

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

- 9 - Women's Neighborhood Bible Study Begins
- 13 - Fall Kick-off
2 Worship Services Resume
ABF's Start
- 9:30 AM ABFs
Agape, Parents of Teenagers and Sojourners
- 11 AM ABFs
Prayer Group, Metamorphosis, Makarios, Life, Seniors & Seekers
- 16 - Fresh Encounter
- 20 - Small Group Launch
- 23 - Clubs and Youth Group Begin
- 27 - FEFC Ministry Fair



Mothers of Preschoolers starts in September and registration is now open, but there is limited space available. The cost is \$45 for the traditional Friday large MOPS group. Join us on the 1st and 3rd weeks of each month from September - May at 9:15 - 11:15 am . To register or for more info, call Erika Garcia at 612-388-2727 or go to mops.firstfreechurch.org

CREEKSIDE FRIENDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FALL SCHEDULE 2009



Nursery - Infant-age 2 9:30-12:00
Preschool - Ages 3-5 9:30-12:00
Creekside Bible Time - Kindergarten-gr. 6 9:30-10:30
Friends Corner - gr. K-6 10:30-10:50
Creekside Kids Church - gr. K-3 11:00-11:30
***Kids are dismissed from the service**
Creekside Junior Church - gr. 4-6 11:00-11:30
***Kids are dismissed from the service**

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Firstword

First Evangelical Free Church

A Church Family Publication

September 2009

"CHASING WIND?"

-Pastor Joel

The author of Ecclesiastes decided to find his purpose in life...so he started where most people begin – by accumulating a vast sum of wealth – only to discover that it didn't provide the meaning he was hoping for. Next he tried power – but it too failed to satisfy. Then was the pursuit of pleasure, quickly followed by fame.

Finally, after all of these pursuits ended in emptiness, he uttered these famous words: "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity." Or as another translation puts it, "All of this is like chasing the wind."

You and I were not created to chase wind. The Bible tells us we were created to join God on a mission. The desire to make a significant difference is planted in the heart of every human being.

Whenever we wonder if the daily grind of the eight-to-five is all there is in life, this divine desire nudges us. Whenever we feel restless and unsatisfied, the yearning whispers in our soul.

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SEPTEMBER SERMONS

- September 6 – Can You Hear Me Now? – Daniel 9:1-23

"Beyond Belief"

- September 13 – Two Motivating models – Philippians 2:19-30
- September 20 – Pick Up the Towel – John 13
- September 27 – Who Me, A Priest? – Acts 2, 1 Corinthians 12

SERVING @ FEFC through the years...

We interviewed three people from First Free and asked them about their experiences serving in the church. Check out their responses below!

1. Where are you serving now, and where have you served in the past?

- **Laura Radtke** - "I am currently serving at the welcome desk, helping to coordinate the volunteer schedule and being a greeter at the desk on occasion. In the past I have also volunteered at our sister church, Salem, where I helped entertain Hispanic children while their parents were learning English."

- **Gene Baum** - "Currently I have been installing new closet doors in the gym. Earlier I helped demo the platforms at the front of the sanctuary then built some frames to cover duct work etc. so they could be covered with something decorative. I will also start ushering soon."



Gene Baum

- **Paulette Goodman** - "I am currently serving on the Kitchen Committee—co-serving with Mary Londborg. We are in charge of overseeing the Sunday Fellowship Time and also other "all-church" events such as the Nokomis church picnic, the Thanksgiving Pie Social, or the Easter morning brunch. We also try to keep the kitchen stocked with supplies needed to run it effectively."

2. Why is serving in the church so important to you?

- **Radtke** - "I think it is important to give back to your community and church by giving of your time. There are a lot of good ministries both in the church and in the community that rely mainly on volunteer support. Without people who are willing to volunteer, these ministries would not be able to realize their full potential. Even giving a small amount of your time can make a big difference to someone else."



Laura Radtke

- **Baum** - "To me serving the church is a way to share the talents that God gave me."

Continued on pg. 2

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

"CHASING WIND?"

Continued from pg. 1

God is in the business of calling people to Himself and transforming their lives so that they reflect Him. And He has called us to roll up our sleeves and join Him with our talents, money, time, and passions. He wants His mission to become ours. It is as though God says, "If you're into chasing wind, you can keep right on doing that. Or you can hook up with me and together we will transform this hurting planet."

In Acts 13 the Apostle Paul is speaking publically, and he refers to David from the Old Testament. He says, "When David had served God's purposes in his own generation he fell asleep." What a great summary of David's life! David did not waste any time chasing the wind. He devoted himself single-mindedly to God's mission and died knowing that his life had served the highest purpose.

As we move into September and kick off the Fall, I wonder about you. Are you busy chasing the wind? Or have you rolled up your sleeves and partnered with God?

"God is in the business of calling people to Himself and transforming their lives so that they reflect Him. And He has called us to roll up our sleeves and join Him with our talents, money, time, and passions. He wants His mission to become ours."

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Serving... Continued from pg. 1

- **Goodman** - "I love serving in this area of the church. It seems to fit well with my gifts and abilities. Showing the hospitality and helpfulness which I believe is honoring to the Lord is one of the best ways I know to help people see God's love and acceptance. This would be true whether showing hospitality at home, work, or church. I feel most blessed when someone appreciates and recognizes what I do, seeing that it is because of God's love in my life. This is the goal and measure of success in serving. Pointing others to the love of God!"

3. Please share a recent highlight from your area of service/ministry.

- **Radtke** - "Being at the welcome desk is such a great way to meet and welcome newcomers and regular attenders. One of the things that attracted me to this church in the beginning was how welcoming everyone was. It is fun to now help welcome others. Many times I leave the desk feeling blessed to have had the opportunity to talk to so many wonderful people and can only hope that I have helped others feel loved and cared for as well."



Paulette Goodman

- **Baum** - "When we hung the closet doors in July, I had the eager help of Randy Solem & Rick Olson, which made it go fast and also fun. Scott Beckett was also very cheerful and helpful when ever needed."

- **Goodman** - "I recently helped out with the snacks for students and staff at VBC. This is always a highlight of my year. It is fun to see the kids get their snacks and truly appreciate what has been generously prepared for them—

learning about God's love and then passing it on. Some even sent the kitchen nice "thank-you" notes. Also during the VBC set-up and take-down lunches, I could see that these meals were vital in "making light" the work of staff volunteers. It's always a highlight to see that by serving, even in a small way, someone has been helped to pass God's love on to others."

125TH ANNIVERSARY - FIRST FREE CHURCH



Building at 12th Ave. 1908



New Building Interior



Bussing Ministry 1962



August Davis
1885-96

CELEBRATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- * October 4 - Morning Services
Sermon: "Who's Building the Church?"
- * 2 PM - 125th Anniversary Celebration:
 - > Prelude by former music director Tim Anderson
 - > Multimedia presentation of First Free's long history
 - > Music by volunteer choir
 - > Challenge for the future by Pastor Joel
- * 3 PM - Reception & Fellowship



Executive Board 1983



Confirmation 1940

HIS FAITHFULNESS TO ALL GENERATIONS: SECOND GENERATION

My parents, with me and my three younger siblings, started coming to First Free at 52nd and Chicago in about 1951, shortly after the church moved from 12th Avenue. From that point on I grew up in the church. My father's family had roots in the Norwegian Free Church and my mother's family in the Swedish Covenant, and we had been attending First Covenant when we lived closer to downtown. I was in fourth grade when we started, and I attended Stockade, Sunday School, then eventually Confirmation and



Youth Group. I met Karin after her family began coming

while she was finishing high school. We sang in the choir together, and after my three years in the Navy, were married in the church and commissioned as missionaries to Hong Kong. We received encouragement and prayer support through many crises, including the loss of an infant son while in Hong Kong and then after returning, threats to my medical license because of my faith. First Free has truly been our church family for 58 years.

--Ross S. Olson MD

Here is a picture of my family about the time we started coming to First Free. - Top L to R - My parents, Stan and Myrt, Bottom L to R - Bryan, Tim, Merodie, Ross

