

Connections – A Newsletter from First Baptist Church

October 2011

3511 Kathryn Rd. S. Valley City, ND 58072

Telephone/Fax: 701-845-4500 Email: fbcvc@msn.com Website: fbcvc.com

From the Pastor's desk:

Fall has fallen upon us. Last Friday was the official start of this beautiful season. We have been blessed with mild temperatures and just enough cold nights to start the wonderful fall colors. The start of fall also means that it is pumpkin season. We have never really been into carving pumpkins but we love to eat pumpkin in our home. We process the meat of the pumpkin and freeze it so that we can make pumpkin cookies, pumpkin cake, and one of my favorites, pumpkin pancakes. We enjoy these treats all year long.

As we have started the fall season we have started a study of Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. It is my prayer that as we study together the Holy Spirit will lead each of us to come to know this letter well and understand our standing in Christ very well. This is one of the major themes of the first three chapters of Ephesians.

Paul writes this about hearing, knowing and speaking the truth:

Ephesians 4:14-16

14 "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of

teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, *speaking the truth in love*, we will in all things *grow up into him* who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, *as each part does its work*. (NIV)

In short, we come to realize that our goal is to grow up into Christ or in other words grow to know Him more and be changed from within to be more and more like Him. As we read and apply God's word to our lives this will take place. We must stay focused on Christ, follow His word, and be continually filled with the Spirit.

Join me in praying that each Sunday will be a time when we all grow to be increasingly like Jesus in our attitudes, and our behavior.

Coming soon:

AWANA started October 5th. Be in prayer with us that the Lord will supply all the workers we need and that the Lord will send us the club kids that He wants us to work with. Join us in prayer too for the families of the club kids who do not have a church home yet.

How's the round up going?



Barka (Blessing) and Barkidi (I am blessed). This cow was purchased by a pastor in the Winnipeg area and given to a community of Christians in Nigeria who are of the Fulbe tribe. These Fulbe are all former Muslims who have come to follow the Lord Jesus. For the Fulbe, cattle are a way of life but this group of Fulbe lost most of their cattle in a civil war and as a result of their confessing Christ. The civil war was in 2001. Those who fought with the Fulbe hit them where it hurt most. They killed many of their cattle. Then when these Fulbe openly confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, their extended family took most of the rest of their cattle away from them. This small community of Fulbe Christians is slowly rebuilding their herd and we want to help them. As a church we are collecting funds and every time we have enough to buy a cow we will send the money to these brothers and sisters in Nigeria so they can buy a cow on behalf of First Baptist Church. A young cow costs about \$700 (US). Your tax deductible donation can be made payable to First Baptist Church.

We sent \$2,800 to Nigeria last spring. The VBS kids gave an offering of over \$700 so

we sent funds in July to buy cow number 5. We now have enough to buy cow number 6. Our goal at this point is to buy ten cows then see what other projects we might assist the Fulbe people with.

Sunday, October 30 we will talk about a mission strategy to help reach the Fulbe people with the Gospel.

Use your gifts and talents!

We need all hands on deck! What that means is that we need every one of us to be available to serve where we are needed and gifted. Maybe you could let the trustees know that you are willing to remove snow this winter or maybe you could sign up on the volunteer janitor schedule (see James Schroeder), or maybe you would like to sing special music (see Merlin Van Bruggen). Perhaps you could listen to kids recite memory verses during AWANA on Wednesday evenings. Whatever your gift, interest or talent, you are needed and welcome.

Pack the HAC!

There is a food drive afoot again this fall. The goal is to bring enough food stuff that the floor of the VCHS HAC will be completely covered. Bring your donations to the church by Sunday, November 13th and we will take them to the HAC by the 16th

A reminder - we can help!

The Diaconate has established a Deacons Fund to assist people who are in financial need. If you or someone you know has a financial need, please feel free to get hold of Pastor Jim or one of the deacons or deaconesses and let them know about the need. The Diaconate will take it from there.