



Info Central

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

March 1, 2011

Hi, everyone! I hope this finds you doing well. I just want to take a little bit of your time to share something about a vital part of the life of the ministry we have in this church that doesn't get much press and is hardly ever thought about. It is one of the most important things we can do in the life of this church to demonstrate how valuable each of you are as individuals to this church and how seriously the leadership takes the command of Christ to make disciples. First of all, I want to share a passage of scripture with you from Isaiah 40:11, which reads, "He will feed His flock like a shepherd, He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young." This is a picture of God's amazing love that is shown to his people as He shepherds them with His tender care. It brings all sorts of images to mind as I picture His incredible love for us, as He guarantees His presence and strength for whatever life may bring us, whether we are on green pastures or walking through the shadow of death. In the New Testament we see Jesus being described as the great shepherd as we read in John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." And, He did give His life for us, and He is the example of how we are to care for one another. I believe this model of shepherding is something that the leadership of this church takes very seriously. Each one of us is a part of the flock of people who make up First Evangelical Free Church. We are each of incredible value to the life of this church, to one another in encouraging each other, in bringing others to Christ and then to the process of making disciples of the people who are here.

The integral part of our ministry here that I have been alluding to is our Excellerate data base. Sounds kind of funny doesn't it! You say all that just to talk about a data base!?!? Our data base is important, because it is the key to our shepherding process. Because you are so valuable to the Lord and to the church, we need to know who each of you are, and to be able to help you in whatever way we can so you feel like you are valued and vital to the ministry of this church and in your relationship with Jesus Christ. The Excellerate program has taken a number of different twists since we first purchased it, but it is finally becoming what we had envisioned for it, and the time to really get the most use out of it is just around the corner, but we will be needing your help. The main goal for Excellerate is to help our church shepherd its people by helping the leaders to better shepherd the people under their care in the various areas of ministry, as in people's worship on Sunday mornings, and in classes that people take, and then in the area of small groups where we hope to see more and more people getting involved with others in helping make disciples of one another. In the next couple of weeks, we will continue to talk about this and then starting March 20, we will be taking few weeks to ask everyone to fill out a questionnaire about who you are and your contact information with some questions about what you enjoy doing and if you know what your spiritual gifts are; we would

like to know what your gifts may be. The information that is collected goes into Excellerate and, with this information we want to be in better contact with you, so that nobody "falls through the cracks." It's all about shepherding! Everyone wants to feel important and to be a part of something that is making a difference in someone else's life and in their own life. We will talk more later, but I just wanted to give you a glimpse into what I think will change the heartbeat of our church as we strive to be more like Christ!

Thanks for your time. Some of us from the staff will be gone this Tuesday through next Monday, as we will be attending North Coast Church in San Diego, California to observe and learn all we can from another Evangelical Free Church. We are hoping to bring back with us some valuable knowledge of how to be more effective as a church and in some of our ministries in order to serve you better! We would appreciate all your prayers while we are gone. Please be praying for God's will during this time and for guidance and direction as we pursue what is best for this church. Daryl Thompson will be speaking this Sunday, and we know that God will use him in a powerful way through the sharing of His Word to bless all of you. God Bless you! Pastor Kevin

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

MOPS MARCH MADNESS

The FEFC MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group is hosting a fun event for parents of preschoolers on March 11, 6:30-9:00 p.m. If you have children in kindergarten or younger, this event is for you! Even if you don't currently attend MOPS, please come and have an enjoyable time meeting other couples who are in this same stage of life. Get a babysitter and join us for a night of games and hear a message by our own Pastor Jeremy. Please RSVP by March 9 to MelanieWentz@wentzjm@bis.midco.net

MEN'S RECREATIONAL EVENT

Saturday March 12, there will be an open gym from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Community Room at FEFC. So guys, come on out and enjoy some volleyball and fellowship along with a little exercise! The gym is open to any guys, high school freshman and older, member or nonmember. Come and go as you please. Pizza and pop will be provided. Let your friends know!

For more info contact Roger-426-9165 or Brent-701-793-4490

THANKS

Dear First Free family,

Thank you for the beautiful rose bowl, delivered straight to our door (12 miles in the country)! We were touched and humbled by this act of kindness and concern. Thanks for your prayers and thoughts!

Sincerely, Wayne and Karen Martineson

