

# The BRIDGE

## OCTOBER 2011

**Covenant Radio Station KICY to visit FECC:** A very special Wednesday night is



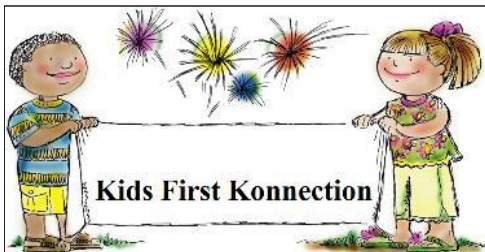
coming up on October 5th—Dennis Weidler (general mgr. at radio station KICY in Nome, Alaska) will be here for a FREE salmon dinner. This is a fundraising opportunity for KICY, plus will give us the opportunity to learn more about their radio station and its ministry.

The delicious salmon dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by a fun program that includes trivia questions and prizes. Dennis will share the story of KICY and what God is doing through their ministry. The dinner is free, however a freewill offering will be accepted.

Don't care for salmon? That's OK—there will be other food options available (i.e. PBJs and casseroles).

Please note that all Wed. Night activities have been cancelled that night, **EXCEPT for the following:** Confirmation and adult music rehearsals (Handbells, Worship Band and Choir) - these WILL still meet as usual.

Bring your appetites and hope to see you there! And feel free to bring along friends and neighbors as well.



At Kids First we ask the parents to complete a Parent Survey once a year. This survey allows parents a chance to tell us what they love about Kids First and also what can be improved. The questions range from "Do you feel your child is safe while at Kids First?" to "How would you rate the outdoor play areas?"

One important question on the survey asks "Do you feel your child is learning about and experiencing God's love for him/her?" Here is what some of the parents said:

"Can't say enough positive about this!"

"Our son shows this every day when he wants to read his Bible at home!"

"Yes! Most definitely!"

"In church last week he picked up a Bible and said "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!" and we hadn't taught him that!"

"You are committed to providing a loving and safe environment for our kids and to top that, you teach them about our wonderful and loving Savior!"

I know there are times when it can be difficult to share a space. I feel so thankful that our church is willing to welcome 80 children into our church Monday-Friday so they can learn about Jesus! Thank you, church family!



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

You know the holiday season is getting close when you start hearing about Operation Christmas Child! As you all know, Operation Christmas Child is a project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, a non-profit international Christian relief and evangelism organization (visit their website at [www.samaritanaspurse.org](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org) for more information).

Next month, we will begin filling shoeboxes with the following: school supplies, hygiene items, toys, clothing, and anything else that can delight a child who owns very little. Each box will also contain a gospel booklet entitled "The Greatest Gift," in the child's native tongue. These shoebox gifts are sent all over the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way, meeting both physical and spiritual needs. \$7.00 covers the cost of shipping one shoebox.

Last year our church filled 144 boxes. This year we have been challenged to "up" that by 6%.....so our goal now is 153 boxes!

Here's how you can help NOW:

**1. Pray for the kids who will receive these boxes.** Since boxes are distributed through the local churches, many kids and their families are reached who otherwise would not come to church. Pray that the kids and their families would come to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through this ministry.

**2. Bring items for the shoeboxes and place in the plastic tub in the parlor.** Besides the basics (school supplies, soap, socks, underwear, T-shirts, etc), ask yourself, "What would make a kid's eyes light up?" Maybe duck tape, string, safe tools, jewelry, pretty cloth bags or pouches, flashlights (with extra batteries), sunglasses, hard candy, gum....the list goes on. Last year someone deflated a soccer ball and included a small pump and needles in the box. Think 'outside the box.' Watch for clearance and sales to stretch your dollars. The Samaritan's Purse website cautions about the following: **DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

**3. Wrap and fill a shoebox** (or use a plastic shoebox) with school supplies, clothing, hygiene items, toys, etc., a personal note and \$7.00 shipping cost, if possible. Bring it back to church and leave by marked tub in the parlor. (Be sure to label it: Boy or Girl, and ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Labels from Samaritan's Purse have been ordered. See website for more details on labeling. Also, wrapping the box is optional, but it's more fun for the kids.

**4. Bring unwrapped, empty shoeboxes** or empty plastic shoeboxes for the Sunday School kids to fill.

**5. Donate gifts of money** to help with the shipping of the boxes. 153 boxes at \$7.00/box will add up! Make checks to First Covenant, with Operation Christmas Child in the memo, or make them out to Samaritan's Purse (put OCC in the memo line) and place in offering, or mail to church, so we can send it with the boxes.

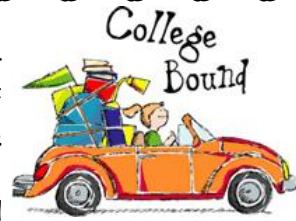
If you have any questions, please contact Cheri Staswick at 402-477-8201.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!!**



**ATTENTION: FUTURE COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Are you planning to attend North Park University? The Covenant Women Ministries of FECC have established an account for the purpose of encouraging and offering support to our youth attending North Park. A one-time \$500.00 Kay Ostrom grant will be given to a first-time entrant.



At the present time, North Park University has a program entitled *Partners in Education*. They will match the \$500 given by our church. The total dollar amount will be divided between the first two academic terms. Youth interested in applying for this grant may request an application from the church office. The application deadline is March 31, 2012. The grant will be awarded in June.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Custer (402-423-4405), Nancy Carlson (402-475-3529) or Nancy Wotruba (402-476-6247).



Ladies of First Covenant: School is back in session, the weather is officially turning yucky, and major chain stores are beginning to put out Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas decorations.

Before we get all caught up in the craziness that comes this time of year, I would like to invite you to take an afternoon to relax and celebrate the upcoming marriage of Abby Stenberg and Kyle Thomas. On October 15th, you are each cordially invited to share in this celebration in the form of a bridal shower beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor.

Questions? Contact Beth Staswick by email or phone (ekstaswick@aol.com; 402-730-8675).

**To all FECC members:** On October 1, 2011 we will reach an important milestone in the payment history of our Building Mortgage that we took out in 1994 for \$1,020,000.00—our building debt will go below \$200,000.00. We have approximately 3 more years of payments to make.

Thanks to everyone for your generous stewardship!  
Bob Timme  
Treasurer

For all of you who didn't get enough vacation this summer, come select a biography from the church library and travel with the saints who have gone before us and watch their faith in action. See how God led them into exciting, new adventures and provided for their needs. No passports or immunizations required for this trip!!

Also a gracious thank you to Ruth Reichel and several other anonymous book donors who have dropped off books in past months. Your gifts are appreciated!

Grace and peace,  
Denise Gutzmer, Librarian





# CHIC 2012

UNIVERSITY OF TN, KNOXVILLE

**CHIC Fundraiser :** We are selling flower bulbs and orders will be taken until Saturday, October 8th. The bulbs will be received in the mail shortly after the orders are submitted. The CHIC 2012 youth will have brochures and order sheets available after the church service on Oct. 2. Don't miss out!

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

2nd—Mark Haas  
4th—Mark Ebers  
8th—Clark Ehrich  
8th—Julie Timme  
9th—Wade Voss  
11th—Micah Stanley  
13th—Levi Neill  
13th—Grace Spray  
14th—Andy Voss

19th—Heather Crook  
19th—Ruth Jensen  
19th—Hailey Scott  
20th—Betsy Scott  
21st—Eric Wadell  
23rd—Sophie Westburg  
25th—Britta Carlson  
27th—William Carlson  
29th—Marilyn Erlandson  
30th—Trace Tupper

## OCTOBER NURSERY:

### October 2

Sunday School—Cheri Staswick  
Infant—Aaron Stover family  
Toddler—Joy Walton; Julie Brown

### October 9

Sunday School—Megan Shoemaker  
Infant—Amber Carlson; DeAnna Masterson  
Toddler—Andy & Sara Voss

### October 16

Sunday School—Moriah Reinwald  
Infant—Kayla Johnson; Taylor Byers  
Toddler—Steph Mattison; Julie Anderson

### October 23

Sunday School—Steph Mattison  
Infant—Angie Johnson; Diane Masterson  
Toddler—Steph Mattison

### October 30

Sunday School—Steph Mattison  
Infant—TBA  
Toddler—TBA

### October Ushers:

Bob Johnson  
Syl Luhring

### October Youth Ushers:

Joel Ebers  
John Ebers  
Damian Wotruba

### October Greeters

Mike & Jennifer Davidson  
Paul & Cheri Staswick

### Verse of the Month:

"But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:20b-21

### Hymn of the Month:

"Marvelous Grace" Hymn #342