

# INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

Jan. 5, 2010

## SENIOR PASTOR INFO

I got caught up this morning reading the book of Lamentations! I can hear you saying, "he's weird" under your breath. Let me explain. I memorized Lamentations 3:22-23 many years ago and very often in the early morning hours, I say these verses back to the Lord – as an act of worship and adoration of the Lord. It usually goes something like this: "Oh YHWH, Your mercies are wonderful and your compassions never stop. Your faithfulness is great and all of these wonders are new to my life every morning." But, this morning I decided to actually look at the verses and, as is my practice, whenever I read the Scriptures, I began looking about in the context. It was then that I got "caught up" in reading the book of Lamentations. You know, of course, that the book of Lamentations was written by the "weeping prophet." His name was Jeremiah. He cried for much of his long, prophetic ministry. He was sobbing when he wrote the book of Lamentations. He was sitting on the rubble piles of the city of Jerusalem when he wrote the book. Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian armies had just utterly destroyed the Temple of Solomon there and completely burned and leveled the city of Jerusalem as well. It must have been the lowest time in Jeremiah's life. So he cried and he wrote – through his tears. But in the midst of his tears, Jeremiah found hope. When everything is gone; when the times are the most bleak and our life seems and feels as if desolation is all that is left, THERE IS HOPE! Hope is founded and grounded in one place: YAHWEH! Jeremiah testified, "The Lord is my portion" and "...I hope in Him" and "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him" and many other encouragements – even in the midst of utter disaster and desolation. I visit regularly with people who are "sitting in the rubble of their lives." Oftentimes, we create a lot of our own disaster and desolation, but it is still very painful and a loathsome time. Yet, if we turn our minds and our hearts to the ONE who loves us and loves to show MERCY and whose LOVINGKINDNESS and COMPASSION are limitless, we will find solace, hope, direction and courage to face the troubled times. And if we go to His Word, we will find counsel and wisdom to guide us in the way we should live. There are many Americans who are fearful and forlorn about the state of our nation; economically, morally, spiritually, culturally, and politically. There are many who are "fighting mad" and others who are "paralyzed with fear" but, dear friends, we are not literally sitting on piles of ashes of what used to be our homes that have been pillaged and burned by foreign armies that have come in (by God's Hand) to kill us and to carry our children off into captivity. The proper response to our situation as it was to Jeremiah's (even though they are vastly different) is to turn to YHWH for help and solace. It is also very important to encourage others to do the same. That is what I am doing right now with you and we need to do with others as well. Will you encourage someone to turn to the Lord today? Will you seek to help someone come to a better understanding of the GOODNESS and the GRACE of our God and Savior today? Will you be the person in someone's life today, who helps point him/her to the only source of real HOPE that there is in this entire universe: Our Lord and our God!

This Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's Table again. We have some unique and unusual things planned to help make this a very personal, very meaningful time for each of us to "remember Jesus" more fully. I sincerely and strongly encourage you to "not forsake the assembling

of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25) and I certainly exhort each of us to refuse the tendency to develop the "habit of some" who do not value the time of gathering together to worship the Lord, to study His Word together, and to fellowship with other Christians. May our Lord bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you, and give you peace!

Maranatha, Pastor Terry Kern <><

## Congregational Meeting January 17 at noon

### NEW MEMBERS

Below are the candidates seeking FEFC membership. All applicants have attended a membership class to become acquainted with the Statement of Faith, the Philosophy of Ministry, and the organizational functions of the church. The applicants have all shared their personal testimony of faith in Jesus Christ.

FEFC bylaws require the names of the applicants to be sent to all Active and Junior Members of the congregation. If any member has a valid reason for objecting to the receiving of any applicant into the church, they shall immediately appear before the Council of Overseers and give Scriptural reasons for their objections.

All satisfactory candidates will be recommended by the Council of Overseers at the Congregational Meeting of the Church for approval and admission. They shall be elected to membership by a 2/3 vote.  
*John & Ruth Bole, Pat & Jenne Brown, Susan Griffin, and Jessica Bitz.*

### WHITE CROSS NOTICE

Do you enjoy sewing or scrapbooking? If so, we have a White Cross Project you can help with. We will be meeting on Saturday, January 16 from 10:00 to 2:00 in the Community Room. Come when you can and leave when you need to. Bring a portable sewing machine if you are a seamstress and a sack lunch if you will be staying over the noon hour. Questions: Call LoEtta Sellner .

### MIXED ADULT COMMUNITY

A new series, which will be lead by Rod Backman, starts January 10. The series is called "The Treasure Principle" by Randy Alcorn. Just a sound bite in the back cover of the book reads, "In Randy Alcorn's 'The Treasure Principle,' you'll learn a radical teaching of Jesus—a secret wrapped up in giving. Once you discover this secret, life will never look the same. And you won't want it to!"

### FFFEAST GOODIES

If you have any leftover holiday cookies or bars you can't be tempted with any longer, we have a suggestion for you. The FFFEAST is looking for cookies/bars. Please drop them off in the kitchen labeled FFFEAST and we will put them to good use.

### FIRST PLACE 4 HEALTH

First Place 4 Health, a biblically based weight loss program with mental, emotional, and spiritual components, will be starting a new group for first-time members. Orientation will be held January 16th at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Call Lori Smith or Beth Thompson or log onto [www.firstplace4health.com](http://www.firstplace4health.com) for more information.

*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)

**SNOW CAMP**

The FEFC Youth Ministry Snow Camp is scheduled for January 15- 17 at Cooperstown Bible Camp. "Together Again in 2010" will include a wide range of events and activities, including a guest speaker and the worship band called "Forgotten Memory". We have decided to "freeze" the cost to \$25.00 per student, which includes transportation, food, and lodging. Don't miss out on this timely opportunity for your student to be encouraged and challenged in their walk with Christ. Registration forms can be picked up at the church office, or by sending an e-mail to randyalexander@btinet.net.



**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



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 - Jan 7      First Place 4 Health - 6:00 pm  
Escape the Coming Night Men's Study - 6:30 pm  
Young Adult Bible Study - 7:00 pm
- FRI - Jan 8      JOY Club @ McDonalds by Kmart - 9:30 am
- SUN - Jan 10    Communion Service - 9:00 am  
Sunday School/Primetime/Adult Community/ The Growing Years - 9:00 am  
Fellowship - 10:15 am  
Communion Service - 10:45 am  
Sunday School - 10:45 am  
CTL Selected Drama Scene Rehearsal - 2:30 pm  
CTL Choir Rehearsal - 3:30 pm
- MON - Jan 11    Men's Living Stone Study - 6:30 am  
Education Board - 6:30 pm  
Stewardship Board - 7:00 pm
- TUE - Jan 12    Women's Bible Study - 9:00 am  
Women's Bible Study - 6:30 pm  
Men's Study Group - 7:00 pm
- WED - Jan 13    MOPS Steering - 9:00 am  
Cooks Nite Off - 5:00 pm  
FFFEAST - 6:15 pm  
Worship Team Rehearsal - 7:45 pm

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