

First Free Church
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Meet A New Council Member

Tim Ryden

My name is Tim Ryden and I have been happily married to Diane Ryden for 17 years. We are the proud parents of three home schooled children: Britte (age 9), Anders (age 9) and Kristian (age 9). Our family has been attending First Free for about 3 ½ years, and we have found it to be a church full of life and vibrancy. Our kids have enjoyed the children's programming on both Sundays and Wednesdays. Diane and I have been involved in a variety of church opportunities: ABFs, Choir, Small Group Bible Studies, Kids Musicals/Choir, Kid's Clubs, and Men's Basketball.

I have worked as a healthcare administrator for 30 years, with the last 23 for a large residential mental health facility. I enjoy all sports and was a serious basketball and baseball/softball player in years past. I also appreciate all genres of music both instrumentally and vocally.

I am passionate about God's Word. I don't necessarily have a favorite verse, but one that is foundationally significant in maintaining my spiritual moorings is the following:

II Timothy 2:15 *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*



Fun Facts:

- Have been involved in a variety of singing groups - Men's Quartets/Sextets, Chamber Choirs, Large Choral Groups, Men's Promise Keeper Choir
- Played Men's Fast pitch Softball (Pitcher) for 25+ years prior to the game being co-opted by high school / college women.

It is my prayer as a council member to serve the Lord faithfully and minister in His strength to those who make up the Body of Christ within the First Free family.

Firstword

First Evangelical Free Church

A Church Family Publication

June/July 2011

"A HEALTHY FAMILY"

HHealth is not determined by the absence of sickness, but by the presence of wellness. Many parents feel they have done a good job if their children have not become hooked on drugs, involved in sex, or become juvenile delinquents.

But informed parents need to have much higher goals. I want my children to make an impact on their society. I want them to determine and do the will of God for their lives. I want them to reach their maximum potential.

So what does a healthy family look like? Howard Hendricks gives us 8 traits of a healthy family. **First**, a healthy family is a caring family. It is a community of caring and concerned people who reach out to one another. Do you build bridges instead of walls?

Second, a healthy family is respectful of each other's uniqueness and as a result is free to be open and honest. Are people free to express their own opinions in your home?

Third, a healthy family has strong central convictions. They have a value system where values are taught and practiced consistently. Is your family committed to a

central value system?

Fourth, a healthy family is flexible. It is free to change as the demands of society impinge on it. Are you willing to change the rules?

Fifth, a healthy family is expressive. This is different than caring - what I do for others. Expression conveys the idea of how I respond to others. Do you respond warmly to those in your family?

Sixth, a healthy family is responsible. In a responsible family, family members accept responsibility and parents are constantly preparing their children for the time when they leave. Does each family member have some responsibility?

Seventh, a healthy family is an initiating family. They have many interests and are involved in a biblically-based church, in maintaining community ties, and meaningfully involved in school. Is your family involved in outside activities, both apart and together?

Eighth, a healthy family is realistic. Realistic families see themselves as others see them. They don't have their heads in the sand. Do you see your family as others do?

Along with these eight traits, don't forget Proverbs 3:5-6: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."* As parents we must not only trust God for the end product, but also trust Him with the process. We must continue to ask God to give us wisdom day by day.

No family has all eight of these traits. But the more a family has the healthier it is likely to be.

This month in First Word we are highlighting our Children's Ministry. First Free's goal is to come alongside you as parents and encourage you and help you as you raise your children to follow Christ.

-Pastor Joel

June/July

God's Plan

Sermons

- June 5 - "Fatal False Assumptions" - Romans 9
- June 12 - "God's Sovereignty-Our Responsibility" - Romans 10
 - June 19 - "Roots" - Romans 11
 - June 26 - Guest Preacher
- July 3 - "Three Things We Should Never Forget" - Hebrews 9:1-14

Summer Series: How Does God Feel Toward Us?

- July 10 - "Is God Accusing Us?"
 - July 17 - Guest Preacher
- July 24 - Minnehaha Falls - "Is God Impatient With Us?"
- July 31 - Teen Challenge - "Is God Angry With Us?"

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



A YEAR AGO LAST JUNE WE LAUNCHED **CHALLENGE 2012**, A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO UPDATE, UPLIFT, AND UPGRADE OUR BUILDING HERE AT FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH. OUR STATED GOAL WAS TO RAISE \$300,000 OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD SO THAT WE COULD:

- REPLACE THE FLAT ROOF OVER THE GYM (WHICH WAS LEAKING) WITH A HIGH-TECH, ENERGY-EFFICIENT ROOF,
- REPAIR WATER DAMAGE TO THE CEILINGS IN THE MAIN OFFICE AND UPGRADE THE OFFICES,
- REPAIR WATER DAMAGE TO OTHER CEILINGS IN THE BUILDING,

- UPDATE, CARPET, AND ENLARGE THE FOYER,
- UPDATE AND CARPET THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY,
- UPLIFT AND RE-CARPET THE CREEKSIDE FRIEND'S NURSERY AND PRE SCHOOL ROOMS,
- REPAIR SOME OF THE BRICK ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING,
- REPLACE THE LOW OVERHANG CEILING IN THE GYM.

HERE IS WHERE WE ARE ONE YEAR LATER:

\$275,000 IN PLEDGES
OVER \$150,000 HAVE COME IN.

THE FLAT ROOF OVER THE GYM HAS BEEN REPLACED AND IS NO LONGER LEAKING.

THE OFFICES ARE IN PROCESS OF BEING REPAIRED AND UPDATED – TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF JULY.

PLANS ARE BEING PREPARED FOR THE UPDATING, CARPETING, AND ENLARGING OF THE FOYER AND THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY.

DURING OUR 125 YEAR HISTORY HERE AT FIRST FREE, GOD HAS CONTINUED TO BE FAITHFUL. MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST FREE HAVE GIVEN SACRI-

FICIALLY SO THAT OUR PRESENT BUILDING IS DEBT-FREE AND OUR TOTAL PROPERTY VALUE IS \$3 MILLION. IF YOU ARE NEW HERE AT FIRST FREE, WOULD YOU PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER BEING PART OF THE NEXT CHAPTER? IF YOU HAVEN'T YET MADE A COMMITMENT, WOULD YOU WILLING TO DO SO NOW?

ON SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH, WE WILL BE UPDATING THE CONGREGATION ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF **CHALLENGE 2012**. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

NEIGHBORHOOD
STREET FEST

JUNE 23, 6-8 PM
(INFLATABLES,
HOT DOGS,
& LOTS OF FUN!)

**ONE SERVICE
JULY 3RD
@ 9:30 AM**

WORSHIP AT THE FALLS

JULY 24
@ 10:30 AM



blood Drive

June 29 - 3:30 - 6:30 pm
at FEFC

MN TEEN
CHALLENGE
CHOIR
PERFORMING
IN SERVICES
ON JULY 31
9:30 & 11 AM

PANDAMANIA!

~Chelsie Larson

Spring has sprung and it has been a beautiful season for the Children's Ministry. As the year has come to an end, programs in Creekside Friends have concluded with celebrations, special events, time to reminisce, and anticipation is building for what God will do next year! April and May were both filled with many special events and celebrations—"The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit", Pinewood Derby, conclusion of clubs for the year, events to recognize leaders, and preparations for VBC! I have been blessed by the commitment of our volunteers, each has contributed substantially to the leadership and overall mission



of Creekside Friends. It has also been a joy to see how much each child has grown in both head and heart knowledge...how I would love to have shared these experiences with all of you! I would like to highlight a few of the recent events...

- "The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit", our spring musical! Our actors, actresses, directors, sound/tech crew, parents, and many more individuals all put in tremendous effort towards its production. I was impressed with the performance and the biblical truths that were shared.

- TreeClimbers (1st - 2nd grade boys) memorized 96 verses over this past year. These verses included Fighter Verses Pastor Joel has challenged us to memorize in addition to many other verses (as well as The Pledge of Allegiance). On Sunday, May 15, a few of the boys had an opportunity to share a small handful of verses memorized! Memorizing Scripture is a powerful experience, and I hope we can incorporate this challenge into more areas of FEFC, both in Creekside Friends and in other ministries.
- 6th Grade girls in Girls Rock led the 4th -5th grade girls for the last night of clubs. What an amazing group of young leaders! I am looking forward to seeing what God will do in their lives as they continue to grow and deepen their personal relationships with Him.
- ...and so much more!!!

As May comes to an end, we are rolling right into VBC 2011: PandaMania! There is a growing bamboo forest in my office as well as a huge panda, we are so excited to see what God will do in and through VBC this year. Check it out:

Who: All kids entering K-6th Grade

What: Vacation Bible Camp: PandaMania!

When: June 20th-24th 9am-Noon

Where: First Evangelical Free Church