trying to answer questions about the lesson, Word Search games, active games, and snacks.

We talked about making New Year's Resolutions. Here are some of the kids thoughts:

Brittany Pickens wants to do more to help the environment like recycle and picking up trash. She wants to practice soccer so she can make the 5th grade team.

Carrie Brooks wants to study harder and raise her school grades.

Alysia Ball wants to practice cheerleading so she can be a cheerleader next year.

Brianna Pickens wants to practice and make the 5th grade Volleyball team and Choir. She also wants to raise her grades to all A's.

Cody Gerlitz wants to learn to wrestling and do better in math.

Ms Becky wants to lose those 10 lbs she wanted to get rid of last year and the year before. As Christians, we all want to help our Church grow and have twice as many kids in our class by next New Years. We can do this by welcoming new kids and making them feel like family when they visit.

Come by and tell the kids "Hi" any Sunday!

Becky Ball, teacher

Carol Hamilton, assistant teacher

High School Sunday School Class

We are a small class looking to grow. During December we studied the Fruits of Spirit and did an assessment of our own Fruits. I personally am asking God to help me with the Fruit of "Joy" as my assessment showed a weakness in this area. More recently we are doing a video study from Revolution done by Youth Pastor Doug Fields and BlueFishTV.com. Our first study was on

poverty, and our current study is on why bad things happen to good people. In the coming weeks we will be looking at how to make wise choices and avoid the pain and regret that come from our bad decisions, and smart dating--how do you build God honoring relationships.

Candy Niemeyer,
Teacher

Youth Group

We have changed up our format for youth meeting so if you have not been lately, you might want to check us out. We are currently meeting in the Sanctuary for a short time of praise and worship as we view current Christian music videos. Jim and I want to expose our youth to the wealth of great Christian music that is being made for this generation. Some of the youth have been doing some research and bringing in videos they have found. Parents--when your youth are on the internet, remind them to visit www.godtube.com and look up some of the Christian videos.

We are also looking at some skit/drama videos and are looking to start performing some of these skits for our Sunday morning services. Possible debut of a skit coming in February--stay tuned. Jim and I are using these skits/dramas as devotionals and discussing the message contained with in them. We are also taking some time to play some team games which we have all enjoyed.

Upcoming events include World Vision's 30 Hour Famine (dates to be decided), The Silver Ring Thing on March 25th and Youth Convention May 1-3rd. We are trying to finalize an official youth t-shirt--so be on the look out. We also want to wish Laura and Lizzie Woods Happy Birthday as they turned 13 in the month of January.!!

I want to thank and acknowledge our youth workers at Angel Food in December and January.

Casey (KC) Brooks (Dec)
Andria Bowsby (Dec/Jan)
Morgan Brown (Dec)
Stephanie Bowsby (Dec/Jan)
Alexis Pickens (Dec)
Heather Hamilton (Dec/Jan)
Amanda Floyd (Dec)
Cameron Weakley (Dec/Jan)
Destanie Weakley (Dec)
Lizzie Woods (Dec)
Laura Woods (Dec)
God is Good,
Jim and Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leaders

The Truth Project

Focus on the Family's "The Truth Project" small group officially has started in the home of Jim and Candy Niemeyer. They will be meeting for a total of 13 weeks for this in depth study to the truth claims of God. The study is designed to equip the believer with a comprehensive biblical worldview.

If you missed this group, don't worry--you will have another opportunity this summer as Jim and Candy plan to host another group. I am also prayerful that someone in the current group would feel led to start a group themselves so we can expose more believers to the truth claims of God and "be transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Romans 12:2).

For more information about the Truth Project, visit www.thetruthproject.org

Jim and Candy Niemeyer,
Hosts

Mosaic Pregnancy and Health Center

We have had some people ask some questions about the Mosaic Pregnancy and Health Centers so we thought we would share the following information that we received from talking with Sabrina at their Belleville location:

Why the name change from New Beginnings Crisis Pregnancy Center?

They felt that their old name did not really relate to the current generation they are trying to serve. This generation of women with unplanned pregnancies does not consider it a "crisis". The name "Mosaic" is a more accurate description of this generation as this generation's ideas and values are made up of a lot of little pieces to make the whole picture. The center is also trying to serve the men in the community and the name "New Beginnings" was not relevant to them as well.

Who do they serve and what services are provided?

Last year (2008) they had 1200 client visits and of those 500 were new clients. 76% of the new clients had positive pregnancy tests. Of those, 182 women when asked said that abortion was an option. After receiving counseling services/ultrasound testing only 2 went through with the abortion at another facility.

Services they provide include free pregnancy and ultrasound testing. Women receive counseling, and the counselors take the opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. Many women do accept Jesus as a result. They provide childbirth and parenting classes as well as counseling services to the men involved with these women/girls. They provide selected medical services related to pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Post-abortion counseling is also available for those who are suffering from the guilt and pain

associated with a previous abortion. (For more information visit their web site: <http://www.revealmosaic.com/>)

How can we help?

Currently the church is collecting for the Baby Bottle Drive. We would like to have the bottles by Feb. 1st. Mosaic is also looking for volunteers. They will have a training session coming up in March; You can call 618-451-2002 for more information. They will train men and women to be counselors, but they also need people willing to do administrative tasks like mass mailings and office work. If you want to help but not sure they can use you, call and visit the center. You just might find they have a need you can do. Sabrina at the Belleville location even mentioned it would be nice to have someone come clean the office once a week. You can also support their upcoming fundraising banquet this spring or walk in the Walk for Life that is held in the fall.