

the BRIDGE

November 2011

Where We Are and Where We Are Going

God is great and He loves us here at FECC. I have seen His hand at work through His people and am amazed. I don't know why I am amazed, perhaps I never fully understand His power and might or His ability do work through us, but God is great!

I felt it necessary to explain what has been happening behind the scenes as it applies to the pulpit ministry.

First off, I want to thank Bruce Rowe for his endless work filling the pulpit each week for the last few months. It has been remarkable how each of the pastors that have spoken, have reached out to us with God's word to bless us every week. Although variety has been nice, we need to move forward to find a permanent full time Pastor to minister to us.

The Nominating Committee has been meeting for the past couple of months, two or three times a month, to find people to serve on next year's Church Council, as well as start the process of filling a Search Committee for our Pastor. We started each meeting with a studying a chapter in 1 John. We would write down the attributes of Christians, and then after a time of prayer, we began the process of filling all of the positions according to God's Word. Each person was prayerfully considered and then asked the candidates to prayerfully consider their response. As I write this article, we have filled all of the positions for Church Council, as well as the Pastoral Search Committee. **God be praised!**

We will have a special congregational meeting on November 20 immediately after worship to confirm the Pastoral Search Committee members by a vote of the congregation. The members who have agreed to serve are: Brian Carlson, Dennis Carlson, Mike Davidson, Tim Erickson, Steve Masterson, Cathy Nelson, Ashley Peterson, Bob Reier, Megan Shoemaker and Sue Stenberg, with DeAnna Masterson and Amber Carlson as youth representatives. As you can see we have tried to have a large cross section of our church body. Please keep them all in your prayers.

In order to be on the committee, according to the constitution, the people have to be members in good standing at FECC. We have discovered that the membership records have not been kept up very well. Thus, in the near future, you will be receiving a card in mail to find out who the current members are. Tina Madvig did a great job of going back to 1995 and searching all of the church's annual reports to give us a fairly accurate accounting of members, but we felt that a congregational survey should also be done to give us a better list.

For those of you who are not currently members, we will be offering an Inquirer's Class sometime in November. This class will give you the opportunity to find out more about our church, its policies and our beliefs; you will then be eligible for membership. Only members are allowed to vote, and with the things that will be coming up, we felt it crucial to offer membership to all who may be interested. If you have been confirmed in the Covenant, you are eligible to become a member without taking the class—although if it has been some time since you were confirmed, you may want to consider the Inquirer's Class as a refresher.

We are continuing our search for an interim pastor as well, and we may have a couple possible candidates. We hope to have an interim pastor in place by the beginning of the year.

If you have any questions please contact me at any time at 402.450.1777.

Sincerely,

Dan Byers

Council Chair

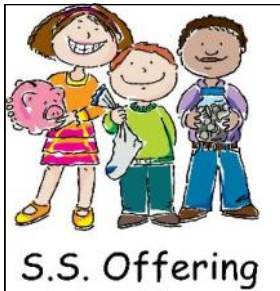


Congregational Meeting



Special Congregational Meeting: As stated in Dan's article on the previous page, please note that there will be a special congregational meeting held right after worship on Sunday, Nov. 20th. We will hold a congregational vote to confirm the members of the Pastoral Search Committee. The people that have agreed to serve are: Brian Carlson, Dennis Carlson, Mike Davidson, Tim Erickson, Steve Masterson, Cathy Nelson, Ashley Peterson, Bob Reier, Megan Shoemaker and Sue Stenberg, with DeAnna Masterson and Amber Carlson as youth representatives.

Please mark your calendars and plan to stay after for a few minutes on that day to VOTE....and please keep these people in your prayers as they go forward in this very important task.



Christ's love shines through us in many ways. One way is through our Sunday School Offering which is used to purchase tennis shoes and coats for those in need here in Lincoln. One of our connections is Buffy Truesdale, counselor at West Lincoln Elementary. This past week Buffy gave me a thank you note from a student who had received a new pair of shoes. Buffy also gave me his old pair of shoes which has holes in the bottom of not one, but both shoes. The shoes and thank you note are on display in the parlor. Buffy also enclosed a note about this young man who received new shoes. This is part of Buffy's note...

"I want to tell you again how much a difference the shoes and coats make for my friends here at West Lincoln. Thank you!"

Usually when I give kids a new pair of shoes, they keep the old ones. Since they only have one pair, they like to keep whatever they have -- that keeps the new ones nicer if they can use these for mud and rough play. The pair of shoes in this box are so pitiful, they are not worth keeping, so the kid agreed that I could "throw them away". I share them with you that you can see just how huge some of the needs really are.

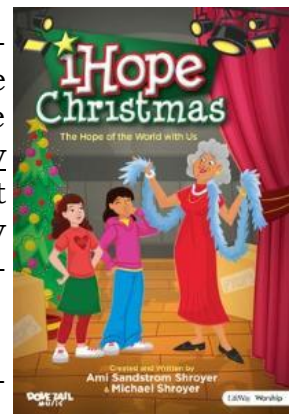
Ton is a Sudanese immigrant; tall and lanky, dark black skin and bright white eyes. He was wearing size 5-1/2 shoes, worn out in the soles. His feet fully measured 6-1/2. Ton was so please with his new Vans tennis shoes...I wish you could have seen his bright smile as he showed off his "new kicks" to anyone he cared about....for days!

I don't know how to say this gently, but these shoes, the only ones he owned, were so well used that they smelled to high heaven. I had to take them out to my car, and left them in the trunk to air out for a couple of weeks.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for all of your gifts to God's children over the years! God Bless, Buffy"

Christmas Program Practices: Christmas program practices have begun in preparation for the "iHope Christmas" presentation during the worship service on Dec. 18th. Parents of Kindergarteners thru Middle Schoolers, please make a conscious effort to get your child to church by 9:00 a.m. so their S.S. teacher can begin class on time. During the last 15 minutes of class, the children will go to the sanctuary to practice. Children will need to be picked up from the sanctuary after Sunday School time for the next five weeks.

A special thanks to Carie Miller and Ashley Ehrich for being our Christmas program directors this year.



COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES NEWS



- ⇒ Ruth Resigns: Ruth Jensen has resigned as president of our Covenant Women's Ministries. We wish to thank her for her many years of service to our organization. She has been a faithful member and hard-working leader—she will be greatly missed. We are seeking a woman to replace her. If you are interested or would like to become a member of the CWM Board, please speak with one of the Board members.
- ⇒ Kay Ostrom Grant: After discussion of tuition costs at North Park University, the CWM Board and Grant Committee have approved an increase in the amount of the Grant. The amount has now been raised to \$600.00. North Park Partners in Education will continue to match the amount we submit.
- ⇒ Potluck Luncheon and Cookie Exchange: All of the women of FECC and their guests are invited to a Potluck Luncheon on Sat., Dec. 3rd, at 11:30 a.m. in the parlor. Bring your favorite dish (plus the recipe) to share. We will be taking an offering for the City Mission. Also on this day, we will enjoy a Cookie Exchange for those who wish to participate. Please bring your cookies in containers of six; the amount you bring will be the amount you take home. This is a fun way to get a variety of cookies to have on hand at home! We hope to see you Dec. 3rd. If you have questions, please contact Charlotte Custer at 402-423-4405.
- ⇒ Christmas Greetings: CWM will prepare a Christmas Greeting for friends at FECC (10 words or less). We would appreciate an offering to match the cost of cards and postage—minimum of \$4.00. These Greetings may be purchased from Nov. 27th through Dec. 18th. All proceeds from this will go to the Food Bank. Thanks ahead of time for your participation.
- ⇒ Rebecca Circle: Rebecca Circle will be meeting on Nov. 16th @ 1:00 p.m. in the parlor. To help meet the needs of packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, please bring a bar of soap.

INSPIRATION ART GALLERY

It will soon be time for art work for the winter Inspiration Art Gallery. The current exhibition will be on display until November 27. At that time you may bring your paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures, quilts, needlework, pottery, or other artistic items so that we might include them in the gallery which will be on display until February 26, 2012. We would love to have art work you have made, or that of a relative or friend. You may bring your items to the gallery in the church parlor on Sunday, November 27, before or after the church service. Complete details concerning preparing art work is available in the gallery, or you may contact the director, Stuart Westburg (402-489-9105, sjwestburg@aol.com).



Financial Update (as of 10/28/11):

<u>General Fund:</u>		<u>Building Fund</u>	
Beginning Bal.	\$ 12,558.86	Beginning Bal.	\$ 20,657.44
Receipts	170,913.76	Receipts	58,779.99
Expenses	- 183,718.88	Expenses	- 58,880.00
Ending Balance	\$ - 246.26	Ending Balance	\$ 20,557.43



CHIC 2012

UNIVERSITY OF TN, KNOXVILLE

CHIC 2012 will be held in Tennessee this summer.. This gathering of 3,000 high school students only occurs once every three years. CHIC exists to be a catalyst to inspire students towards a life time journey of following Christ.

CHIC Fundraisers:

- November 9—start selling:
 Chocolate and regular Advent calendars for \$5
 greeting cards
 ornaments with design of our church building
 SCRIP gift cards

You can purchase these items on Wednesday evenings or Sundays after worship on Nov. 13th and 20th.

- November 23—serve Wednesday Night Supper with proceeds going to CHIC Fund

JHAMS (6th - 8th graders)
 November 4 and 18 (Friday)
 7:00-9:00pm at Church

Reviival (9th - 12th graders)
 Sundays
 2:00-4:00pm at Church

Reviival Bible Study
 Tuesdays
 7:00pm at Brian & Beth Staswick



November Ushers
 Mark Haas
 Steve Masterson

Youth Ushers
 Taylor Byers
 Kelsey Timme

November Greeters
 Ashley Peterson
 Jennifer Rowe
 Dean Sell
 Vada Sutter

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

3rd—Toni Tupper
 5th—Russell Masterson
 6th—Quentin Wotruba
 8th—Jennifer Wood
 10th—Joshua Crook
 10th—Jessica Wood
 12th—Alicia Admiraal
 12th—Kenly Kottmeyer
 13th—Anna Carlson
 16th—Chad Shoemaker
 20th—Josh Schultz
 23rd—Joseph Ehrich
 24th—Rose Allinder
 24th—Caitlyn Miller
 25th—Bob Johnson
 28th—Steve Crook
 29th—Jennifer Davidson



NOVEMBER NURSERY WORKERS:

Nov. 6
 SS—Cheri Staswick
 Infant—Larry Carlson family
 Toddler—Bryon Swanson family

Nov. 13
 SS—Megan Shoemaker
 Infant—Amber Carlson; DeAnna Masterson
 Toddler—Jason Ahlberg family



Nov. 20
 SS—Moriah Reinwald
 Infant—Mia Watson family
 Toddler—Chad Shoemaker family

Nov. 27
 [no Sunday School]
 Infant—Julie and Kelsey Timme
 Toddler—Ben Pratt family

