



1985-2012

The Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-DeKalb

Our mission is to develop followers of Christ who love God, love others and impact their world.

The Disciple

Good Things Ahead!

But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all (Phil. 2:17).

As a college guy, this verse came off the page of my Bible and drilled me. I thought, *That's the kind of life I want. I want to give my life for what's worthwhile, with the greatest joy.* You helped make that possible for the last 27 years. I am in an enviable position that few pastors experience as my children were raised among you and still love this church. I am sixty this month and could stay, continue to enjoy you, and slide away in five or six years. No one could ask for more.

But a few years ago I began to pray more earnestly about our future. As we approached 25 years as a church, my prayers began to turn more to how I might invest the fourth quarter of my life and one thing kept rising to the top. I longed to help pastors, especially ones who may not have all the opportunities I have enjoyed.

When we went to Jason's and Reby's wedding two years ago, I took a little initiative and found pastors in the Philippines who could use some help. You helped by supplying materials for them, which included books, 120 pages of preaching notes, small group questions for 2 Timothy, and videos for outreach and discipleship. We had a great time together. That was the beginning of my hunger to do more for pastors in other countries.

When I returned home, I contacted Leadership Resources, a ministry to train pastors overseas, and learned that they now train U.S. pastors in their methods. However, they only hold that training in one place in America—DeKalb County. This seemed more than a coincidence. So I joined with a handful of other pastors to receive the training and this is what we used in Kenya last spring to train the pastors there. These Kenyan pastors have now multiplied the training to other local pastors.

Back home, I then contacted pastors in northern Illinois to multiply the training here and encourage them to help overseas pastors. Numerous pastors agreed to meet and one member has now begun to train another group of pastors in northwestern Illinois. Two more groups are meeting in Iowa. In a relatively short period of time, we now have over 40 pastors in training. There are eight training sessions. We do a session over five days with translators overseas. Here the training is two or three days.

As I was praying, God kept confirming this direction. Every time I took a step, he confirmed this mission. I was already speaking with Reach Global, the mission arm of the

E.F.C.A. When I called them, they graciously helped me by shortening the acceptance process and admitting me to the Reach Global staff.

We have a group in India that wants to train three thousand pastors in three years. The only way to train so many pastors is to train Indian pastors to train more Indian pastors. They will begin the sequence this spring. We have more contacts in southeast Asia, Africa and South America. The interest is growing.

Pastors would forfeit body parts to have what I have with you. I could continue as pastor here and travel once or twice a year. But I believe that God has called me to the cusp of a movement. He has something for me and for our church. We are beginning something new—a new threshold for all of us as a Body. We can trust our Father and participate in all he has for us. It's a good time for us. We have a great disciple-making future.

Again, I have been the person most blessed in this church. You have been the privilege of a lifetime. I mean it. I love you.

Love and grace,
Pastor Brad

P.S. I will be traveling significantly, but JoHannah and I plan to continue living in Sycamore. Ivan York has been walking though this with me for the last year. He has already begun meeting with us to help our transition and pastoral search. May 31st will be my last day



Pastor Brad in Kenya last year

Hope Haven Service Project

It's February and time for the next service project for our Sunday School children.

We would like to provide Hope Haven clients with their own individual toiletries bag and an evening meal prepared by our 4th and 5th graders. We are asking our children to help assemble a Ziploc baggie that contains the following trial size items:

- shampoo & conditioner,
- toothpaste and tooth brush,
- bar of soap and
- deodorant.

Other optional items:

- washcloth,
- razor,
- shaving cream (trial size),
- socks

All filled baggies may be dropped in the church entry during February in the bin marked "Toiletries for Hope Haven".

There will be a sign-up sheet in the entry for food donations, meal preparation and delivery to Hope Haven. All grades may donate food for the meal and toiletries. Our 4th and 5th graders will cook and deliver the meal on March 13th.



Christianity
EXPLORED

Christianity Explored will start on Sunday, February 19th.

This is a seven week evangelistic program that presents the gospel through the book of Mark.

Sessions are 6-8pm Sunday evenings and include a meal, discussion questions from Mark, a 15-20 minute video, and a discussion of the message presented in the video.

If you have any questions, please contact Carl Campbell .



Annual Women's Retreat

Mark February 17-19, 2012 on your calendars, Ladies!

"The Beginning, The Middle, and... There is no End when we are in Christ Jesus."

Featured Speaker: Janet Redmond

Come have fun with us!

Join women of all ages for this time of relaxation and spiritual refreshment at the Hilton Garden Inn of St. Charles.

Registration Information Brochures are available in the church entry as well as on our church's website: www.efcsycdek.com.

For more information, call Melissa Clack.

Moms Connected

February 9

february 9

Parenting Tweens
-Ann Sullivan-

Ann will join us again to give us tips and encouragement on parenting during the tween years. Whether you are in the midst of those formative years or haven't reached them yet, you won't want to miss this!

Questions about Moms Connected? Call Sarah Hilde



Homework and Reading club

Homework and Reading club is officially underway at Evergreen Village! We started early in January and have had up to 12 kids in attendance!

We see a wide range of ages, from 4 year olds to an 8th grader, and they are a great bunch of kids! Many of the children attended our Summer Reading Vacation we hosted this past summer and it is exciting to be able to continue relationship building with them and we look forward to doing the same with our new friends as well!

Club will be held every Tuesday evening (so long as school is in session that day) the remainder of the school year.



Several of the children have asked if we could hold club more than once a week, one hoping it was going to be every school night!

We start our evening by welcoming the children, praying for our evening and for any requests the children may have and then have a group story time.

After a quick snack the children will then be paired up with a volunteer to work on their homework, reading or math facts. If they finish before club is over they can then play a game.

These children are eating up the fact that adults are excited about spending time with them and I

anticipate that word will continue to spread throughout the complex and our attendance will increase!

Won't you help?

After just a few weeks, there are a couple of needs that I would like to mention and ask you to pray about.



First, there is a large Spanish speaking population in Evergreen Village. Many of the parents who drop off their children do not speak English and it is probably best if we are not using our students to be our translators!

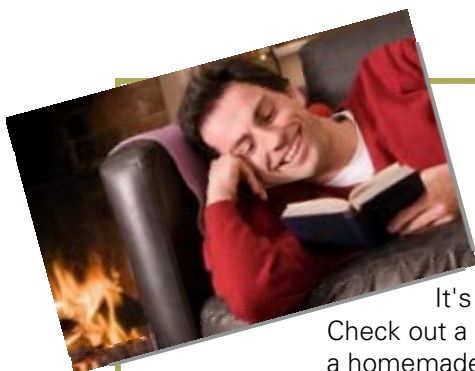
Do you speak Spanish and are looking for something to do on Tuesday evenings?? Well, we'd love to have you join us!

The second need is for additional volunteers. While we have 6 awesome volunteers, the majority of our students are 2nd-5th graders with math homework. If you are mathematically inclined (and extra brownie points if you are up on the "New Math" and extra

extra brownie points if you are up on new math and speak Spanish!) we could use your help!!

We are confident that the Lord is at work in this place and that He will supply exactly what we need to be effective ministers of His love to this community! Would you pray about being a part of this?

If you have questions or need more information please don't hesitate to call Kori Mauch.



Library Corner

It's cookie and cocoa time!

Check out a book in the month of February and grab a baggie with a homemade cookie and a package of cocoa mix to enjoy while reading by the fire. (They will be in a basket by the check-out.)



Several new biographies are in. All are excellent and are posted on the bulletin board.
Warning: Everyone on the library team bakes killer cookies.

Adult Sunday School

9:45-10:30 Join us as we live and learn together!

1. The Heidelberg Catechism led by Jim Mistry

The Heidelberg Catechism is the most widely used and most warmly praised catechism of the Reformation period. Jim will lead you through it with guidance in how to interpret scripture, see the beauty and authority of scripture, and grow in love of the person who calls Himself The Truth. You will be learning scripture in a question and answer format.

Although open to all, this class is recommended for adults and families with older children.



2. Life Together

Using family topics like marriage and parenting as a springboard, this group aims to foster God-centered relationships with an outward focus. Various couples will lead these discussions, and each first Sunday of the month will be a breakfast potluck

3. Experience the Land of the Bible

This class explores the ancient land of the bible using a beautifully-produced DVD series (*Day of Discovery*) as well as personal experiences from Pastor Paul's recent trip to Israel. We will tour the biblical sites and relate those sites to the stories in Scripture. Throughout the journey, you will gain a greater appreciation not only for the Holy Land itself but for the persons and events that are intimately connected to that amazing part of the world.



SPECIAL EVENT!
 Sunday, February 26 during the Sunday School hour.
"Missions Fellowship and Prayer Time"
 Stay tuned to God's global work through our brothers and sisters we faithfully support.
 Continued on page 6...

Family Life

'Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.' Romans 12:15 (NIV)



Mr & Mrs. O'Donnell

Congratulations

Melissa Wessels and Jonathan Hochstetler were married January 7. Melissa is the daughter of Marcia and Steve Wessels. Mr & Mrs. Hochstetler live in Florence, SC.

Ruth Ross and Nathaniel O'Donnell were married January 7. Ruth is the daughter of Julie and Phil Ross.



Mr & Mrs. Hochstetler

Condolences

Chip Kerry went home to be with the Lord on January 11. He is survived by his wife, Diane Kerry, their three sons, Todd (Barb) Kerry, Ryan (Kathy) Kerry and Brady (Andrea) Kerry and four granddaughters, Becca, Lexi, Maddie and Sam.

Mose Mutuku died suddenly on January 15. He is survived by his wife, Esther Masesi; three daughters, Mumo Masesi, Ndunge Masesi, and Mwongeli Masesi.



Moses Mutuku



Chip & Diane Kerry

NEWS! Do you have news to share with the E Free church family? Births, deaths, major life celebrations, etc.? Allow us to..." *Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.* Email your news to: News@efcsycdek.com or call Katie Mehne.

A Mission Field?

Join the Team!

Right here. Now. Each day they come to We Care Pregnancy Clinic. They are hurting, and they are scared. And they desperately need the hope offered through the person of Jesus Christ.

We offer that hope, making this ministry not only the front-line in defense of human life, but also a leader in changing our culture with the power of the gospel message.

You can join our team—on the cutting edge of one of the world's leading mission endeavors. Come to ...

Introduction to Volunteering

For Women & Men

Thursday, February 23

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Is God calling you to serve others?
Come find out if We Care is where He wants you.



At the Introduction evening, we will provide you with the foundations of the ministry, what we do, who we serve, and an overview of ways to volunteer.

Preregistration is required

Call 815-748-4242

Debbi@WeCarePregnancyClinic.org

or

www.WeCarePartners.org

to download a brochure.

Neighbor's House 5K

Neighbors' House is a not-for-profit, faith based, community development organization partnering with DeKalb County students and families to help them fulfill their God-given potential for academic and relational success

The 8th Annual NH5K will be **Saturday, April 21** at 8 am. It will begin & end at Hopkin's Park, 1403 Sycamore Rd., DeKalb, IL. No dogs please.

Registration information is available at :
www.neighborshouse5k.com/

Questions?
Contact Paul Gin, Race Director, 815.787.0600

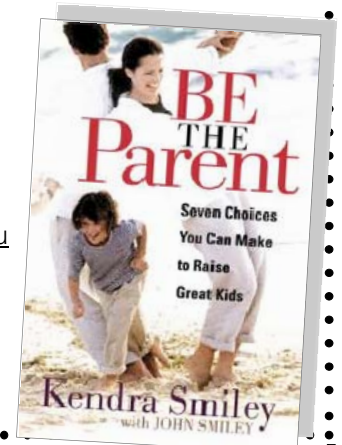
Moms Connected News

Cafe Play is an informal time of fellowship for moms and children on the last Thursday of each month (September through May). We meet in the toddler nursery at church from 9:30 to 11am. No registration is required.

Moms Connected is Thursday February 9th. We will be joined again by Ann Sullivan who will be giving us tips and encouragement on Parenting Tweens. Whether you are in the midst of these formative years or haven't reached them yet, you won't want to miss this!

Our **Book Study** will be starting again 9:30 to 11am on February 16th and meet the first and third Thursdays of the month through May. We will also meet the 4th week in March. We will be going through Kendra Smiley's book Be The Parent: Seven Choices You Can Make to Raise Great Kids.

Cost for the book will be \$5. Please request a copy of the book through Jenny Harbecke.



Our Vision:

To be a God-centered, outward-focused people who are building bridges to individuals in our local community and beyond, through authentic relationships and practical service, with a goal of connecting people to Christ and His community, and developing and multiplying followers of Christ.

Continued from page 4...

SPECIAL EVENT!

Rick Burchell will lead us in a valuable time of getting updated concerning E-Free-supported missions, encouraging our faith and giving us an opportunity to pray together.

All regularly-scheduled Sunday school classes will not meet on this day.

Please come to stay tuned to God's global work through our brothers and sisters we faithfully support.

Be encouraged by the ongoing growth of God's kingdom, which reaches far beyond DeKalb/Sycamore.

For more information about our supported missionaries, go to www.wefcsycdek.com/globalconnection.html



Thank You Church!
Kids going to camp would like to thank you for your support!

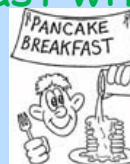
Thanks for letting us rake!



Thanks for eating spaghetti!



Thanks for having breakfast with us!



Your generosity helps us get to camp! We appreciate you!

Prayer

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:6-7.

We do desire to pray together and for each other. If you have a prayer requests, you can fill out the Connection form on Sunday morning, or call Ann Graham for the morning prayer chain and Diane Kerry for the evening prayer chain.

Join us at church for:

Women's Prayer Group Wednesdays at 4pm

Men's Prayer Group Thursdays at 6:30 am

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Mine!



"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine.'"

Abraham Kuyper, 19th Century Dutch theologian and prime minister.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:30 am - Worship & 11 am</p> <p>9:45 am - Sunday School</p> <p>1 pm - SH Ministry Team</p> <p>5 pm - SH Superbowl Party</p> <p>6 pm - Young Adult Small</p> <p>Emma Stice</p>			<p>4 pm - Women's Prayer</p> <p>6:30 pm - First Place 4</p> <p>6:30 pm - JH Youth Group</p> <p>Sharon Dunbar Lechia Taylor</p>	<p>6:30 am - Men's Prayer</p> <p>6:30 pm - Vocal Team</p>		
<p>8:30 am - Worship & 11 am</p> <p>9:45 am - Sunday School</p> <p>6 pm - JH & SH "2nd</p> <p>6 pm - Young Adult Small</p>		<p>Happy Valentine's Day</p> <p>Ericka Howard</p>	<p>4 pm - Women's Prayer</p> <p>6:30 pm - First Place 4</p> <p>6:30 pm - JH Youth Group</p> <p>Nancy Myre</p>	<p>6:30 am - Men's Prayer</p> <p>6:30 pm - Vocal Team</p> <p>Yvonne Graff</p>	<p>4 pm - Babysitting Night -</p> <p>Chip Kerry Brad Osborn</p>	<p>8 am Second Saturday</p>
<p>8:30 am - Worship & 11 am</p> <p>9:45 am - Sunday School</p> <p>6 pm - Young Adult Small</p> <p>Katie Mehne</p>	<p>6:30 pm - Writer's Group</p> <p>Marshall Dirks Abby Gould Mary Campbell Leanne Vesta</p>	<p>Sara Lisle</p>	<p>4 pm - Women's Prayer</p> <p>6:30 pm - First Place 4</p> <p>6:30 pm - JH Youth Group</p> <p>John Wolfskill Jill McDonald</p>	<p>6:30 am - Men's Prayer</p> <p>9:30 am - Moms Connected</p> <p>6:30 pm - Vocal Team</p> <p>Mary Hansen Nate Kloster</p>	<p>Connor Dirks</p> <p>Josiah Lisle</p>	
			<p>4 pm - Women's Prayer</p> <p>6:30 pm - First Place 4</p> <p>6:30 pm - JH Youth Group</p>	<p>6:30 am - Men's Prayer</p> <p>6:30 pm - Vocal Team</p> <p>Jessica Doering</p>	<p>Women's Retreat @ Hilton Garden Inn</p>	

Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-DeKalb

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

150 Bethany Road
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-756-8729
www.EFCsycdek.com

Senior Pastor
Bradley J. Reardon

Worship and Music Pastor
Paul Rogers

Pastor of Student Ministries
Gary Lisle

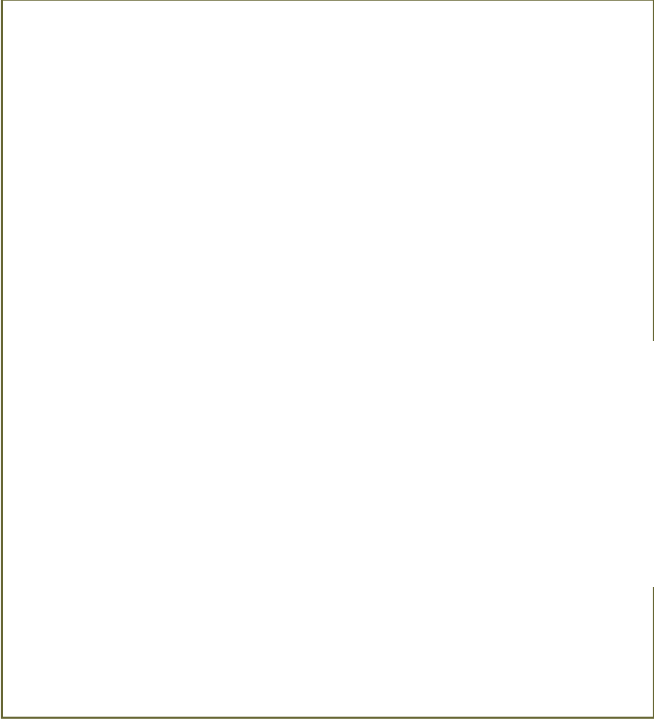
Children's Ministry Director
Terry Gin

Sunday Services:
8:30am & 11:00am
9:45am Sunday School



Click here to learn more

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Second Saturday

Join us for Breakfast!

Saturday, February 11
Fellowship Hall 8am – 10am



All adults, 50-ish and better, are invited to the monthly "Second Saturday" breakfast.

Come for breakfast and stay for excellent conversations! February 11, bring a friend— and plan to join us.

Call Gary or Lyndia Fry with questions or menu suggestions.

Saving Lives—Changing Futures

Remember to bring your *Change for Life* bottles back to church by **February 19.**



Inside this issue...



Good Times Ahead



Hope Haven Service Project



Cookies in the Library!



Special Event
February 26