



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU... God, Family, Worship

Terry L. Clayton, Senior Pastor
Volume XII No. 9 September 2009

The Fork In The Road

Hebrews 11:24-26

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents because they saw he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the king’s command. By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt for he looked to the reward.” Moses is at the fork of the road. When he comes to this place, he refuses the one and sets himself steadfastly to travel the other. By so doing he shows himself a man of decision.

We sometimes think of the Christian life on its negative side rather than on its positive side. We think of what we are to quit being and doing rather than what we are to become and what we are to do. This is the month, the time, the place; we are at a fork in the road as we make these changes from **Fairview Heights Church of God** to **The Gathering Place Church of God**. God is asking each of us to choose the right road. One leads to the same old, same old. The other leads to something new and fresh! Which road will you take?

So Moses with his eyes wide open makes the choice. He does not dream for a moment that when he identifies himself with his people in slavery that he is going to have an easy time. Change in a church always comes with problems, but we have to believe in the greater reward of obeying God’s direction. Moses received the reward of a Christ like character. Had Moses remained in Egypt he would have missed many a conflict and struggle. He would also have missed a face lighted with the light that shines as a reflection of Jesus. Through this decision Moses was able to bring a great service to his own nation and to the world. So the best day’s work that Moses ever did was when he decided to take the right road.

I believe the best days at yet to come for **The Gathering Place Church of God**. My question is “Will you follow the road with me?” As we continue to listen to God, He guides us down this path. It will not be easy as we have already experienced. But think about the reward and the people’s lives that will be changed. All because we have taken the right road. So as we begin this new direction, remember: Don’t Give Up! Don’t Lose Faith!

Enjoy The Journey,
Pastor Clayton

Sermons and Service Outline September 2009

September 6

Morning Service: "Lord Give Me More Patience"
10:30 Proverbs 16:23 Pastor Clayton

Children's Hand Bells

Evening Service:
Labor Day Weekend- no service!

**September 13 GRAND RE-OPENING! 10:30
THE GATHERING PLACE CHURCH OF GOD!
Morning Service: Special Guest Speaker:
Eric Livingston, Our State Minister**

Skit by the Youth Group

**CHURCH DINNER AFTER THE MORNING
SERVICE!**

**Evening Service:
No Evening Service this week**

September 20

Morning Service: "The Altar and The Door!"
10:30 Galatians 5:7 Pastor Clayton

Children's Choir

Evening Service:
Softball Game, Food-Fun-Fellowship 5:00

September 27

Morning Service: "Sheep-----No Shepherd?"
10:30
Matt. 9:35-10:8 Pastor Clayton

Time of Communion

Evening Service:
Praise, Prayer and Preaching 6:00

Niemeyer Vacation Announcement

Hi Church--We wanted to let you know that due to circumstances beyond our control, Jim and I will be gone from church three of the four Sundays of September. We ask for your prayers as we will be traveling a great deal. Labor Day Weekend we are going back to Indiana to visit my grandmother who is being placed in assisted living. Jim, Denise, Alex and I are going home to help my aunt clean and paint my grandmothers home as they prepare to sell the home. Due to Candy's boss taking the last two weeks of September as vacation and closing the dental office, we are required to take our vacation at this time as well. We are traveling out to California to visit with family and to take a cruise that leaves and returns on a Sunday...hence why we are gone. While we are looking forward to our time of rest, relaxation, and focusing on ourselves as a couple, we will miss you all and we know we will be excited to hear how God is working in the church.

God Bless,
Jim and Candy Niemeyer

Youth Pizza Fundraiser Update

Thank-you to all who helped with the youth fundraiser. We sold over \$1200 worth of product and made a profit of around \$500. Our youth group wants to particularly thank Kathy Bowman and Kim Hickman who took the fundraiser to their workplace and took orders on our behalf. They alone made up \$130 of our profit. THANK-YOU!

Coming in October---Youth Christmas Card Fundraiser

Thanks to a donation made to our youth group from Darlene Hamilton's brother and sister-in-law who own a Christian book store in Iowa. We will be selling Dayspring boxed Christmas cards. These are from the 2008 Christmas season and they cannot sell in their store this year. We will be selling them for half price after the AM services on Oct 4th and 11th. Please check us out before you buy your cards elsewhere!

August Youth Happenings

It has been a busy month for our youth group. We had a great time just being together and meeting new friends.

Rock the River Tour--Our eleven youth were part of a record breaking attendance for any event ever held at the Arch Grounds. There were over 65,000 people in attendance for this seven hour Christian concert and Gospel message event sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. I want to thank Belinda and David Floyd, Pastor and Darla Clayton and the Frank Bartlett Family for coming out to support us and to help keep everyone safe.

Six Flags Trip--We had a day of fun, sun and water rides and hardly any lines. God blessed us! –

Back to School Party at the Niemeyer's--What a great day---beautiful weather, great friends, and the fish were biting. I lost count of how many fish were caught, but it was definitely more than last year. You will have to ask the Bartlett's, Peiffer's and Weakley's how the fish tasted as they each took fish home. I also lost count of how many we had come this year---I think somewhere around 40!

Drama Practice--"The Stool"--we were asked to present our skit again this month. Look for the "new" version to appear on the website soon. They did a great job developing this skit. Look for a new skit for September--it is an "interpretive dramatization" done to music entitled "Everything"

Youth Explosion--has started on Sunday mornings. Adam and Shannon Peiffer are leading our youth in this 'interactive' time of learning from God's word.

September Youth Calendar

Weds.--Drama/Skit Practice at 7:00pm

Thurs Sept 17-Sept 19--**Feed my Starving Children**--all youth are encouraged to

volunteer for at least one shift. Bring family or friends. Sign up with Karen White. Jim and Candy are going Thurs even 6-8pm if you need a ride.

Sat. Sept 26th--Angel Food Delivery

Youth Meeting Info:

Sun. Sept 6th--No evening service/youth meeting

Sat. Sept 12-- Church clean-up--youth service project

Sun. Sept 13---Grand Re-Opening Service--All church dinner--Youth Mini-golf after the dinner. Invite a friend to church, dinner and golf.

Sun. Sept 20---Family Fun Night--Softball Game--Bring a friend night!

Sun. Sept 27--Youth Meeting--Adam and Shannon will lead

Qualities of the Christian Steward (Part 1)
A Christian Steward is compassionate.--Christian stewards are caretakers and caregivers. They concern themselves with the distribution of gifts and resources so that all might benefit. (Matthew 14:13-21, Matthew 25:31-46, 1 Corinthians 12:12-28, James 2:14-17) *So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless-- James 2:17*

A Christian Steward is content.--Christian stewards acknowledge that their strength comes from God through whom they can do all things regardless of how many or how few material possessions they have. (Philippians 4:11-1, 1 Timothy 6:6-10) *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.-- Philippians 4:13*

A Christian Steward is generous.--Christian stewards give whatever is needed and whenever it is needed. (Proverbs 11:24-29,

Mark 10:17-22, Luke 12:13-21, 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, 1 Timothy 6:6-10)
Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed--Proverbs 11:24-25

A Christian Steward is grateful--Christian stewards value what has been entrusted to their care and protect and preserve everything as if it were their own, yet acknowledging that the earth and all that is in it belong to God. (Psalm 24, Psalm 92:1-4, Luke 16:19-31, Philippians 4:6) *It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,--Psalm 92:1-2*

***Material taken from Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation: Stewardship by Phyllis M Bowers.

WCG

WOMEN AND YOUNG LADIES

WOW! We are changing too. At our monthly meeting of the WCG (Women of the Church of God) this past Tuesday, August 25th, several things were decided. First, we are willing to change the meeting day and time to make it more convenient for "all" ladies to attend the

meetings. We will be having our meetings on **Saturday mornings at 11:00 A.M.** This way we can have either a "brunch or lunch" every month. All of the ladies attending the August meeting were very excited about the changes. We have the rest of the year planned:

September 5th - a "Luncheon at Rachel's Garden"

October 5th - a special activity and theme that you don't want to miss. It could be life changing for you!

November 3rd - More exciting events will be planned for this meeting also.

December 6th - Christmas Party

I have saved the most exciting news for last. We have a new president. She is none other than Tammy Weakley! Tammy was asked and just stepped up to the challenge. We are praying that more women in our church do the same. Come and join WCG for fellowship, meaningful programs and now, good food!

Darla Clayton