

First Free News

First Evangelical Free Church
5150 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis
Visit our website at www.firstfreechurch.org

May 2002

Healthy Church Growth

As a parent I'm always watchful! I am watching to see if my kids are growing up okay. Are they healthy and developing as they should?

All living things grow—if they are healthy, and that includes the church! It is natural. Jesus called the church, “My Body.” A congregation is a living organism, not simply an organization. It is a body, not a business. If it is healthy, it will grow. It is the way God created it! The Bible says, “It is from Christ that all the parts of the Body are cared for and held together, so it grows in the way God wants it to grow.” (Col. 2:19 NCV)

If my children do not grow, something terrible is wrong. It indicates an unhealthy situation, and we begin to look for what is wrong and how to correct it. Health comes first, then growth.

We want to be a healthy church at First Free! It is our first concern. If we are healthy, we can expect growth to take place.

So how do we know if we are a healthy church? The key is balance. A healthy church is one where people are regularly being won to Christ, where they are built up in their faith, and then equipped to reach their world for Christ. A healthy church has a strong prayer base, preaches and teaches God's Word, has positive relationships, a loving atmosphere, and develops a sense of expectancy and hope. The results are a healthy ministry where the needs of people at various levels of spiritual growth and development can be met.

The health check-ups for our children are done on a regular basis. As a church, we need to do the same. Are you ready for a health check-up?

— Pastor Joel Sutton —

- Spring Highlights -

Sunday, May 5

Whose House Are We Building? Part 4

Text: Haggai 2:6-9

Sending of Stacy Olson to Hong Kong

- Noon Nurture Appreciation Pizza Lunch -

Sunday, May 12, Honoring Our Moms

Whose House Are We Building? Part 5

Text: Haggai 2:10-19

- Mother's Day Baby Dedication -

Saturday, May 18, Outreach Breakfast

* Join us for Breakfast, 8:30-10:30 AM

* Hear from a panel of speakers:

Laura Snyder, Dick Harden (*Damascus Way GMAE*) Jeff Stuart (*Police Chaplain GMAE*) Gary Mahoney (*Boy's Brigade*)
Pastor Dan Elifson (*Salem Free*)

Sunday, May 19, Outreach Sunday

* Guest Speaker: Enrique Fernandez

* Commissioning of Andy & Lorna Gilbert to church planting in Fukuoka, Japan

* Missionaries in Sunday School Classes

* Noon Lunch served by *Viviente Amor Church*

Cost: Adults \$7.00

Children, ages 5-10, \$4.00

Children, under 5, \$1.00

* *The Invitation*, Citywide Prayer Rally at the Metrodome, 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 26, Memorial Day Message

You Are Invited
 to a
Once In A Year Event!
 May 14th, 2002, at 7 p.m.
 At First Evangelical Free Church
 Hear about *God's provision*
 this past year!
 Rejoice over what He
 is presently doing!
 Get a peek at what
 He will do in the future!
**First Free Annual
 Business Meeting**
 Come early for front row seats!
 Lots of parking, free of charge!

**Congratulations,
 High School Graduates!**
 Katie Hucek, Heidi Hultstrand, Molly Miller,
 Steve Sawyer, and Deanna Symington

Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee has been working on coming up with names of candidates for various Commissions and Boards of our church. Currently, we are looking for suggestions for both the Finance & Property Board and the Nurture Commission. The Finance & Property Board takes care of our church facilities, and the Nurture Commission oversees the education and "building of the believer" ministries of the church. These are both key areas of ministry. If you have a name you would like to suggest for either one of these committees, please call the church office by Friday, May 10th. Thanks for your help!



Baby Dedication

A baby dedication is scheduled for Mother's Day during the morning worship service. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office.

Women's Guild

**Tuesday, May 7th,
 1:00 PM at Church**

- ◇ All ladies are welcome to hear Kathleen Peterson with Cundelee Mission of Australia.
- ◇ She worked for 14 years in the Australian Outback with the Kalgoorlie Aborigines.

Women's Night Out

**Monday, May 20th,
 7:00-9:30 PM at Church**

- ◇ Bring along a project you are working on
- ◇ Or just come to visit
- ◇ Open to women of all ages
- ◇ Call Beth Brown or Jill Rose for questions

Open House Bridal Shower
 for
Jessica Kender & Peter McWilliams
May 21, 7:00-9:00 PM

- ⇒ Pete & Jessica attend the College Sunday School Class.
- ⇒ Pete is a member of First Free Church and the grandson of Norbert & Margaret Jensen.
- ⇒ Jessica is registered at Marshall Fields, Kohls, and Target.
- ⇒ If you have questions, contact Marie Mondy at (952) 835-0845.