



Info Central

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

March 8, 2011

Imagine with me for a moment... what would it be like if our church became so active in the community that we began to see the kinds of results that were seen during the time of the book of Acts right in our midst within Bismarck, North Dakota. Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matt 9:37-38). Are you ready to begin *Investing in the Harvest*?

Jesus announced His intention to "build My church" in Matthew 16:18 and the church was fully realized when the Holy Spirit was given on the Day of Pentecost (Act 4:1-4). The whole concept of "the church" is unique to Christianity. No entity outside of Christianity has the Son of God as its head (Eph 4:15). Unity exists within the church only when the body relies on His power (Eph 3:7) to accomplish His will. Paul pleaded for the saints in Philippi that they would be of one accord working together with one mind (Phil 2:1-2). As a result of this type of unity, each part of the church doing "its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love (Eph 4:16)." Only with this kind of unity can the church be portrayed as His body (Col 1:18), His bride (Eph 5:23-29); and His building (1 Cor 3:9-17). God has called the church into existence according to His purpose (Rom 8:28), i.e. His eternal purpose (Eph 3:8-12) which is in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:12-14). To fulfill His purpose, we who specifically call First Evangelical Free Church our church home must be careful to do what God has called us to do within our community.

The purpose of the church is most importantly to glorify God (Rom 15:6-9; 1 Cor 6:20). The Bible presents us with four major responsibilities. First, evangelism promotes growth by defending the gospel and by offering the gospel to the unsaved (Matt 28:19). Second, edification is the process of training our congregation to be productive disciples thereby building up the church (Matt 28:20). Edification involves teaching, prayer, fellowship, and the conducting of the ordinances (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 11:23-26). Third, worship is praise and rejoicing as our natural response to God's salvation and His provision of our daily needs. Fourth, caring for and serving others becomes our natural response as we demonstrate God's love (Matt 20:28; 22:39). This is outlined in the KNOW-GROW-SHOW mission outline for our church. Yet, we cannot accomplish any of these duties unless we become of church of prayer.

Prayer was a fundamental component of the early church. They were wholeheartedly committed to prayer as a part of their regular and their spiritual lives. This action brought unity to the saints so they could (and did) pray "in one accord" as they regularly gathered together (Acts 1:14; 4:24). There was a natural progression in the early church. First, they were united in prayer. This unity of heart resulted in phenomenal evangelism that saw thousands coming to the Lord. This led to the enhancement of their ministries in discipleship, worship, and service.

We hope to nurture this very environment through our *Investing in the Harvest* Capital Campaign. Through this campaign we want to 1) encourage unity within our church, 2) pray for God's leading in our ministries, 3) enhance our teaching and discipleship ministries within the church, and 4) reach out in a loving and caring ministry to the community around us. By eliminating our current debt, your generous donations will be used to provide expanded ministry within our church and throughout our community, state, nation, and world.

The desire for our congregation is that we would grow to become more Christ-like as we commit ourselves to *Investing in the Harvest*. The possibilities are endless as we embrace the challenges and opportunities before us. But we need to pray. Pray that we become united in mission as a church. Pray that we become serious about our service to the plan God has for us. Pray for our staff and leaders—that they will be unified in spirit and mission. Pray that we as a congregation take on the challenges of ministry in the way God intended. Specifically, pray about how God can use you in building up His Church. Pray that God will show you how you should be *Investing in the Harvest*.

Jon Hanson, Capital Campaign Chairman

**TIME TO SWITCH YOUR CLOCKS
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS MARCH 13—MOVE
CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR**

COOPERSTOWN BIBLE CAMP

Welcome to another summer of camping at Cooperstown Bible Camp! We are excited and thankful for the privilege of sharing the Gospel Message of Jesus as we strive to develop relationships between campers and Christ. This summer we are challenging campers to become "ALIVE" in Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5). Register by April 1st @ www.cooperstownbiblecamp.com or pick up brochure at info central desk

DISCOVER FEFC

This is our introductory class to First Evangelical Free Church. It includes getting to meet others who are new to FEFC, finding out what the ministries are and reviewing our church's basic beliefs. This class also offers preparation for membership, if that is desired. Contact Pastor Kevin at the church office at 223-3330 or email @kevin@firstefree.com for more information. The next Membership/Discover classes will be March 20th and 27th at 9:00am and 12:00pm.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In the book of 1 Corinthians, chapter 12 we read of the various spiritual gifts Christians are blessed with. All are equally important in God's plan. Each of us was created in a very specific way with specific gifts and talents in order to fulfill our individual calling. And just as it wouldn't prove highly effective to use your toaster to dry your laundry; we are most effective in ministries that fit our God-given design.

That's why it's so important for us to discover our own spiritual gifts and talents. They help us define what our purpose or ministry may be. The good news is that we don't have to figure all this out on our own. We can take our questions to God. Do you have a specific role to play in the Capital Campaign? Just as gifts differ from one person to the next, so do resources. Do you know what God is calling you to do with the blessings you've received? Please seek God's will for your participation in the Capital Campaign

ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 3 AT 12:00PM

MOPS MARCH MADNESS

The FEFC MOPS group is hosting a fun event for parents of preschoolers on March 11th from 6:30-9:00pm. If you have children kindergarten or younger, this event is for you! You may bring an appetizer or dessert to share! No dinner, just appetizers/desserts!

