

# BRIDGING THE GAP

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## From The Pastor's Desk

### “Are You A Member or Disciple?”

1Peter 2:5 “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” If only Peter's statement were true today! In some places today we see the church as a pile of loose bricks. No one knowing where to fit in! Each member of the congregation is a brick; we all work very hard to accumulate more and more bricks. We spend all our time checking on each other, and we forget all about the unsaved people who are out in the cold longing for a warm place. We must never forget that we are God's living stones! In order to grow and expand we must make disciples. We must be Fathers, not orphanage directors. Look at Jesus. He was

the best pastor who ever lived yet He took care of only twelve. When He left, they knew what to do. Go and make disciples of others just as Jesus had done to them. So they went and began teaching and sharing from house to house in small units. We don't do that anymore in the modern church. We get everybody together on Sundays in the orphanage dining hall and spoon feed them. Goodbye! you are dismissed until next week. Too many churches follow this format week after week. We must understand what the body of Christ is. We must stop doing crazy things to ourselves such as speaking against each other. No wonder we hurt! No wonder the church is weak and bleeding. So what is a church member today? Nearly every local church has three requirements:

1. The person must attend the meetings.
2. The person must give his money.
- 3 The person must live a life of good character.

If he does these three things, he is considered a good church member. But in reading the book of Acts, we find another word that really fits our life; the word is *disciple*. A disciple is a person who learns to live the life his teacher lives and gradually teaches others to live like Christ. Disciple means the creating of a duplicate. It is not so much talk as it is living. We are concerned with information, but Jesus was concerned with formation. When the church is a body of disciples, it is flexible. It will truly be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. As

soon as Jesus had told Peter that his life would include the cross, Jesus turned to him and said, "Follow Me! John 21:19. Peter knew Jesus wasn't referring to their walk down the beach, but to his journey through life. He was being challenged to live for Jesus regardless of the sacrifice or cost or final outcome. My prayer is that if Jesus can be seen nowhere else, He might be seen in your life and mine. He is the one who makes God visible, change possible, suffering understandable, sin forgivable and heaven available! Anyone can be a church member; it takes a lot more than that to be a disciple for our Lord.

So remember: NEVER GIVE UP! NEVER BACK DOWN! NEVER LOSE FAITH!

Enjoy The Journey,  
Pastor Clayton

## **Sermon and Service Outline July 2008**

### **July 6            5-Star Sunday**

**AM Service:        "Bound by The Shackles  
                             of Sin"**  
**Mark5:1-20            Pastor Clayton**

**PM Service:        Leadership Training 101  
led by Pastor Clayton**

### **July 13**

**AM Service:        "Four Days Late"**  
**John 11:17            Pastor Clayton**

**PM Service:        Leadership Training 101  
led by Pastor Clayton**

### **July 20**

**AM Service:        "Christmas in July"**  
**Luke 2:1-20            Pastor Clayton**

**PM Service: Leadership Training 101  
led by Pastor Clayton**

### **July 27**

**AM Service: Time for a Character Check"  
Colossians 3:1-11    Pastor Clayton**

**PM Service: "FAMILY NIGHT, FOOD,  
FUN, FELLOWSHIP!"**

## **Math Lesson**

Little Zachary was doing very badly in math. His parents had tried everything... tutors, mentors, flash cards, special learning centers. In short, everything they could think of to help his math. Finally, in a last ditch effort, they took Zachary down and enrolled him in the local Catholic school.

After the first day, little Zachary came home with a very serious look on his face. He didn't even kiss his mother hello. Instead, he went straight to his room and started studying. Books and papers were spread out all over the room, and little Zachary was hard at work. His mother was amazed. She called him down to dinner. To her shock, the minute he was done, he marched back to his room without a word, and in no time, he was back hitting the books as hard as before. This went on for some time, day after day, while the mother tried to understand what made all the difference.

Finally, little Zachary brought home his report card. He quietly laid it on the table, went up to his room and hit the books. With great trepidation, his Mom looked at it and to her great surprise, little Zachary got an 'A' in math.

She could no longer hold her curiosity. She went to his room and said, 'Son, what was it? Was it the nuns?' Little Zachary looked at her and shook his head, no. 'Well, then,' she replied, "was it the books, the discipline, the

structure, the uniforms? WHAT WAS IT ALREADY? “

Little Zachary looked at her and said, 'Well, on the first day of school when I saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I knew they weren't fooling around.”

Submitted by Ivan DeHart

## Wednesday Night Coffee House Bible Study

Again this year we will be having our Wednesday Coffee House Bible Study. The Bible Study will begin on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and run through August 27<sup>th</sup>. Our study guide this year is written by Charles Tarr. It is called **Prayer: An Enjoyable Experience!** During the first ten minutes of the evening, snacks and drinks will be provided then we will break up into small groups in the fellowship hall. It will be an eight week course that you don't want to miss. We can all learn more about prayer that will help us in our daily life.

## HANDS

There is a story told of a little girl watching her Grandmother who was setting and looking at her hands. The little girl wanted to know why she was looking at her hands.

Grandma said “Well, honey I was just thinking about what these hands have done for me.”

“When I was a baby and only a few weeks old, I first noticed I had these hands. They have been very useful for me. They were flying in the air when I first saw them. Later they helped me pull up to a chair and on to my mother's lap. They grew like the rest of my body. As I grew there was more work to do. “

## Genevieve's Hands

When I was the five years of age, my Grandma wanted me to learn to embroider so she taught me, and I started to embroider my first quilt. She also taught me to do other things like write my name and tie my shoes.

As I became an adult, got married and started a family, my hands learned a lot of new things. I had four babies over the years. My hands have washed and ironed a lot of clothes. These hands have peeled bushels of potatoes and mashed a lot of potatoes, made homemade bread, peeled and canned peaches and tomatoes, made pies, cobblers and put bandages on scraped knees.

After I found the Lord and started to serve Him, I was reminded of what God said to Moses “What's that in your hand?” He asked me the same thing. So these hands went to work for him. They taught and helped in Sunday School classes. They helped in WCG where I did quilting and many other things. They have helped with the sick. They have cooked church dinners and welcomed people to church, entertained people who came to the parsonage and made lots of apple butter.

Now my hands look their age; they have crooked fingers and not much strength in them. Proverbs 10:4 says “Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.” I don't think my hands have been lazy.

At 90 years of age, these hands are not like they used to be, but I believe they have brought a lot of happiness. Psalms 37:24 “For the Lord upholds us with his hand.” I'm still trusting Him to help me use my hands for Him the best I can. I am still quilting some, and over the last few years I have made many pot holders for family (children, grandchildren, great-grand children, nieces and nephews) and for WCG conventions and camp meeting.

It seems as if my hands are not meant to be idle.

Submitted by Ruth Pope

## **Faith Weaver Friends**

I would like to thank the church for all the prayers and support over the years for the Faith Weavers program. I really have enjoyed the opportunity the church has given me to work with the children. Please continue to remember them in prayer as they continue their Christian walk with God's love and support.

Also, if anyone gets the Sunday paper and doesn't use the coupons, please put them in my mailbox. Thanks.

Carmen Hamilton

## **Jr./Sr. High Youth Group**

We officially welcomed the newest youth members at our Parent/Youth Meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup> with snacks, games and a short meeting. Our newest members have graduated the sixth grade:

Alexis Pickens, Caycee Brooks,  
Daniel Pollard, Destanie Weakley,  
Gracy Gerlitz, Heather Hamilton,  
Morgan Brown, and Stefanie Bowsby.

This month's activities have also included a destination unknown that ended up at our house for an all-you-can-eat ice cream social and the overnight trip to West Frankfurt and Harrisburg COG for the Peder Eide Concert. I want to thank Jennifer Willeford and Matt Cain for joining us on our overnight trip. They will also be helping us with some future group activities as well this summer. We are ending the month by participating in Family Fun Night with the church and an evening of Acts of Random Kindness.

Next month will see the teens head off to their respective teen camps. Those attending Sr. Teen Camp include: Paige, Kein, Amanda, Andria, Tori, Andrew, Cameron, Kierra, Alexis, and those attending

Jr. Teen Camp will be: Morgan, Heather, Lexi, Destanie, Gracey, Stefanie, Daniel and Nathan.

Our group is currently working on a possible new name or motto and a t-shirt. We will also be learning about what it means to have a "servant heart," and what I am calling "Christian Etiquette." This will be a discussion of how our speech, dress and behavior should reflect being a disciple of Jesus. We also are planning a trip to the zoo, a Grizzlies baseball game and a family fishing/cookout day. (All dates to be announced.)

Jim and I want to thank the Church for your continued support of our fundraisers. We are currently running a concession stand at the home softball games. (We have decided to drop the games played at our field that don't involve our home team due to lack of support by their fans.) We invite you to bring a lawn chair and come out and support our softball team and the youth concession stand on the following Monday nights: June 30, July 7, July 21, August 4 and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Candy and Jim Niemeyer, Youth Leaders

## **Community Outreach Car Wash**

Mark your calendars for August 9<sup>th</sup> as we gather as a church to do a \$1.00 carwash for our community. We are encouraging everyone's support as we gather at 9:00 that Saturday morning for a time of fellowship before we head out to our parking lot to serve others by washing their cars. Our youth will make the posters and help wash cars. We will also need other able bodied people to help wash cars. If car washing is not your thing, we can still use you to give out lemonade to those that have stopped by and to give out information about Angel Food, Tunes 4 the Troops, and N.i.C.E. Missions. We want to share with the

community how we are helping to meet the needs of people not only locally but nationally and internationally and invite them to help.

14 ROD WHITTOM  
15 CAMERON WHEATLY  
16 STEVE BROOKS  
17 JAYN WILLEFORD

Did we mention that there is a “twist” to the \$1.00 car wash? Well there is a twist but you will hear more about that in the coming weeks. We just want to encourage you to come and be a blessing to others and we think you will be amazed how God will bless you in return.

Board of Deacons

## **SOFTBALL TEAM**

Our Church Softball team plays on Monday nights. (Check the Sunday bulletin insert for the current schedule or call a team member.) Games are held at our home field and away fields.

Bud tells me that they haven’t won a game by counting runs yet, but they have won in having a great time! The team is and continues to meet the goal of bringing members closer to God and each other.

The schedule has 16 games; 4 of which have been played so far.

The upcoming home game dates on Monday nights: June 30, July 7, July 21, August 4 and 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **TEAM MEMBERS**

1 BUD EVANS  
2 DJ STANTON  
3 ADAM PEIFFER  
4 MARSHALL FIELD  
5 KEN BOWEN  
6 JOSHUA FLOYD  
7 VINCE KING  
8 MATTHEW CAIN  
9 BRANDON CAIN  
10 TYLER DESCOTTE  
11 MAT PEIFFER  
12 CARLOS WICKS  
13 AJ DESCOTTE