



# Info Central

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

August 9, 2011

As I write this, the USA is a nation in a state of frustration & unrest. The stock market is reacting wildly to the downgrade in the nation's credit rating and there are many who are in near panic. The world markets are reacting as well as the economic shock waves reverberate around the globe. As Christians, we have another incredible opportunity to share and to show the love of Jesus Christ to people who do not have Him as the anchor of their soul. While we are concerned about the economic state of our nation, we know the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and it is in Him that we put our trust. David said it this way: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." (Psalm 20:7) I'd encourage us all to check out Psalm 33:16ff, Proverbs 21:31 and I Timothy 6:6ff as well. And let's continue to pray for one another. Many in our area and our church family are still suffering from the loss of their homes and the difficulties related to the flooding. This has been a very long struggle and it is not over yet for many of us. Let us seek to be of help to one another and to encourage one another.

While all this has been transpiring in the forefront of life here in Bismarck, there has been a lot of thinking and praying and discussing going on behind the scenes here in our church as well. The Pastoral and Ministry Staff and the Elders of FEFC have been meeting throughout the summer thinking and praying about several key issues of FEFC life and ministry. These key issues are: 1. The need for a strong emphasis on small groups ministry; 2. The need for a stronger emphasis on evangelism and outreach; and 3. A growing need to provide options in our worship services with style of worship being a top priority. So, we are envisioning a new, strong emphasis on the small groups ministry of our church life this fall. We know that Sunday mornings are an important entry point into our church life but the real core of our church is getting people connected to the Word of God in a very real and personal way and getting people connected to other Christians in a real and personal way as well. Small groups are the vehicle for that to happen. In addition, we are developing ways of strengthening our training, emphasis and encouragement in evangelism and outreach ministries. Actually, as I write this, Jon Hanson and I are in Dallas, Texas taking training and attending a conference on evangelism and outreach at EvanTell Ministries headquarters. Finally, we are in discussions and planning in terms of some significant (and I think exciting) new approaches to our music and worship ministries. We have all loved the encouragement of a full worship center during the summer with just one service and we are planning to continue to have one worship service in the fall – until we need to add another service to accommodate the numbers (the sooner the better). We are also planning on making some changes to our music style with the view to being able to have two different styles of worship service so that everyone will have "choices/options" in style of worship service. BUT, in order for that to happen effectively, there are some physical plant changes that we consider quite significant. First on the list is the community room and classroom wing of the church facility needs to be "sprinkled" (not baptized; just have a sprinkling system installed in case of fire!!). This is something the Stewardship and Elder Boards have been pushing for some time now, but there is no money budgeted for this upgrade so that is why we have planned a congregational meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup> to address this matter. Also, with our new Children's Ministries Pastor we have new ideas.

The Children's and Youth Ministries would like to do some remodeling in the downstairs classroom area to provide a large multipurpose room that could be used by Children's Ministries on Sunday morning and Youth Ministries on Wednesday nights. This would free up the Community Room on Sunday mornings for an additional worship service of a completely different 'style' and 'atmosphere' from the worship center (the music and worship portion of the service would be done with a live group of worship leaders and musicians separate from those in the worship center) but would still have the same message/sermon broadcast live from the worship center. There are a number of details to work out for that to happen but all of us on staff are quite excited about the possibility of adding a completely different style of service to accommodate differing tastes in worship style.

We are still in the process of planning 'how and when' to make these moves and many people are involved in the discussions. We certainly invite you to get involved in the discussions too. We have a couple of ideas of schedules to accommodate these plans but nothing is set in stone as of yet. We know that any changes affect people differently and there are many things to consider so that people are not impacted any more than necessary. The desire is that whatever we do, it be something that serves MORE people MORE effectively and, thus, broadens our ability to serve our Lord more effectively with more people hearing about the Savior and growing in their relationship with Him and one another. Please pray with us about all of this and ask our Lord for wisdom in these exciting times at FEFC. See you Sunday, D. V. (Deo Volente – Lord willing!)

## **BETH MOORE SIMULCAST**

Ladies, mark your calendars for September 10, 2011, Beth Moore simulcast with worship by Travis Cottrell at First Evangelical Free Church, 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. (doors open at 8:00 a.m.). General admission, non-refundable tickets are \$20.00 (includes lunch). Buy tickets at FEFC, Rainbow Shop, Charity Lutheran or online at [www.firstefree.com](http://www.firstefree.com) (online tickets will be \$21.00 to include processing fee).

## **WOMEN FASHIONED BY GOD**

Women's retreat, September 23-25, 2011 at Cooperstown Bible Camp with speaker Cheryl Fawcett and worship by Rachel Nies. For more details or to register, visit our website at [www.cooperstownbiblecamp.com](http://www.cooperstownbiblecamp.com). You need to register by September 9.

## **MEN'S SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT**

The 2nd annual men's sporting clays shoot will take place on August 28th at 4pm at Capital City Sporting Clays. The cost is \$21 plus you will need to bring 3 boxes of shotgun shells. This is a great event to invite friends for some fun and fellowship. Please email Troy Shirley, [troy.shirley@uscm.org](mailto:troy.shirley@uscm.org) or Josh Wiens, [jwiens@eidebailly.com](mailto:jwiens@eidebailly.com) to register.

## **THE GROWING YEARS**

Starting September 11 at 9 a.m.: **Jesus Among Other Gods** by Ravi Zacharias. In a world with so many religions, why Jesus? In this four-week series, Ravi shows how the blueprint for life and death itself is found in a true understanding of Jesus. With a simple, yet penetrating style, Ravi uses rich illustrations to celebrate the power of Jesus Christ to transform lives. **Jesus Among Other Gods** contrasts the truth of Jesus with founders of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, strengthening believers and compelling them to share their faith with our postmodern world.

## WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETING INFO

- WED - Aug 10** MOPS Steering, 9:00 a.m.  
Women's Event @ Buckstop Junction, 6:00 p.m.  
Worship Team Rehearsal, 7:45 p.m.
- THURS-Aug 11** First Place for Health, 6:00 p.m.
- FRI - Aug 12** JOY Club @ McDonalds by Kmart, 9:30 a.m.  
Chinese Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.
- SUN - Aug 14** Adult Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- MON - Aug 15** Living Stone's Men's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
Stewardship Board, 7:00 p.m.  
Missions & Outreach Board, 7:00 p.m.

## *FUSION STUDENT MINISTRIES*

**JR. HIGH** (7th & 8th grades)  
**SR. HIGH** (9th-12th grades)  
Sunday for Jr. High & Sr. High @ 9:00 a.m.  
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT:** 6:30- 8:30 p.m.

### **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

### **PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE.**

The prayer chain is being updated. If you are not on one of the prayer chain lists now and would like to be added, please e-mail your address to Doris Ann Vanbeek [dvanbeek@bis.midco.net](mailto:dvanbeek@bis.midco.net) . Or call the church office at 223-3330 with your phone number or e-mail address.

### **THANKS**

**Dear FEFC family,** I wanted to thank you for the flowers, visits, food, and words of encouragement.

Jerda Blumhagen

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