



Info Central

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

September 7, 2011

SENIOR PASTOR

Preaching last Sunday's sermon on Psalm 46, like any sermon on any passage, I spend a great deal of time studying, thinking about and applying the passage - to my own life first. In my application of v. 10 ("Be still, and know that I am God..."), I realized that, in my personal life, I have learned so much about PRAYER and have spent far more time praying in the last year or so in my personal life than ever before (because of my learning about and practicing Sabbath Rests every week). But God's Spirit also showed me that I have not translated that focus on prayer to my leadership in the church. And we really need to have a renewed focus and commitment to prayer in our church for several reasons. First, we are living in the last of the Last Days (I don't think many of us would question that statement). Demonic activity increases exponentially as the Day of the Lord draws near. In the primary Bible passage on spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10ff), the Apostle Paul says this: "...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints..." (Eph. 6:18). Secondly, the church that holds to the Word of God and seeks to be effective in reaching out to others with the Gospel will face incredible challenges. That's FEFC right now! That's why Paul goes on to ask prayer for himself in Eph. 6:19 that he would boldly preach the Gospel. But there are plenty more challenges to pray. In I Thess. 5, God's word gives us that incredible admonition to "pray unceasingly" in v. 17 (pray in every situation and never give up on prayer). But, just a few verses later (v. 25) the Apostle Paul again says, "Brethren, pray for us." In Colossians, Paul tells us to be "devoted to prayer" ("continue earnestly in prayer" NKJV) (Col. 4:2) and in I Timothy Paul says: "Therefore, I exhort FIRST OF ALL that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men..." (I Tim. 2:1). Then, of course, we must mention Phil 4:6 which says: "Be anxious for nothing but in EVERYTHING by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God..." And that is just a small number of the biblical admonitions to pray. Thirdly, we are clearly facing some challenges that come from change in our FEFC life. We need to build unity and oneness as we seek to become better at both evangelism and discipleship. All of the changes we are seeking to make are not change for the sake of change. They are all efforts motivated by a desire to be more effective at doing what our Lord has called us to do. But how to continue a good ministry while sharpening our focus toward being a more outwardly focused and effective church is not easy and it can't be done without lots of prayer for unity and oneness. So, I am asking YOU to join me in committing to prayer for the Church: all staff and leaders, for our congregation and for greater effectiveness in our church life and ministry. We need to pray for love and unity. We need to pray for boldness in sharing the Gospel. We need to pray for finances in these difficult economic times. We need to pray for our Life Groups and for a far greater percentage of our FEFC family to be involved in them. We need to pray for our children's and youth ministries. We need to pray for our men's and women's ministries. We need to pray for outreach ministries like MOPS and CTL and our LIFE Groups outreaches. We need to pray for people in our church to have a growing desire to be trained and equipped to share the Gospel with their co-workers and friends.

As part of the practical and personal application of my message this Sunday, I will be offering an opportunity for you to join me in committing to intensified prayer through the month of October. I am excited to see who will join me and what God is going to do during this focused time of prayer and seeking the Lord's direction. I do look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

PARENTS OF TWO-YEAR-OLDS:

Please contact Nanette to register you children for Sunday school and toddler's church. You may reach her at 223-3330, or by email Nanette@firstefree.com

HELP NEEDED NOW!!!!

If interested in helping in kids ministries, please call Nanette or Pastor Shiloh @ 223-3330. Needs: Sunday School teachers for 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade and Wednesday preschool teachers.

FALL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

David: Seeking a Heart Like His by Beth Moore

God will never give up on you. Explore how David's life proves this promise to be true in this updated edition of the best-selling *A Heart Like His: Seeking the Heart of God Through a Study of David*. In this examination of the "man after God's own heart," David will delight and disappoint you. You'll want to be just like him at times and nothing like him at others. If you've ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, family problems, or personal inconsistencies, this study is for you! The Tuesday morning study starts on September 13, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Childcare is provided). Call Elaine or sign up at the Welcome Center. The Tuesday evening study starts on September 20, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call Debbie or sign up at the Welcome Center.

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP STUDY-TWELVE STEPS- A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

This study group is for individuals who grew up in less-than-nurturing or chaotic homes. The study will use the Twelve Steps in a Christian context. *The Twelve Steps-A Spiritual Journey* is a working guide based on Bible truths and emphasizes self-understanding and the unchanging love of God for all humanity. The study will be on Monday's @ 7:00pm starting Sept 19th. The study will be held at Patty Tangen's home, Bismarck, ND. Contact Patty with questions-

CARING MINISTRIES FALL TRAINING SERIES-"CRISIS CARE-HOPE FOR THE HURTING"

This is a DVD Series with some of the healing Christian counselors today. The study will start September 11th at 9:00am. See bulletin insert

FALL LIFEGROUPS - DOING LIFE TOGETHER!

We have a new name for our small groups! We are calling them "Life Groups" because, in our groups, we want people to build relationships with others and, through these relationships, we help one another in living out our lives as disciples of Christ in a culture that seems to offer more and more uncertainties. Come to the registration table this Sunday and check out the groups. The fall quarter will go from September 18 through the week of December 6. Give it a try! I think you are going to like it! God Bless, Pastor Kevin

WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETING INFO

- WED-Sept 7** MOPS, 9:00 a.m.
Life Group Training, 6:00 p.m.
Leadership Training-preschool, 6:00 p.m.
Leadership Training-Elementary Sunday School, 6:30p.m.
Leadership Training-Discover Zone, 7:00 p.m.
Fusion Ministry, (Season Opener), 6:30 p.m.
Worship Team Rehearsal, 7:45 p.m.
- THURS-Sept 8** First Place for Health, 6:00 p.m.
Group Link, 7:00 p.m.
- FRI-Sept 9** JOY Club @ McDonalds by Kmart, 9:30 a.m.
Chinese Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.
- SAT-Sept 10** Beth Moore Simulcast, 8:00 a.m.
- SUN-Sept 11** Growing Years/Primetime/Adult Sun School 9:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship, 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:15 a.m.
Open Forums, 11:30 a.m.
- MON-Sept 12** Living Stone's Men's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Stewardship Board, 7:00 p.m.
- TUES-Sept 13** Morning Women's Bible Study, 9:00 a.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

Doris Ann Van Beek

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.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

If you are interested in becoming a member of FEFC, please attend both classes provided. Classes will be September 18 and 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in room 301/302. Pizza will be provided!

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