

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD
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From the Pastor's Desk

History of the Church of God Beginnings

On October 1, 1881, a group of about thirty people met together in a church in the little village of Beaver Dam, Indiana. One of the people, a man named Daniel S. Warner, rose to his feet to speak to the group. At that time he was the pastor of a church in Indianapolis and editor of a religious newspaper called *The Gospel Trumpet*. Earlier in his life he had been a soldier in the Civil War. Then in 1865 he became a Christian and soon after he became a minister. He was a pastor in Ohio and Indiana, and he worked as a home missionary in Nebraska in the 1870's when that state was still part of the Wild West. All eyes in the room turned to Warner as he asked for permission to speak. His exact words were not written down, but we know that his speech attacked a problem in the lives of Christians in America. He saw that many Christians had divided into too many different church groups. It was reported that he said "Why we can't live together as brothers and sisters in one great church?" So at the Beaver Dam meeting he stood up to say that he was forever finished with all religious groups that divided Christian people. From then on he would be part of God's church, the Church of God. Early Church of God people were very determined not to be organized like the churches of their day. So they did not have church buildings

and congregations as we do today. Instead they often met outdoors in what were called "Brush arbors" when weather permitted. In the early days ministers would go from town to town to spread the message sometimes travelling by train or wagon. They were called "Flying Messengers." A company of people would travel into a town, sing a few songs and announce that they would be holding a series of meeting. At these serves they would preach the message of the Church of God movement, and they would sing songs written by men and women of the movement who put the message into poetry and music. Then the company would invite people in the audience to take a stand for the Church of God. At the end of the meeting, which might last as long as two weeks or a month, the evangelistic company would leave town and travel on to the next place they felt God wanted them to have a meeting. These were great days in the Church of God because the flying messenger and the *Gospel Trumpet* enabled the young movement to spread the word very fast. Before long little groups were meeting from coast to coast. We have come along way since the early days of our moment. We have learned many things. Our message is still the same, but through the years our methods have changed. I believe in the Church of God; it is good sometimes to look at our past and remember where we came from. The future is bright and these are the best days to preach and teach the message of the Bible. Our saying has always been "We reach our hands in fellowship to every

blood washed one!” That is a good saying, but there is even more to add. As the Church of God at Fairview Heights, we must also reach even more to the lost. We must love them, pray for them and be a good example in our daily lives. To be a present based church means to have a love for Jesus and His church. It is still all about Him! May we always make sure that whatever we do in programs and ministry as a church that Christ goes with us. May we remember our past as we look to the future to the things God has in store for us.

NEVER GIVE UP! NEVER LOOK BACK!
NEVER LOSE FAITH!

Enjoy the Journey!
Pastor Clayton

Sermon and Service Outline November 2008

November 2 5-Star Sunday
and Children’s Hand Bells

AM Service: “Breaking Free!”
Matt. 5:27-30 Pastor Clayton

PM Service: Small Group Study, Youth Meeting,
and Children’s Program

November 9

AM Service: “Caleb’s Apology!”
Matt. 6:12-15 Candy Niemeyer

PM Service : Small Group Study, Youth Meeting,
and Children’s Program

November 16 Unforgettable Sunday

AM Service: “Something you always wanted
to ask!”
Pastor Clayton and Candy Niemeyer

PM Service: Small Group Study, Youth
Meeting and Children’s Program

November 23

AM Service: “Five Important Questions”
Matt. 19 Pastor Clayton

PM Service: Pastor Clayton Speaking

November 30 “First Sunday of Advent”

Theme: Visions of the Father

AM Service: “Recognize the Work of the
Father”

Luke 1:26-28 Pastor Clayton

PM Service: “HANGING OF THE GREENS”

Sunday School News

I hope everyone is enjoying their Sunday School class; we are almost finished with the first quarter already. The classrooms look great with our new theme this year “What kind of Fruit are you bearing?” Have others noticed any changes in your life? When we have the Fruit of the Spirit in our life, there is visible, recognizable evidence – What we say, what we do, how we respond to problems, and the kind of relationships we have with others. The Fruits of the Spirit describe every part of who we are in Christ – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Our Fruit of the Spirit tree is not full yet; if you have not made a fruit and listed a Fruit(s) you need to work on this year, please do so (with your name on it also). If you are not attending a Sunday school class, we have a class for all ages and a great teaching staff. I would encourage you to try one. Sunday School continues to be a great place where learning, sharing, and caring takes place. I hope that you will be able to experience all of the wonderful things that Sunday School has to offer.

Jayn Willeford
S.S. Superintendent

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5: 22.

Jr./Sr Youth

Please be sure to read the article that Andria Bowsby submitted about the Acquire the Fire event in St. Louis. Jim and I took nine youth and two college students with us to this event. We had a good time of fellowship, heard some awesome testimonies from the keynote speakers, and praised God through some great Christian music.

Jim and I are currently leading the youth group in a series of discussions that I have entitled “Christian Etiquette 101.” We have started with a look at what the scriptures say about modesty. The youth then took a mini survey that I put together from a large survey of Christian teenage guys on what their perception of modesty was. That large survey can be found at www.rebelution.com which is a Christian teen blog site. Our youth learned some interesting insights into what Christian teen boys actually think about spaghetti strap tops, plunging necklines, bare backs, exposed midriffs, short and skirt lengths, and exposed bra straps. Many were quite surprised that the majority of the young men (1600 of them took the survey) found this type of fashion to be immodest and a stumbling block to them. We are now discussing what it means when we say that men are visual, and that many of today’s fashions are a stumbling block to their desire for a “pure” thought life.

Future studies under Christian Etiquette 101 will include:

- Does my speech and behavior reflect my Christian values?
- Do I choose my music, movies and TV shows based on my Christian values or the worlds?

We are still looking for more CD’s and DVD for our **Tunes for the Troops** campaign. We do thank you to all of those who have given so far. Please be sure to check with co-workers, neighbors and family. We currently have enough for one box of 100, but we set a goal of three boxes so we really could use your help.

Jim and I will be going to the National Youth Workers Convention in Nashville this year Nov. 20-24th. We would appreciate your prayers not only for traveling safety, but also that God would direct us to the conferences that we should attend, and that God would renew and refresh our spirits.

In His Service,

Jim and Candy Niemeyer, Youth Leaders.

Youth Report on Acquire the Fire

On October 10th and 11th the youth group attended Acquire the Fire for the first time. We were all very excited about this and had a lot of fun.

On Friday night the opening question was “What would the world be like if Jesus was born in 1973?” During this discussion we talked about how many people put Jesus in our “want category” when he should be in our “need category.” The speaker also said that Jesus is not a life-enhancing drug. This basically means that you can’t just decide when you want Jesus. You don’t just call on him whenever something bad happens to you. You need Jesus ALL the time.

On Saturday we split up into a guy session and a girl session. The girl’s speaker was Casey Johnson, and she had an amazingly powerful testimony. The focus of this session was relationships and sex. The world thinks they have it right when it comes to sex in

relationships, but they couldn't be further from the truth. The comparison for this was about a fire. The fire belongs in the fireplace where it is nice and warm, but when you take the fire out of the fireplace, it burns down the house. Basically, sex in marriage is a gift from God, but if you take it out you only get problems.

Saturday afternoon we had a talk about our parents. The speaker for that was Joel Johnson who shared his testimony about when he was growing up, he hated his father. He never could forgive his father and that was always with him. When he finally forgave his father he felt so much better.

Unforgiveness is like holding acid in your hands. It continues to eat at you. When you finally bring yourself to forgive that person, you are set free because forgiveness isn't saying that what that person did was okay, but it enables you to be able to move on with your life.

We also talked about how we need to honor our parents no matter what. Joel said "honoring our parents isn't because they're good parents, but it's something God calls us to do and because it's the best thing to do"

Saturday night we talked about carrying our crosses. Every person on earth has a "veil" covering his or her heart which prevents him/her from coming closer to God. That veil can be anything from coffee to drugs to a person or possession. To get closer to God, a person has to tear that veil apart. To do this you have to pick up your cross every day no matter how difficult it is to do. Carrying our cross is a sign of discipleship that you can only do with Jesus' help. This is very essential because it's like your saying "God, I want your will to be done, not mine." And until you do this, you can never live the life God wants you to live.

We also had four different bands there. "Jeremy Camp," "Everyday Sunday," and "Never the Less" played a little bit but our

main worship band was "Unhindered." All four bands had their good and bad points, but I think a lot of the kids liked hearing the upbeat music.

Submitted by: Andria Bowsby

W.C.G. News

We sure have had a busy October. We were disappointed by the turnout for the Walk-A-Thon this year, but those that participated had a successful walk and pushed through despite sickness and a baby waiting to be born! We have had several bake sales in the past months that have helped with our finances. Concerning the 1st Photo Contest we still don't know if you understand the process? Please vote for your favorite picture! We pray those cans will be "full" the last Sunday of your coins and bills. The winner will be announced on Sunday, November 2nd. The monthly meeting date for November has been changed to the 18th instead of the 25th because of Thanksgiving week. Please take note. And looking ahead into December, we are plan our "party" for Friday, December 5th for the New Beginnings with a baby shower. Please plan now to attend.

Darla Clayton

Hugging: The Perfect Cure

For Whatever Ails You

No movable parts

No batteries to wear out

No periodic check-ups

Low energy consumption

High energy yield
Inflation proof
No monthly payments
No insurance requirements
Theft proof
Non-taxable
Non-polluting
And of course, fully returnable.

Hugging is healthy.

It relieves tension
Combats depression
Reduces stress
Improved blood circulation
It's invigorating
It's rejuvenating
It elevates self-esteem
It generates good will.
It has no unpleasant side effects.
It is nothing less than a miracle drug.
So **HUG** someone every day!
Submitted by Viola White

Sermon Notes

We can read these sermon notes from Pastor Clayton to remember and review a particular sermon we liked or a sermon we

missed, or we can read them as we listen to his sermon on our website www.fhcog.org

September 28 "Pass the Salt"

Gen. 19:26 "But his wife looked back behind him and she became a pillar of salt."

Born to be Wild!

Difficulty of discussing Sin

1. The desire to enjoy things.
2. The desire to obtain things.
3. The desire to do things.

We have all missed the mark!
Sin is a deliberate act!
The ultimate penalty for sin is death!

The Good News!

Believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him into your life.
Born to be wild! Now you are born to be free!

October 5 "He said....She said!"

Ephesians 5:31-33

How can you better fulfill your God give role in marriage?

Three points to the Message today:

1. Purpose: Why? God's Plan: a lifetime commitment Gen 1:27
2. Problems: Many? Communications, misunderstandings, differences, men vs women, leave and cleave Gen 1:27
3. Perspective: Trust and sensitivity, respect for one another, emotional understanding, quick to listen and slow to speak, pray together, come to church.

Life Questions:

Do I spend regular, quality, uninterrupted time alone with my spouse at least once a week?

Do I spend regular, quality time deepening my intimate walk with God?

Do my friends at work and in the neighborhood know I'm a Christian?

Does my checkbook reflect my love for God and devotion to my family?

Do I really understand my God given role in marriage?

October 12 "The Train is Coming!

After viewing a scene from the movie Fireproof, Pastor asked us to think about the following: rescue, teamwork, endurance and evangelism.

Question: Will you rescue people from spiritual danger?

Read Col 1:13-14

You can't be saved without faith.

Jude verses 20-23

Keep your eyes on your final destination.

Realize that worries should not be a part of your life.

Picture yourself as dead to this world and alive in Christ.

Remember that Jesus is coming back!

October 19 Salt and Pepper

Matthew 19:1-6

Five Common Myths about Marriage:

1. The All for Me Myth
2. The Marriage is Easier Myth
3. The No Effort Myth
4. The Happiness Myth
6. The Lost Love Myth

Proverbs 24:3-4

Creating a Great Marriage - The Top 10 List

1. Adopt new ways of communicating with each other
2. Block the actions that destroy trust and intimacy
- 3 Think straight about your marriage and live
4. Forgive each other and move beyond hurts
5. Reject the games couples play and build on honest relationships
6. Leave your childhood home and come together as adults
7. Mourn your past hurts and heal present ones
8. Understand each others needs and how to meet them
9. Identify and put into action the key elements of a marriage
10. Maintain intimacy through thick and thin for a lifetime.

A Covenant is a Spiritual Agreement; A Contract is a man made Agreement. Which do you think will last longer?

Marriage still takes three!

Love, trust and respect are major keys

' HAPPY FALL TO YOU'

From one pumpkin to another!!!!!!

A woman was asked by a coworker, 'What is it like to be a Christian?'

The coworker replied, 'It is like being a pumpkin.' God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff.

He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.'

I liked this enough to send it to all the pumpkins in my patch.

Submitted by Verda Gauldin