

# BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD  
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## From the Pastor's Desk

Well, here it is spring going into the early part of summer. Where does time go? It seems like just yesterday when we started this new journey for our church. All ready a lot of work has been done as we move to our new "Re-Grand Opening on September 13 of this year. On this day we will officially be know as The Gathering Place Church of God.

Our time changes and new ministries will begin on August 2. We will start with a light breakfast from 9:00 am to 9:30 A.M. Then all the adults will meet in the fellowship hall from 9:30 am to 10:15 A.M. At the same time the children will meet downstairs for the Inside Out Club, Preschool to grade 6 and will be divided into age appropriate groups. The youth will meet in the Sanctuary for a time of praise, worship, and study which will be called "Youth Explosion" The adult study will be Bible outlines based of current issues and how we can apply to our lives. This time together will be called Faith Café, and the study will be a time of question and sharing of our thoughts as we learn together. Sunday morning worship will begin at 10:30 A.M. with the whole family coming together to celebrate. We will be having the children playing hand bells, we will have children's moments, and the youth will be sharing drama and skits in the morning services. We will also have children's packets to be used during the worship service to help. The kits

will have coloring handouts, puzzles, and some will have an Etch-a-Sketch. The real purpose is to gather the family back together for worship and to enjoy the Sunday morning time. **The ideal is to truly become a family church again.** Sunday evening would be a variety of different ministries: Small Groups, Home Church, Family Night and Films, Outreach into the community. So how do we really change? We can do all this but unless we are willing to change and remember our real purpose is to reach people nothing much will happen. Did you know our community makes judgments about our church based on the image they see? So it is important we all give a good word about what is happening in our church. We must get the attention of the people around us and let them know we truly do care about them. We can clean the building, paint, change the times, change the ministries, but unless we change, it will not go very far. So I am asking the Lord to change me as your Pastor. What do I need to do to help our church to grow? I would ask you to except the same challenge. Where do you need to change? Your attitudes, negative words, or maybe more commitment? **"Are we willing to die before we come alive?"**

There is still much work to do, what are you doing to help God's Kingdom to move forward?

Enjoy The Journey,

Pastor Clayton

**Sermon and Service Outline  
For June 2009**

**“Live in the Faith Zone, Not the Safe  
Zone”**

**June 7**

AM Service: Candy Niemeyer will be preaching

PM Service: All church soft ball game, fellowship and snacks starting at 5 PM

**June 14 Flag Day**

AM Service: “Emotions: The Good Bad and Ugly!” Pastor Clayton\*  
1 Cor. 13 Col.1:17 Eph. 5:15-17

PM Service: Charlotte McPherson will be speaking

**June 21 Father’s Day**

AM Service: “We are Family: Role of Dad in the Family”  
Pastor Clayton\*  
Prov. 20:6-7 Prov. 24:1-4 Eph. 6:4

PM Service: NO EVEING SERVICE TO SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY

**June 28**

AM Service: “The Names of God”  
Pastor Clayton\*

Exodus 3:15 and Prov. 22:12

PM Service: FAMILY NIGHT: FILM AND FELLOWSHIP STARTING AT 5 PM

**\* These topics are from the list that was developed by the congregation a few weeks ago.**

There is so much to admire about the life of Moses. We can learn some great leadership insights from him. Like how he led two million constantly complaining people. First of all, Moses had to overcome the experiences of his past. He was born into uncertainty, but after his mother put him into God’s hands and he was taken in by Pharaoh’s daughter, he lived a life of comfort. He grew up in the safe zone, the palace of the king of Egypt, and he wanted for nothing. Then when he was forty, he took a risk. He left the safe zone and tried to do something big on his own for his people. He spent the next forty years of exile in the desert. If you really think about it, we do not naturally leave the safe zone. Real growth begins when we leave the safe zone. I believe that as a church we are now leaving the safe zone. We are stepping out of the boat to walk on water. Many people are so afraid of risk that they spend their entire lives in Egypt, the land of not enough. A few are willing to get out of their safe zone. Thank the Lord for a body of believers who are willing to move from the safe zone to the faith zone. We have a lot of work to do in the coming months, and it will take all of us working as a team to get the job done. As we move closer to the Re-Grand Opening of our Church on September 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be some great things happening. Thank the Lord for the vision and direction He has given us; we have been in the wilderness too long. It is time to cross over into the Faith Zone! I know change is not easy, but nothing stays the same so we will all be challenged to move out of our Safe Zone to allow God to work in and through us to reach our community for Him. Each person’s life story is written in risks, the ones taken and the ones avoided. I am so thankful God is helped me as your pastor to move out of the Safe Zone and into the Faith Zone! So as we begin this journey, we paint areas of the church, change rooms, change times, change signs, and change our name.

Remember, the purpose is to reach more people for Christ. It is not about me as your Pastor, and it is not about you. It is all about the Lord and what He wants us to do for Him as we all move from the Safe Zone to the Faith Zone!! The Grand-Reopening will be here sooner than we think. We will celebrate as **The Gathering Place Church of God**. Will you be on the Team? God needs you!

Enjoy The Journey,  
Pastor Clayton

### **Illinois State Youth Convention 2009**

We took 11 youth and 5 adults to convention this year in Springfield, IL. Although the format was a little different this year without the State Quizzing and Fine Arts Programs, I think a good time was had by all. The theme this year was entitled "Compromise or Conviction" and we were all challenged to look at our media habits from what we watch (TV, movies) to what we listen to (radio, music) to what we read (magazines, books). The question to ask was, would Jesus approve of our choices (conviction) or have we compromised and yielded to worldly influences?

We volunteered Sat. afternoon at St. John's Breadline which is a local Springfield charity that started back in the depression at St. John's Hospital when they used to hand out a piece of bread and a cup of broth to those in need. The charity has evolved into a commercialized kitchen that serves two meals a day/365 days a year and runs solely on donations and by volunteers. Our group served food from a serving line, cleaned tables, handed out free bakery products, and did dishes. Most of the clients served were not homeless but rather had financial, mental, alcohol and drug related issues. We were definitely serving "the least of these".

The youth also enjoyed being able to meet other youth by handing out the "religious

sayings" bracelets and they enjoyed having free time at the inflatable's and playing frisbee in the park. They also attended 2 conferences of their choice and most if not all enjoyed the worship band that led us in worship in each service. Adam Peiffer also was able to do some networking and marketing for a So. Illinois Youth Quizzing Program. Thank-you to all who prayed for us while we were gone and a special thank-you to those of you that wrote notes and sent gifts for their Friday night "Agape Bags". As a youth group, we also donated 10% of our fundraising profits to the "I Love Youth Offering" taken at convention in support of Children of Promise in the amount of \$80. God is good!

Your Youth Convention Team,  
Jim and Candy Niemeyer  
Adam and Shannon Peiffer  
Dense Droege

### **Church Work Day June 6<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Clayton and Ken Bowman say that the cleaning of the church has made great strides, but one more work/cleaning day is needed before we can begin repainting. So wear your grubby jeans and show up Saturday morning around 9AM to help.

#### **Adopt a Room**

You can also sign up to "Adopt a Room." This will be your room to paint and decorate and or rearrange. Choose a room, then sign up with Carol Hamilton or Ron Bowman so they will know who is doing what. Paint will be provided for you. You can paint on your schedule, mornings, evenings, or weekends. Have fun and help the church at one time!

One weary church member to another, "By the time I get to the land of milk and honey, I'll be lactose intolerant and allergic to bees.

## Silver Ring Thing Ceremony and Reception

We had 13 youth and friends attend the live SRT event back in March and 7 of those went on to complete the in-depth 4 week study during youth meeting time. Those completing the study were Amanda Floyd, Andria Bowsby, Stefanie Bowsby, Alexis Pickens, Morgan Brown, Destanie Weakley and Cameron Weakley. Sunday evening, May 17th, the Youth Group and the Marriage Class came together for a special service celebrating the completion of our Silver Ring Thing study with a commitment to abstinence by Amanda, Andria, Stefanie, Alexis and Morgan. (Destanie and Cameron were unable to attend)

The service involved sharing with the congregation what the SRT study was about and with the Marriage Class sharing some of the meaning behind many wedding traditions especially those used during this service. The youth came into the sanctuary carrying a white rose and walking on a white runner so the marriage class explained that a white runner symbolizes walking on "Holy Ground" as you are coming to make a covenant with God in a vow of abstinence or marriage. The white rose symbolizes a commitment to a life of purity as does the tradition of a white wedding dress that started with Queen Victoria. The difference between a contract and covenant was explained, the meaning behind wedding rings, the reason a guest book is used, and why a reception is held were also shared. There are actually 18 different customs and traditions associated with a wedding that the Marriage Class has prepared and explained the meaning behind each one with most citing scripture. If you did not get your copy that night and would like one, just ask Pastor or Darla.

A special thank-you to Kathy Bowman who prepared a miniature wedding cake for our reception and who showed the youth the proper way to cut a wedding cake. This will be useful information to have for their future weddings. Thank-you to all those who came and supported this special evening and we ask that you continue to pray for each of the youth that they will rely on God for his strength and grace as they attempt to keep their vow of abstinence in a counter-culture. Pray that these youth will be witness to their peers and that we will see a culture shift that returns to a lifestyle of sexual purity.

## State Summer Camps

Everyone should have received their camp applications in their mailboxes in the month of May. If you did not, please see Candy Niemeyer immediately as camp registration deadlines are approaching. All campers who need church financial assistance **must** have their forms and their checks to Candy by the following dates so that the forms can be mailed with a church check by the camp deadline dates.

- Younger and Older Teen Camps-- June 10th
  - Camp dates: Older Teen--July 9-13th, Younger--July 14-18th
- Middler Camps--June 17th
  - Camp dates: July 6th-9th

If you do not need church scholarships, then you are free to send in your own registration form and checks by the camp posted deadlines. The total cost of camps is \$120. Church scholarship money is available to cover half the cost or \$60. Make your checks payable to either "Teen Camp" or "Middler Camp".

We also are looking for people to help provide transportation to and from the various camps. Please see Candy Niemeyer

if you can help. Most of the campers will need transportation if they are able to go.

Candy Niemeyer  
[fhcogy@wisperhome.com](mailto:fhcogy@wisperhome.com)  
277-2181--hph

"There followeth after me today,  
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm, that has been naught to me,  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building the bridge for  
him."

**Pastor and Darla**  
**Celebrate 40 Years**  
**Of Marriage**

Come help them celebrate

Saturday, June 27, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

The Bridge Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
The sullen stream had no fears for him;  
But he turned, when safe on the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.  
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,  
"You are wasting strength with building  
here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day;  
You never again must pass this way;  
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide-  
Why build you a bridge at the eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he  
said,