

# BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD  
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[www.fhcog.org](http://www.fhcog.org)

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***“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”***  
Psalm 118:24

## **From the Pastor’s Desk**

### **TURNING THE CHURCH INSIDE-OUT!**

Change is not easy, but congregations that only serve themselves are dying. We must be a church who is willing to reach out to our community around us. We all ready have people coming in through Angel Food. We just need to connect more with them and let them know we are here to serve them. Congregations that serve the physical and spiritual needs of their communities are seen as good neighbors. But becoming an outward focused church requires a big effort which for some seems impossible. So it will take all of us working together to turn this church inside-out! Are you willing to give one hour of service each month to your church? So many people here give many hours of work to help this church move forward. You can help because there is something for everyone to do. Can you even imagine what an extra 80-100 hours of volunteer work could do in turning our church inside-out? We need to pray for the social and spiritual needs of our church and community. We must think and act differently. We are now missionaries in an uncomprehending society. We have to present the gospel on their level. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell

Holmes said, “I may be old, but I haven’t stopped growing.” If an elderly man can have that perspective about reading law and philosophy, then we as members of the Church of God should have even more passion! What causes a church to settle into past-directed thinking is not so much present difficulty as it is past successes. A church lifts the burden of past success when it focuses instead on present needs. What do the people in this community and world need? How can we provide it? The majority of churches today are plateau or declining. Most often, the real problem turns out to be a lack of vision. The church has no clearly defined direction. So I want to suggest four things that can contribute to a healthy church.

1. The church has a purpose and vision that is understood and supported by its members.
2. The ministry has a strategy for reaching its community for Christ, employing its God-given strengths.
3. The church members clearly understand how their involvement contributes to the purpose of the church and they are accountable for the accomplishment of their assignments.
4. The church knows how to party. The look for small successes and actively celebrate them.

So I believe it is time to **TURN THE FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH INSIDE-OUT! HOW DO YOU FEEL?**

Enjoy the Journey,  
Pastor Clayton

## **CALLING ALL MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE YOUR I-S-H- DONE YET?**

We are asking every person who calls this church his or her home to commit to at least one hour of service each month. Here is a list of jobs and ministries from which you can choose to help:

And you don't need to just choose one, choose two!

Call Angel Food List  
Take information to homes around the church  
Clean up around the church  
Paint rooms  
Clean carpet and or floors  
Call or visit members  
Send cards  
Bake bread and or cookies for new people  
Visit our first time guests  
Take care of a prayer box in our community  
Babysit for a young family so they can have a night out  
Prepare a morning breakfast  
Work in the church office (mornings or afternoons)  
Prepare communion  
Interview families for newsletter (new and current ones)  
Plant flowers in the flag pole area and take care of them  
Make copies for large projects when needed  
Be a greeter  
Promote Angel Food in our community  
Invite new people into your home for a visit or meal  
(the above would work for current members too!)  
Help keep our signs and information updated  
Organize outreach ideas  
Help with various needs of people  
Wash table cloths after our meals  
Start a children's puppet ministry  
Start a drama ministry  
Prayer walking  
Saturday with kids  
Organize special events for outreach

These are only a few projects and ministries that we need to get done as we work together. If you can help in any way, let Pastor know! You may think of something that is not even on the list. Think about how much more we can accomplish together for God's Kingdom!

### **SERMON AND SERVICE OUTLINE FOR MARCH 2009**

#### **MARCH 1**

A.M. Service: "How It All Began"  
Adam and Eve Gen. 2:7-24  
Pastor Clayton

P.M. Service: Small Groups

#### **MARCH 8 Working Through our Hang Ups! Part 1**

A. M. Service: "Self-Worth"  
Gen. 11:1-9 Luke 19:1-10 1 Cor. 12:12  
Pastor Clayton

P.M. Service: Small Groups

#### **MARCH 15 Working Through our Hang Ups! Part 2**

A.M. Service: "Quitting"  
Jonah 1:1-2 Luke 24:13-35  
2 Tim. 3:10  
Pastor Clayton

P.M. Service: Small Groups

#### **MARCH 22 Working Through our Hang Ups! Part 3**

A.M. Service: "Procrastination"  
Num. 22:21-35 Luke 14:15-24  
Heb. 5:11  
Pastor Clayton

P.M. Service: Small Groups  
Last Session!

**MARCH 29**

A.M. Service: Candy Niemeyer will be preaching

P.M. Service **ALL CHURCH DINNER  
STARTING AT 5 PM TO HELP SPONSOR  
OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:  
"INSIDE OUT CLUB"**



Summons

Keep me from going to sleep too soon, or if I go to sleep too soon, come wake me up. Come any hour of night. Come whistling up the road. Stomp on the porch. Bang on the door. Make me get out of bed and come and let you in and light a light. Tell me the northern lights are on and make me look. Or tell me clouds are doing something to the moon they never did before, and show me. See that I see. Talk to me til I'm half as wide awake as you and start to dress wondering why I ever went to bed at all. Tell me the walking is superb. Not only tell me but persuade me. You know I'm not too hard persuaded.

- Robert Francis



**Silver Ring Thing "Live"  
Youth Event**

The youth group will be attending this event on Wed. March 25th in Greenville, IL. The Silver Ring Thing is the fastest growing abstinence program in the United States; it is rapidly gaining international recognition for its

high-tech presentation style, incorporating music, laser lights, fast-paced video, drama, comedy performances, and a faith-based abstinence message. We are inviting all youth, ages 12-18, and their parents or grandparents to attend this event. Jim and I also want to encourage all adults to attend the parent session so you can be informed about what is going on in our youth culture today and how you can help encourage a young person's decision for abstinence. We are also encouraging our youth to invite one friend to come along as an outreach.

We will be following up this "live" introductory event with a four week study entitled "SRT 434 Waiting". This study has a small group study for the youth and a separate individual study for the parents. While the live event is free, the follow up study materials do cost. The cost for each student is \$20.00 and for the parent study the cost is \$30.00. The student package includes all their study materials and their "silver ring" that they put on at the end of the program as a symbol and reminder of their commitment to God to remain sexually pure until marriage.

Jim and I are asking for your help:

- Please pray for the live event and all the youth and their parents that attend.
- Pray that the friends of our youth will accept the invitation to attend
- We may need people to help carpool that night. We will need to leave here around 5:00pm as doors open at 6:15 and the event starts at 7:00. The event is over at 9pm.
- We are asking for your financial support by making donations to help cover these costs. Donations should be made out to the church and designated for the youth program. I would like to see all the youth expenses covered so that the parents only have to pay for their own materials.

Deadline to register: We need a good headcount of who wants to go by March 11th so that transportation arrangements can be made. There will also be a sign up for the SRT 434 program so that materials can be ordered. Look on the Information Center board for the sign-ups and for more detailed information in your mailboxes.

Thanks for your support of our youth!

Jim and Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leaders

### **Youth Group Fundraisers**

Do you have your Schnuck's Community Card and are you supporting our youth group with your purchases? Please be sure to check your mailboxes for a flier on this fundraiser if you do not have a card. It is easy to help support our youth group as you shop at Schnuck's. You can also get your family and friends to sign up and support our group as well. Since we began this fundraiser 2 years ago, your grocery shopping has brought in over \$556 to the Youth Group fundraising account.

We have regular sodas in the machine downstairs and diet sodas in the kitchen refrigerator, and we thank you for your soda purchases. Your purchases have brought in \$400 in the past 12 months. However, due to the rising costs of soda our profits are shrinking. We may be raising the costs of soda in the near future from 50 cents to 60 cents. Before we do, we would like some feedback from you.

These funds and others have helped to reduce or pay the costs to the State Youth Convention, Peder Eide Concert, Acquire the Fire, and the area wide youth lock-in at the First COG at Marion this past year. We ask for your continued support so that we can continue to make these events affordable for our families.

Jim and Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leaders

### **Jesus Hugs**

Have you ever had a "Jesus hug",  
Do you know what one feels like?  
If you've never had a "Jesus hug",  
I pray one day you might.

A "Jesus hug" is different,  
As far as hugging goes;  
It's a little taste of Heaven,  
Here on earth below.

Only those who love the Lord,  
Can give a "Jesus hug";  
It conveys God's grace and mercy,  
And unconditional love.

Those who give out "Jesus hugs"  
Always seem to somehow know  
Just when you're in need of one  
To make your spirit glow.

And if you ever need one  
I hope that I will see,  
So I can give you a "Jesus hug";  
Just like someone did for me.

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### **2009 Year Calendar**

On the following page is the calendar of events (known at this time) for all of 2009. It is printed on a separate page so you can tear it off and put it someplace you will see it every day such as next to your regular calendar or use a magnet and stick it on your refrigerator. You get the idea. Just keep it in a place so you can see it daily as a reminder of how important it is to participate!

2009 CALENDAR  
FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD

**Board of Deacons**

January 8  
February 5  
March 5  
April 2  
May 7  
June 4  
July 2  
August 6  
September 3  
October 1  
November 5  
December 3

**Board of Trustees**

January 22  
February 19  
March 19  
April 16  
May 21  
June 18  
July 16  
August 20  
September 17  
October 15  
November 19  
December 17

**W.C.G.**

January 27  
February 24  
March 24  
April 28  
May 26  
June 23  
July 28  
August 25  
September 22  
October 27  
November \_\_  
December \_\_

**Last Day to Order**

January 10  
February 14  
March 14  
April 11  
May 16  
June 13  
July 11  
August 15  
September 12  
October 10  
November 7  
December 5

**Angel Food D-Day**

January 24  
February 28  
March 28  
April 25  
May 30  
June 27  
July 25  
August 29  
September 26  
October 24  
November 21  
December 19

**NiCE Gals**

January 13 & 27  
February 10  
March 10  
April 14  
May 12  
June 9  
July 14  
August 11  
September 8  
October 13  
November 10  
December 8

**Marriage Class**

January 5	September 14
February 20 (Soup and Salad)	October 5
March and April (Truth Project)	November 2
May 4	December 7
June, July, & August (Ball Games)	

## **Special Events:**

February 8 Men-4-Him All Church Valentine Dinner 5:00 PM  
March 29 Donation Dinner for Children's Program 5:00 PM  
March 30-31 State Prayer Summit at Camp Warren  
April 9 Maundy Services  
April 11 Easter Egg Hunt  
April 17-19 W.C.G. Convention in Springfield  
April 29 Annual Church Business Meeting  
May 1-3 State Youth Convention in Springfield  
May 12-14 State Senior Adult Retreat at Camp Warren  
May 13 Memorial Hospital Pastor's Luncheon  
May 31 Donation Dinner for Children's Program 5:00 PM  
June 27-July 1 Anderson Camp Meeting  
July 6-9 Middler Camp  
July 9-13 Older Teen Camp  
July 14-18 Younger Teen Camp  
July 19-25 Illinois State Camp Meeting  
August 30 Donation Dinner for Children's Program 5:00 PM  
September 18-19 State W.C.G. Prayer Retreat at Camp Warren  
October 2-3 ALL Church Retreat  
November 29 Hanging of the Greens  
December 6 Christmas Church Dinner 5:00 PM  
December 24 Christmas Eve Service  
December 31 New Years Eve Watch Service