



Info Central

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

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SENIOR PASTOR INFO

It's been shaping up as quite a year already. I've officiated four funerals and one wedding in this first eight weeks of 2011. That's pretty intense. And there are already three weddings on our calendar for which we are now in preparations over the next three months. I'm hoping there won't be any more funerals. But beyond those things, our church is obviously in a pretty significant time of change. We are heavily engaged in some significant discussions. We've held Children's Ministries Pastor Open Forums and Capital Campaign Open Forums as well. I am very encouraged by the level of interest, participation and involvement we have had in these discussions. Younger and newer families to our church are engaged in these discussions as well as those of us who have been a part of FEFC for quite some time. We are talking together and we are building unity amongst our diversity of ideas and perspectives. This is so exciting to me. I am encouraged and excited by these things because I know God will honor FEFC if we have a unity of purpose that is founded and grounded in the Scriptures.

I received a very warm and well-written letter from a Dear Brother who has not been able to be part of these discussions about the Children's Ministries Pastor because his work has him out of town. He shared with me that he affirms the importance of ministry to children in the midst of our culture's target and assault on them. However, he believes the focus should be on fathers and raising up godly men to lead their families and teach and train their children. I'm very much in agreement that we need to build a stronger and much more effective men's ministry whereby we invest in young men and raise up godly men who will lead spiritually in their homes. I am made aware of that need almost every day in my life as a Pastor. I counsel with people who are in troubled marriages. I deal with men and women who have children to raise but who, for various and sundry reasons, are not living out the admonitions of the Scriptures. I realize how desperately we need to work with young families to help them build spiritual maturity and stability into their lives. And the people I deal with are generally Christians who are struggling but who, at the least, have a connection with our church. So, I know the level of need in the general population of our community is far greater since we know that approximately 80% of our community is completely unchurched.

So, my take-away from this whole discussion is that we need to build many areas of ministry – Children's, Men's, Families, etc., etc. We need to strengthen our Freedom in Christ Ministries as people of all ages are struggling with unresolved spiritual and emotional conflicts at increasing levels in our decadent society. That is why I am so strongly advocating for this Capital Campaign. We need to INVEST IN THE HARVEST! We need to eliminate the debt so we can free up funds to invest in more ministry. We have a great facility but we are struggling with enough

ministry dollars to do ministry at the level we want to do it. I truly don't have any idea how much longer our Heavenly Father is going to give us for ministry but I do know the time is short. Whatever we can do to evangelize and disciple more people – adults, teens, tweens and children – we need to do it and we need to do it with a renewed intensity and zeal. I can become extremely passionate about this mission that the Savior has laid out there for us to carry out.

I know we can do it more effectively as we pray, equip, edify and encourage one another to get involved in the great work our Lord has given us to do. May God help us to come together around this Mission with a united vision of what the Holy Spirit will empower us to do together so much more effectively in the days ahead. Maranatha, PTK

UNITED HEART OF WORSHIP

You are invited to an evening of prayer and worship that will be led by local worship pastors and ministry leaders. We will be gathering in various churches the last Friday of the next five months. We will be at FEFC February 25. Please be praying for this ministry as we unite the Body of Christ for one purpose - to bring glory to our amazing God! And have a lot of fun doing it!

I'd love to see you there!Barb Fredrickson

NEW WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday mornings 9-11:30 a.m. beginning March 1

Gripped by the Greatness of God is a Bible study that uses passages from Isaiah and seeks to reveal God's matchless attributes. Awed by His greatness, participants will be led naturally to a renewed heart of worship. This study was written by James MacDonald, pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel and author of **Lord Change My Attitude**.

*Please sign up at the Information Center or call Elaine
Childcare provided.*

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We are living in a fast-paced world. The single-income family has almost disappeared and single-parent homes are growing at an alarming rate. In a tough economy, most of our adult lives can be consumed by working the long hours needed just to survive. As parents find less time to study God's word or attend regular church services and children are left home alone more frequently, it becomes more and more challenging for each of us to Know, Grow, and Show the love of Christ in our lives. This is precisely why children's and youth ministries are so crucial to sharing the gospel and reaching our community for Christ. How many salvation stories have you heard that began through reaching just one child? A successful Capital Campaign would enable us to reach more children and youth through expanded ministries. Get involved today and make a commitment to reap some of the bountiful harvest surrounding us.

GOING BEYOND: A LIFE INTERRUPTED SIMULCAST, FEATURING PRISCILLA SHIRER

You don't want to miss this extraordinary Bible study, prayer, and worship event! It is for women of every age, culture, and background. Mark your calendars now. The simulcast will be held at FEFC on Friday evening, April 1 and Saturday morning, April 2. –www.lifeway.com/events

