

INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

September 7, 2010

Associate Pastor Info

Hi, everyone! I hope all of you had a great Labor Day weekend. It's hard to believe it is September with the fall right around the corner. With September, comes all the numerous church activities that start up with the fall, as families settle back into the daily routines that come with the school schedules. It is a great time of the year! This year we have started a new event called the "Neighborhood Party" that will take place this Saturday from 4-8pm at our church. This will be an annual event as we try to reach out to our neighborhood by inviting them to come to our party so that we can get to know one another. I would love to see the party become something that our neighbors look forward to each year, where they even begin asking when the next party is going to be with anticipation of coming and seeing new activities and the chance to meet new people.

One of the ways that we can reach out to our neighbors is by letting them know that we care about them. I love John 13:35, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another". Every Sunday we see new people in our church, but hopefully this Sunday and the Sundays that follow we begin seeing some of the faces that we saw at the Neighborhood Party. Wouldn't it be great to see some of our neighbors coming to see who we are on Sunday mornings, just because of the people they met and the fun they had at the party? We just may see more people in our midst, and what a great blessing this would be, which is why I am writing this article today. One of the goals that the staff and leadership has for this church is that we become an even friendlier church and one that recognizes the needs of others, even above our own needs. And, a great place to start is on Sunday mornings. One of the areas that I believe we can really shine in and one that I believe is honoring to God is how we respond to our visitors. Right now we have a few people that do our greater ministry, but I believe we are all called to be greeters. It isn't just for a few, but we can all approach our visitors and say hi to them and engage them in a brief conversation to let them know that we are glad they are here and that we are here to help in any way we can. I do realize that for many of us it is way out of our comfort zone to approach complete strangers and to try to engage them in conversation, but I believe you can do it. And, over time it will become easier, and will also become more and more of a blessing for each of us that make it our ministry on Sunday mornings. I want to encourage all of us this Sunday to begin looking for new people who come into our church, and they aren't hard to find, because they look a little lost and look anxious for what they may or may not find in a new church. Just reflect back to when you first stepped into a new church not knowing anyone and the surroundings being totally different from what you previously knew.

I would love for us to be known as the "friendliest" church in town. What we can all begin doing is working at identifying our new visitors who are coming into our church building on Sunday mornings. As you see new people, walk up to them and introduce yourself to them and let them know you are glad they came this morning.

Try to engage them in a small conversation. And, if you would, please get their name. The best way to do this is to get one of our "Getting To Know You Cards" that you see in the bulletin and ask them for the information and write it out or if they would like, they can fill out the information themselves. New people appreciate that we take the time for them. After you have talked to them, thank them for the time, and see if there is anything you can help them with. I would encourage you to write down their name and phone number for your own use, and during week, give them a short phone call to let them know who you are and that you called to let them know you are thinking about them. They will be amazed that you took the time to call them. The card you filled out can be left at the Welcome Desk where they are collected and further follow up is done. If you are really brave, you can even take them out for lunch to get to know them even more.

Now, I know that many of you are thinking that this is way beyond what you want to be asked to do, and I understand, but this whole idea of everyone being greeters on Sunday mornings, is something that we need to develop more and more as time goes on, and that we need to start somewhere. And I know many of you are already doing these things. I applaud you for your ministry! But I would like to see our whole church culture change to that of thinking more about others than even about ourselves. "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another", Romans 12:10. Take a chance and get started, and do what you can and then trust God for more involvement as you go on, and you will be amazed at the joy and blessing that you will receive from this ministry. Remember, it is a process and it takes time to develop, but give it a chance!

I need to end this, but please consider these words of encouragement to a valuable ministry in our church. You can do it with the Lord's help. This is going to be a busy Sunday coming up with a Ministry Fair on Sunday. Come and check out all the ministries in the church and be thinking about getting involved in a small group for this fall.

God Bless,

Pastor Kevin

CLASS PICTURES

We will be taking Children's Sunday School class pictures again this year. This is a great way for children to pray for classmates and a great keepsake for baby books. Pictures will be taken during the 9:00 am Sunday School Class period on September 26th. If you have questions please contact Linnet at 223-3330.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY

In preparation for the "Neighborhood Party" on Sept. 11, there will be an Evangelism Training seminar on the day of the party from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the church. Anyone with the gift of evangelism or anyone interested in learning more about how to evangelize our neighbors please contact Jon Hanson at 223-8280 or email @ jonhanson2@bis.midco.net

Come Play with Us!



1st Annual

Neighborhood Party

THERE'S NO CATCH!
We want to get to know YOU,
our neighbors!

September 11, 2010 4-8 pm

FREE ADMISSION

First Evangelical Free Church
205 43rd Ave. NE, Bismarck

THE GROWING YEARS

Starting September 12th we'll be going through the 15 week series *Shepherding a Child's Heart* based on the book by Tedd Tripp. Grounded in the Bible's divine plan for parenting, this series defines your goals as a parent and then provides the Scriptural methods for accomplishing them. Please sign up at the Information Center so we can order a workbook for you. We hope to see you on the 12th!

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL INFO

(Preschool thru 6th Grade)

Our fall classes will begin September 12. If you have children that will be attending our Sunday School program, please fill out a registration form and drop it in the offering plate or at the Information Center. Forms need to be filled out by each family even if your children have been attending Sunday School. If you have questions, please call Nanette for preschool or Linnet for elementary at 223-3330.

CHURCH MINISTRY FAIR

Wondering what to do this fall?? Well, come to our Church Ministry Fair on September 12th, and you will be amazed at all the opportunities that are available to you from our various ministries at FEFC. Tables will be set up to show off all the opportunities that you can get involved in this fall. The fair will be held in the foyer area during the entire morning hours. You can only watch so much football and bowling on TV, so why not get involved in something that will change your life forever. See you there!

GLOBAL OUTREACH SUMMIT

Coming Saturday, October 16th here at the church This summit is to help us more effectively reach the lost for Christ locally and around the world, the NPD and EFCA CONNECT is offering the GO Summit, a one-day missions training event. We are bringing together a team of missions practitioners to encourage you, stimulate your thinking, offer ideas, and facilitate networking with others. Watch Info Central and the bulletin for more info.

HANDMADE BY GOD

Cooperstown Bible Camp

Women's Retreat is September 24th-26th
Register at the Information Center this Sunday!

MID-WEEK PROGRAM

(Preschool thru 6th Grade)

Sept. 15 will be an Introductory/Registration evening to our new "Friends" curriculum for Wednesday night club time. We are encouraging all parents and children 3 yrs thru 6th grade to join us in experiencing what children will be doing during that time. The evening will start off with Cooks Night Off at 5:00pm; 6:15- 6:30pm Kids Worship and Praise time; going right into our Introduction of our "Friends" program, finishing at 7:00pm. This evening is open to anyone who would like to join us! If you have any questions, please contact Nanette or Linnet @ 223-3330.

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Starting Tuesday mornings, Sept. 14th from 9 to 11 and Tuesday evening, Sept. 21 from 6:30 to 8:30. We will be studying *A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place* by Beth Moore. Sign up at the Information Center or call Elaine, or Debbie, during the evening.

