

# INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

October 27, 2009

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF ADULT MINISTRIES INFO

### The Time is Now

I don't know about you, but the days seem to be flying by so quickly that it is hard to believe we are at the end of October and November just around the corner. I have been thinking about a Native American friend of mine who I met a number of months ago. She goes by the name "Bernie." She walked to our church one day and was looking for someone to talk to. She was really struggling with some personal issues and mostly with a person who she trusted as an adviser who stepped over the line with her and she was devastated. Bernie is a believer, but often is ridiculed by family members and friends for the stand that she takes with the Lord. I met Bernie that day and what a blessing it has become. We talked back and forth for quite a while, but I mostly listened to her as she poured out her broken spirit. Over the months, she has called on a number of occasions to ask for a ride somewhere in town here, or maybe she needed a little bit of money to pay for a bus fare for her to go back home. But, sometimes she just calls me to let me know that she has had a rough couple of weeks and just wanted to talk with me and for me to say a prayer for her. She has many health problems and has no money or possessions that she can call her own. As she tells me over and over again, "she just keeps praying and trusting the Lord to meet her needs." She has so little, but she has this joy in her spirit that is the Lord's presence in her life that keeps her moving and living each new day.

Recently she called me to ask me if I wanted to buy a picture that a friend of hers had drawn. Her friend is a great artist who draws Native American pictures that depict their ancestry. She was hoping to buy some cleaning supplies for the house that she was living in that needed a lot of fixing and cleaning up. The house is outside of Mobridge, SD, and was given by a family member for her to stay in, but it needed a lot of work. She comes to Bismarck from time to time to visit her brother, who is in the hospital here and is very sick himself. I told her I wouldn't buy the picture, but I would take her and buy the things that she needed. So, I picked her up at the hospital and we went to pick up the things she needed. When we were finished, Bernie had several bags of things and I wasn't sure how she was going to get those things on the bus for her trip back to Mobridge. I dropped her off again at the hospital and she said she would be fine and that she would get everything repacked for the trip home. It was good to see Bernie again! It felt so good to help and she really needed it. But, it didn't take long before the enemy began putting selfish thoughts in my head and I started thinking about the money I spent and the all the time it took to be with Bernie. Why couldn't I just be thankful at the opportunity that God gave me to help, instead of questioning and rethinking the things that I gave up that maybe could have been used for something else? The time was ruined by my own rationalizing and thinking that what I had was really mine, but it really belongs to the Lord. I get into these thought patterns that mine is

mine and that life revolves around meeting my needs but, the reality is, life is not about me. It is about helping and serving others. That was Christ's entire message! He lived for others and thought only of you and me—never of Himself. Romans 5:10 says, "For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

I have been touched by the Operation Christmas Child videos we have watched in our Sunday morning services of kids from all over the world receiving their Christmas boxes and the incredible joy they have that somebody would give them a gift. I write this to encourage us to do all we can to help others this holiday season. I believe God wants us to look at the needs of others and to do what we can to make a difference in their lives. We live in such a hurting world with so many needy people. I know of a young couple in our church that is going to feed the hungry this Thanksgiving. Others may be doing work projects for people who need help this way. Maybe God is calling you to do something special for someone today or sometime soon. Maybe, it's getting involved in Operation Christmas Child for the first time this year and experiencing the joy of giving gifts to kids that live halfway around the world. Let's all reach out and make a difference in the lives of others this time of the year. God is still working on my heart to show me that it is not about me, but about others, as it is written in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Hope you have a great day! God Bless, Pastor Kevin Lardy

## FAMILY FUN FAIR

The Family Fun Fair is Saturday, October 31 from 5 - 7 p.m. That means we need candy - lots of it! A bucket will be located in the foyer. If you would like to help out at this event, job descriptions and a sign up sheet will be located at the Information Center. If you have any questions please contact Linnet or Nanette at 223-3330.

## HOLIDAY HAND-~~ME~~ DOWNS UPS!!!

Need to "recycle" holiday décor? Bring your holiday (4th of July, thanksgiving, Valentine, etc.) items including "like-new" toys to FEFC Community Room **PRICED AND READY FOR SALE** Friday, November 13 from 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. **SALE DAY** is Saturday, November 14 from 8:00 - 3:00 p.m. All proceeds will go to Operation Christmas Child boxes. If you plan to donate items, volunteer to help, or if you have any questions, contact Lynn Schindler.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

"Fall" back on Sunday, November 1. Set your clocks back and sleep an extra hour!

## PRAISE GATHERING MEAL

Help is needed for the Harvest meal which will be after our Praise Gathering service on November 22. Volunteers are needed to help roast turkeys, set-up and clean-up. Please call Sharon Cur-tiss if you can help in any way.

## 412 Ministries

**PRIMETIME:** Sunday for Jr. High & Sr. High @ 9:00 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT : 6:15 – 8:30 P.M.**

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

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



**Apple Grapple Event**

**At FFFC on October 31,**

**7:00 to 10:30 pm**

Special activities include apple carving contest, and "Open Mic" event. Treats & refreshments will be available, and parents are encouraged to donate snacks, bars, and refreshments. Don't forget to wear your Family Friendly costumes.

### 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.

#### E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN INFO

prayer@firstefree.com

#### PHONE PRAYER CHAIN CAPTAINS INFO

**DAYTIME :** Catherine Grosz

**EVENING :** Doris Ann Van Beek

### EMAIL INFO CENTRAL

The church office is looking for ways to help save costs. If you have an email account, we would sure love to put you on our email list for the newsletter. If you do not have an email account, we would love to keep mailing you the newsletter. To start receiving Info Central via email, please email Wendy Backman at wendy@firstefree.com.

If you no longer wish to receive Info Central, please contact the church office at 223-3330 or email Wendy Backman at wendy@firstefree.com.

### WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETING INFO

THU - Oct 29	1st Place for Health - 6:00 pm Men's Study Escape The Coming Night - 6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study - 7:00 pm
FRI - Oct 30	Joy Club @ McDonald's (by K-Mart) - 9:30 am
SAT - Oct 31	Family Fun Fair - 5:00 pm 412 Ministries Apple Grapple - 7:00 pm
SUN - Nov 1	Worship Service - 9:00 am Sunday School/Primetime/Adult Comm. - 9:00 am Fellowship - 10:15 am Worship Service - 10:45 am Sunday School - 10:45 am
MON - Nov 2	Men's Living Stone Study - 6:30 am Fellowship & Caring Board - 7:00 pm Worship Board - 7:00 pm
TUE - Nov 3	Women's Bible Study - 9:00 am Women's Bible Study - 6:30 pm Men's Study Group - 7:00 pm
WED - Nov 4	MOPS - 9:00 a.m. Cooks Night Off - 5:00 pm FFFEAST - 6:15 pm 412 R.A.G.E. - 6:15 pm 412 The Example - 6:15 pm Worship Team Rehearsal - 7:45 pm

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