

Getting Her Hands Dirty

- Olivia Lueth

From the newly sculpted hedges to the fresh brick edging surrounding First Free, "sprucing up" is a gross understatement about the hours Cheryl Morel has put into landscaping the church lawn.

Cheryl was approached by the Finance and Property Board during last fall's Ministry Fair about tackling the landscaping project once the snow disappeared. She had to wait a while, but since the thaw, she frequently has been spotted out front with her work gloves on. "It seemed to me that the landscape at the church had a great start, but was allowed to overgrow and needed a little trimming," Cheryl said. And trimming she has done.

Prior to becoming a homeowner with her husband, Pat, in 1992, Cheryl had never planted or trimmed

anything. Since then, she has diligently worked in her own yard, and now she is able to share her gifts with FEFC. Cheryl also wanted to create a ministry opportunity for those in the congregation who have a green thumb. "My main reason for wanting to landscape the church, though, was to bring glory to God. I have so much to be grateful for in my life and this is such a small thing to give back," Cheryl said.



Cheryl continued, "I have learned much in the way of humble servant

hood by the wonderful example of those that have shown up. I have been blown away by everyone's humility and desire to help. God has been glorified, and I am so grateful to be a part of that."

Both Cheryl and her husband have been able to do much to kick start this endeavor so far...but it's only a start.

GET CONNECTED:

Interested in joining the Landscaping Committee? Contact Cheryl Morel at Pascal24M@aol.com or 612-827-5453.

A group work day is also planned for June 13 from 9am-1pm! Contact Cheryl, bring your own clean up tools, (rakes, clippers, etc.) and come out to help!

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Firstword

First Evangelical Free Church

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June/July 2009

"SERVING FROM YOUR KNEES"

Have you discovered that Jesus said some pretty radical things? For Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." That is the opposite of what we tend to think.

How about the comment Jesus made to his disciples while they were at the temple watching all these rich people throw large sums of money in the offering bucket, and then along came a poor widow who put in only two small copper coins, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others." Shocking!

But one of the most drastic statements I think Jesus made was this: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom" (Matt.20:26-28).

These three verses are the foundation for Christian leadership. Jesus defined leadership exactly opposite of the way our world defines it. Look around at your place of work, your school, or our government. In our world, you build a pyramid and you climb up on top. Dog-eat-dog. Win by intimidation. Look out for Number One. Step on everybody else as you're climbing to the top.

But Jesus said, "No, he or she who serves best leads best." Servant hood is leadership. The better you serve, the more God raises you up to leadership. Leadership is service. Jesus said, "I didn't come to be served, but to serve." I want to be like Jesus.

We all like to serve God, but here is the rub. We don't like to serve others. If somebody said, "There goes Mike, the servant of God," that's a pretty awesome title. That's a title Paul used. It was a title that described Mary and Peter. Even Jesus said, "I'm a servant of God." But what we don't like to be is the servant of others. Jesus was saying, "The way to be a servant of God is to be the servant of others."

Leadership, Jesus says, is not a matter of getting people to serve you, but leadership is a matter of serving them. The more that I serve others, the more God raises me up in leadership.

During this month of June, as our new church Council begins its tenure, I wanted to introduce to you our newest Council members. Inside this edition of First Word, you get a chance to know David Kriesel-Koll, our new church treasurer, Steve Rose and Jay Pound a little bit better.

Besides these three, I also have listed our other council members. We would petition your prayers for us. Our desire, as we provide spiritual leadership and oversight, is to serve both you and God.

Alan Peterson (Chair)	Ron Olson (Vice Chair)
David Kriesel-Koll (Treasurer)	Jeff Olson (Secretary)
Jay Pound	John Symington
Apryl Hultstrand	Ardese Barrett
Johanna Holliday	Joel Burns
Hong (Bob) Gu	Steve Rose

- Pastor Joel

"David: A Man After God's Heart"

- June 7 - God in Three Persons: The Trinitarian Life
- June 14 - God in Three Persons: The Trinitarian Church
- June 21 - Dr. Nupanga - BEST Seminary
- June 28 - A Heart For God
- July 5 - A Heart of Faith
- July 12 - A Heart of Friendship
- July 19 - Minnehaha Park Worship - Troy Holliday Speaking
- July 26 - A Heart of Obedience - Pastor Eric Preaching

We exist to
BRING people
into a relationship
with Jesus

CONNECT them
to God's family

MATURE them
in their faith

EQUIP them
for ministry

so that God's name
is EXALTED

Introducing Our New Council Members:

Meet Jay Pound—

I have been attending First Free for almost five years. I started attending shortly after I began dating my now-wife Heidi, and have stayed on ever since. Having spent the entirety of my pre-college life in the same church, it has been fun to be at a church where my wife has roots. We nearly have one child and are both excited as we await her birth this August.



Currently, my favorite book of the Bible is Job. I find Job to be an elegant but convicting reminder to examine our relationship with God to see if we, like Job, desire to know and love God. I also have found it a helpful reminder that our experiences in this world do not always reflect the greater spiritual reality—that despite how things might seem, God is in control and actively involved in our lives and world. Will we be content to know God second-hand, or will we, like Job, strive to find and encounter God for ourselves?

Lately, God has been teaching me to trust Him more—to be comfortable putting my future in His hands. Heidi and I are in a time of transition in our lives, in many ways, and are both struggling to release control. We are both learning to find peace by trusting in God, and committing our plans to His hands.

Meet David Kriesel-Koll—

I have been attending First Free with my wife, Pam, since the fall of 2004. Pam and I were attracted to the diversity of the congregation and the messages that Joel was preaching.



Pam and I have been married since November 8th, 1980. We have two children. Sarah (28), who is married to Chris Brosz, lives in West Fargo, ND. Our other daughter, Amanda (20), is currently in school and lives at home.

My favorite book of the Bible is Romans. I appreciate how it teaches that God's purpose and character are revealed in Christ: "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they now are justified by His grace as a gift, the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (3:23-24).

Over the past year, God has been teaching me the importance of relationships. He has also been showing me the necessity of developing an attitude of generosity toward others.

Meet Steve Rose—

I have been attending First Free since 1997, so a total of 12 years. My favorite book of the Bible is Mark. Our small group is presently studying Mark. This is John Mark's gospel based on the preaching of Peter.



It is possibly the first gospel written of the four, and has become my favorite book because it is a very well-told account of the ministry of Jesus.

My family includes wife Jill, and sons Charlie (12) and George (11).

As we are living in uncertain times, God has been teaching me that He will sufficiently provide for all of our needs.

★ Save the Date - October 4th ★
125th Anniversary Celebration

SUMMER SCHEDULE

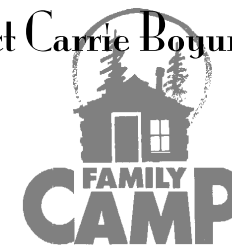
- Creekside Friends-Summer Schedule Nursery & Preschool are offered the entire morning.
Starting June 21:
9:30- 10:30 Creekside Bible Time for children entering grades 1-6
10:30- 10:50 Friends' Corner
11:00- 12:00 Children in Worship
- One service July 5th
- Minnehaha Falls Worship July 19th @ 10:30
- Starting August 2nd,
One service @ 9:30 AM with Fellowship afterwords



Vacation Bible Camp! June 22-26
From 9 am - noon each day at First Free
Register NOW! online
<http://www.firstfreechurch.org/vbc>

Willing to Volunteer or have Questions?
Contact Beth Brown, 612-827-4705
beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org

Family Camp August 21-23
Covenant Park Bible Camp
Contact Carrie Bogum with ?'s



Special Events:

MENS FELLOWSHIP @ FEFC
"CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODLY MAN" PART 2
SATURDAY, JUNE 13 8-10AM



NEIGHBORHOOD STREET FEST
JUNE 24, 6-8 PM
(INFLATABLES, HOT DOGS,
BASKETBALL, ETC.)

