



INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

April 1, 2008



SENIOR PASTOR INFORMATION

Its April 1 as I write this but you won't read it until another day – so I suppose I can't do any silly little April Fool's Day jokes, huh? That's probably very good because there were some

really elaborate things going through my head (in terms of April Fool's jokes) about our Annual Meeting last night and I am certain if I had done any of them here in this article, someone would have misread the joke, and I would have been in trouble. But, as you all probably know, I love to tease and have fun and it would have been fun to play out some jokes here. But, alas, "maturity" has gotten the best of me I guess. Hey, that's actually encouraging. Maybe I am really starting to "grow up." Nah!!! That'll never happen!

All silliness aside, we did have our Annual Meeting last evening (Monday night). While it wasn't a short meeting and was a wonderful time together, it was really quite uneventful in terms of discussion. We did pass the Nominating Committee slate of nominees without change. We did pass the budget as presented by the Stewardship Board and Council of Overseers without even so much as one question (I think that is accurate). Our Treasurer, Denny Sotebeer gave a really good "sermon" about the importance of all of us prayerfully and seriously considering our giving (financially) to the needs of the Church. Because of the decreased amount of giving to the church in this past fiscal year, this year's budget reflects that all salaries of all staff were frozen - which in the context of today's cost of living growth, actually amounts to a rather significant cut. All ministries in the church cut significant dollars from their budgets. All staff development funds were taken away (which is to me a very serious mistake – as I believe that will hurt the overall ministry in very real ways). Denny also shared some statistics about giving to the church. He said that there is certainly plenty of money represented by the people who call this church their church home. He said that if everyone were giving 10% to the church or if those who are giving would increase their giving to the church by 1% we would have more than enough funds to care for the needs of church.

We did have the distinct honor of welcoming the largest group of new members I can recall joining the church at any one time in my whole 20 years here as Pastor. That is really encouraging!! The Missions and Outreach Board presented a "Covenant" for the congregation to read and consider for a vote of affirmation at the next meeting (you will want to read this covenant – just get a copy from the church office or check it out on the church website – www.firstefree.com). We also had an update on the progress in the development of Northern Plains Biblical Seminary. It is moving ahead (much too slowly for my part but it will need to be in God's time). Please pray for me to get back to my dissertation and that the Lord will help me to find the time to focus on it to finish it. I really ought to have the PhD degree in order for us to move ahead with the development of the Seminary.

This Sunday, we will start a study of the Book of Philippians together. I am so enthused about this as it is a book about "REJOICING IN THE LORD!" This week, we will look in the book of Acts about the ministry of the Apostle Paul and how

the Lord led him to start the church in Philippi. God worked in wonderful ways then and He is still doing so now. This will be a marvelous, encouraging and spiritually motivating study together. Begin preparing yourself to be "joyful." I do look forward to seeing you, worshipping our blessed Lord and studying His Holy Word together on Sunday, D.V.

Maranatha

Pastor Terry Kern <><

BAPTISM CLASSES

If you are interested in being Baptized on Sunday May 4, 2008 or would like to learn more about baptism, you can attend the classes for adults and youth on **Sunday, April 6, at 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** and **Thursday April 10, at 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** Classes for children is being offered on **Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m.**

BROTHERS IN BATTLE - SCRIPTURE VERSE

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. "

Isaiah 40:28-29

KING'S KIDS CHOIR

The choir is for kids in the 2nd to 6th Grade. We will be rehearsing on Wednesday April 2, 2008, from 5:45 p.m. to 6:25 p.m. If you need more information contact Barb Fredrickson.

WHITE CROSS

White Cross is in need of sheets to be used for making bandages for Tandala Hospital. May be left at Information desk. Questions: call Elaine Walker,

CRAFTMANIA

Craftmania is scheduled for Friday, April 11, 6:00 - 11:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 12, 9:00 - 4:00 p.m. "Turning Rags into Rugs" will be presented Saturday From 10:00 - 12:00 p.m. by Greta Wolff. This will be opened to anyone who would like to use their basic crocheting skills to create beautiful rugs. Each rug is made with 20 yards of fabric torn into strips and a size Q crochet hook. Not into crocheting? Feel free to bring any other craft projects you enjoy for this time of fellowship and fun! You may also bring a snack to share. Lunch is on your own Saturday.

CHILD DEDICATION

Child dedication service is Sunday, April 20, 2008. To dedicate your child, email Barb at barb@firstefree.com or call her at 223-3330, by April 13, 2008.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Starting April 20, Randy Alexander will teach a series on Financial Management using the curriculum developed by Crown Financial Ministries. Sessions include practical discussion on debt, counsel, honesty, giving, work, saving, investing, and children. Pre-registration with the church office is requested so workbooks can be ordered.

412 Ministries

EFCA National Youth Conference

Reminder to 9-12th grade students & parents: Challenge 08 is the EFCA National Youth Conference. We will be traveling as a District and joining 7,000 youth in Salt Lake City, Utah June 28-July 4th. Challenge is a growth level conference that you won't want to miss! If you have questions please contact DawnMeier

C Life College Ministry

Tuesdays for college students (18 - 20 something) at 7:00 p.m. at the church in the youth room downstairs.

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Dear FEFC Family - Your food contributions to the Backpack Program have been very appreciated. We ask that you please pray about it and, if God puts it on your heart to continue, please keep bringing more.

Of the 300 "homeless" children only about 170 (depending on donations) are currently receiving backpacks. That means that about 130 children are still going hungry from Friday after their school lunch until Monday morning when they have breakfast at school. Thank you for your consideration.

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.

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN INFO:

prayer@firststefree.com

PHONE PRAYER CHAIN CAPTAINS INFO

DAYTIME : Catherine Grosz

EVENING : Doris Ann Van Beek

WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETING INFO

- THU - April 3 CTL Leadership Meeting; 7:00 p.m.
Young Adult Bible Study; 7:00 p.m.
- FRI - April 4 Joy Club @ Mc Donald's (K-Mart); 9:30 a.m.
Passover Meal; 6:30 p.m.
- SUN - April 6 Worship Service; 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School; 9:00 a.m.
412 Primetime; 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship; 10:15 a.m.
Power of Prayer; 10:20 a.m.
Worship Service; 10:45 a.m.
Children's Church; 9:45 a.m.
Baptism Class; 2:30 p.m.
- MON - April 7 Men's Bible Study; 6:30 a.m.
Worship Board; 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship & Caring Board; 7:00 p.m.
- TUE - April 8 Women's Bible Study; 9:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study; 6:30 p.m.
C-Life College Ministries; 7:00 p.m.
Men's Top Gun Study; 7:00 p.m.
- WED - April 9 MOPS; 9:00 a.m.
King's Kids Choir; 5:45 p.m.
All Church Prayer; 6:30 p.m.
Awana; 6:30 p.m.
412 R.A.G.E.; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
412 The Example; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Children's Baptism Class; 6:30 p.m.
Men's Bible Study; 6:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study; 6:30 p.m.
Worship Team Rehearsal; 7:45 p.m.

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