

INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

Dec. 9, 2008

ELDER OF STEWARDSHIP

Now is the time to consider a year-end donation to the church. To get credit for this tax year, donations must be received at the church on or before December 31, 2008. But the idea of receiving a tax credit is certainly not the primary reason to give at this time. In 1 Cor. 9:7 we read "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." Here we learn that giving comes from the heart. The heart of people who have received and understand the "incredible gift (1 Cor. 9:15)" God has given to us. As we move into this time of global economic downturn, we must always remember that it is only God "who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food (1 Cor. 9:10)." Only He can "further supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness... (1 Cor. 9:10)." We do appreciate the gifts we receive because we understand the great sacrifices that must be made in order to support the local Church. We thank you for the gifts you have given and thank you in advance for the gifts you will give before year-end. As part of our desire to determine our future goals, the Stewardship Board recently surveyed the members of the church and those who call First Evangelical Free Church their church home. The survey consisted of nine questions dealing with matters regarding staffing, salaries, and financial planning. We learned from the congregation that giving to the church is a top priority (98% of those surveyed responded with agree or strongly agree). That means that our people want to support the church. In addition, 92% of our people think we should teach more regarding the tithe or proportional giving. The survey also revealed that many of our people give 10% of their income, but it is distributed to the church as well other ministry opportunities. Finally, the survey showed that 84% of our people support increasing pastoral salaries while most (61%) do not favor reducing our missions giving to cover rising costs within the church. The results of the survey are summarized in the table below. The percentages given represent the responses that agreed strongly with the statement.

Giving to the local church is a top priority for me when I consider how I will spend the money God has provided for me.	98%
We should teach and encourage the use of the Biblical tithe (10%).	92%
Understanding that the salaries for our Ministerial Staff were not raised last year, this year we must provide at least a cost of living raise for the Ministerial Staff.	84%
Assuming budget items within the ministries of our church are trimmed back as far as possible, we must look at our contributions to Missions as the only discretionary item we can reduce.	39%
We should consider cutting non-critical components from our Missions budget such as Short-term missions, discretionary funds, and support of some organizations.	65%
We should organize and implement a Debt Reduction Campaign as soon as possible to reduce the monthly budget requirements of the church.	74%
The Stewardship Board and the Pastoral Staff should work together to implement and conduct quarterly Stewardship Sundays for reporting the current financial situation and for teaching and encouraging the discipline of giving.	92%
I am willing to increase my giving to the church by 10%.	73%
I would like the church to run an annual pledge drive to determine the amount of money to budget.	46%

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of our church. My prayer continues to be that God will work mightily through us and that we will be a church that fulfills the charge given in Rom. 12:9: "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer, distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality." Jon Hanson

SINGLES

All singles 35 and older are invited to a Christmas social on December 19th at 6:30 p.m. at FEFC to meet other singles and learn more about a new singles ministry starting up on January 9, 2009. Come and have a great time with plenty of food and fellowship as we celebrate the Christmas season together.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parents and guardians of Sunday School children (K-6th), this month our virtue is generosity – making someone's day by giving something away. We have four needy children from the Bismarck area that we will be buying Christmas gifts for. There are tags on the "Generosity Tree" located in the Community Room that your child may take or we will also be taking a separate offering (put offering in envelope and write "Generosity" on it) at Sunday School. If you have any questions please contact Linnet Walter.

MILITARY RECOGNITION

Our FEFC Family is well represented in the various branches of the U.S. Military and, especially during this holiday season, we want to remember the sacrifice and service of those who wear the uniform. This Christmas, personalized FEFC bookmarks that are designed to encourage our service men and women and remind them that we are praying for them, are available at the Information Center, or by calling the office. Please stop by if you would like one or more of these bookmarks to send to your special military person.

FAITH & FAMILY DAY

Come join us for "Faith and Family Day" this Sunday, December 14 at the Bismarck Civic Center starting at 4:00 p.m. "Faith and Family Day" is a faith-based community event designed to appeal to all ages and will consist of four different events. In addition to a carnival featuring games and inflatables from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and the Dakota Wizards playing Tulsa at 6:00 p.m., there will be a Preachers 'n Sneakers basketball game along with a presentation by motivational speaker Bob Uppgren. The cost of all this is only **\$1.00 per ticket**. Pick up your ticket(s) and additional information about the event at the Welcome Center this Sunday. **Come and be a part of the FUN!!**

ALL CHURCH CAROLING

Due to the cold weather that is forecasted for Sunday, December 14 and the Faith & Family Day, we are moving the All Church Caroling to Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2008
at 5:30 p.m.

412 Ministries

PRIMETIME

Sunday morning for Jr. High & Sr. High 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

R.A.G.E. Jr. High (7th & 8th grades)

THE EXAMPLE Sr. High (9th & 12th grades)

C Life Merged with Campus Crusade

Tuesdays for college students (18 - 20 something) at 8:00 p.m.
at BSC in the Student Union.



PRAYER CHAIN INFO

Please call the Phone Prayer Chain Captains and e-mail
your requests to Laurie Grosz at the e-mail address
below to activate your prayer requests.

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN INFO

prayer@firstefree.com

PHONE PRAYER CHAIN CAPTAINS INFO

DAYTIME : Catherine Grosz

EVENING : Doris Ann Van Beek



COOK'S NIGHT OFF

Wednesday from 5:00-6:00 p.m.! Sign up at the Information
Desk on Sunday or call Sandie at 223-3330.

\$2.00 per person with a \$10.00 per family maximum!

Dec. 10 - Beef Stroganoff, bread, vegetables, fruit and
dessert

Dec. 17 - Sloppy Joes, chips, fruit and dessert

WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETING INFO

- THU - Dec. 11 Young Adults; 6:30 pm
Women's Ministry Team Meeting; 7:00 pm
- FRI - Dec. 12 Joy Club @ Mc Donald's (by K-Mart); 9:30 am
- SAT - Dec. 13 Men's Ministry Event; 9:00 am
412 Ministries Open Gym; 1:00 pm
JOY Club/Senior Adult Dinner; 5:00 pm
Young Adult Dinner; 5:30 pm
- SUN - Dec. 14 Worship Service; 9:00 am
Adult Community/Sunday School; 9:00 am
Fellowship; 10:15 am
Worship Service; 10:45 am
Children's Church; 10:45 am
Goldade Benefit; 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wizards Faith & Family Day; 4:00 pm
- MON - Dec. 15 Men's Study; 6:30 am
Adult Student Ministry Team Mtg; 6:30 pm
Missions & Outreach Board; 7:00 pm
Stewardship Board; 7:00 pm
- TUE - Dec. 16 Women's Bible Study; 6:30 pm
Griefshare; 6:45 pm
C-Life College Ministry @ BSC; 8:00 pm
- WED - Dec. 17 Cook's Night Off; 5:00 pm
King's Kids Choir; 5:30 pm
All Church Prayer; 6:30 pm
Awana; 6:30 pm
412 R.A.G.E. & The Example; 6:30 pm
Men's Bible Study; 6:30 pm
Worship Team Rehearsal; 7:45 pm

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