



PRESENTING EVERYONE COMPLETE IN CHRIST

At the September 2009 congregational meeting, the elders presented updated goals for the following ten years. The Lord has blessed us in meeting many of the goals originally set in 2005. As we look to 2012 (and even into 2013) we pray God will continue to use FEFC for His glory. The following are goals we have set and a timeline of when construction may happen, new staff may be hired, and FEFC may plant a daughter church. We will present more details at the annual meeting Jan. 21st.

Opening Thoughts:

- We believe a healthy church is a growing church
- We desire to place our ministry emphasis on teaching and relationships
- We believe the vision of FEFC will be best met as a church of 400 to 500 people with a daughter church planting ministry.
- We desire to be a Great Commandment/Great Commission church
- We desire to be a Disciple-making Church
- We desire to have an External Focus
- We desire because of the community makeup to:
 - Seek to reach families by ministering to their teenagers
 - Seek to reach young families

Goals set in September 2009

1 Year

- Building addition complete
- Ministries both internal and external using the new facilities
- Begin planning for a church plant and third full-time staff
- Regular attendance of 200

2 Years

- 75% of our adults involved in Small Groups
- Regular attendance of 225

(Continued on page 2)



Dates to note:

January 4 @ : Annual Report Submission Deadline.

January 21 @ 4:30pm: Annual Congregational Business Meeting & Potluck Dinner.

January 28: Ski trip to Cannon Mountain, Franconia, NH.

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(Continued from page 1)

5 Years

- Group of 50 established as a new church plant
- Planning for second church plant
- 3 Full-time staff
- Mortgage retired through stewardship campaigns
- Regular attendance of 250 - 300

10 Years

- Three daughter churches planted in various stages with each being involved within their communities
- 4 Full-time staff
- Regular attendance of 400 - 450 in two services

Obviously, we were not allowed to build this year. We want to yield to the Lord's timing and have set new goals for when construction will happen. A report will be given at the annual meeting of what we will be doing to be ready in spring 2013.

Possible Time Line – Vision, Building, and Staff

2012

- Jan. Congregational meeting: Present 1, 2, 5, and 10 year goals
- Present clear detailed vision for building
- Present idea of calling a third pastoral staff
- Put together a church planting task force
Following Sunday give the same report on Finish with Faith
- May Congregational meeting: Have vote to move ahead with staff
- Vote in 3 lay people for search committee
- Jun to Aug. Search committee puts together profile for new position
- Sept. Congregational meeting: Present to congregation profile of new pastoral position
- Search begins

2013

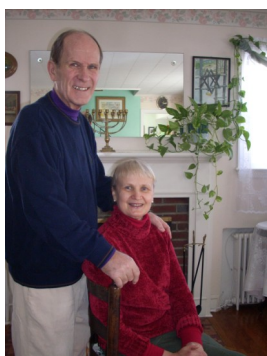
- Jan. Congregational meeting: Vote for second stewardship campaign
- Report from church planting task force
- Feb. - Mar. Second stewardship campaign with a celebration in early April
- April Take the total to Middlesex and Christian Investors for loan
Get construction figures from Coull
- May Congregational meeting: Finance and Construction update
- Vote for new staff
- June Construction begins
New staff has been hired

Jan. 2012

We praise God for the 52 cards received for Faith Promise. They totaled \$82,035, and is a very generous amount to work with. Most of our missionaries have lost support during these hard financial times and it will be our pleasure to help meet some needs in your name.

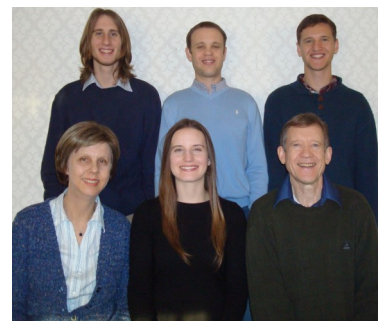
This year the Mission's Committee is going to try to familiarize the congregation with those we support by highlighting two different missionaries in the monthly newsletter. Please take the time to read about your missionaries and pray for them as you learn of their needs. It would be wonderful if your family would consider "adopting" a missionary for the month. That might mean praying for them and perhaps communicating your support via email. Pertinent information to help with this is in the church directory. You can also check out the mission's bulletin board to see what they look like and where they serve. Sometimes that helps when praying for someone. We appreciate your ongoing interest and support for these warriors for the faith.

January Missionaries



Alex and Anna Deikun have long ministered with Russian Jews in NYC through Slavic Missionary Service, Inc. (www.smsinternational.org). They were involved in planting a Russian Jewish congregation in Brooklyn and have used their home for evangelism, hospitality, and literature distribution. Alex has had significant health issues the last few years and remains house bound for the most part. But he and Anna continue to minister from their home as they are able. Please pray for Alex's health and also Anna as she cares for him and continues to do work for their mission organization out of their home. They have two grown daughters.

Roger and Betty Dorris are part of the EFCA's ReachGlobal (www.efca.org/reachglobal) and Roger currently works as a CONNECT Missions Consultant with churches in New England and in the Philadelphia area where they live. He works to encourage individuals and churches to develop a stronger missions focus, and Faith EFC has benefitted from his ministry during our conferences many times. Both Roger and Betty have ministered as church planters in Peru and in Venezuela in the past. Betty has been battling cancer for a few years now, and they would appreciate your prayers. They have four grown children.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Soul Food For Women

A group is forming to inspire each other as we take this year to read through the whole Bible using the *One Year Bible*. This Bible, which is uniquely arranged in 365 daily readings, comes in three versions: NIV, NLT, and ESV. You will daily experience excerpts from both the Old and New Testaments. Reading less than 4 pages a day (15 minutes) will enable you to finish the Bible in one year!

There are 3 methods by which you can utilize the *One Year Bible's* daily reading plan:

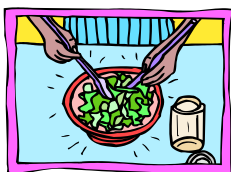
1. Purchase a hard copy of this Bible: www.christianbook.com/OneYearBible.
2. View or listen to the daily readings online: www.oneyearbibleonline.com. *Click on the month, located on the left side of the web page. Then scroll down and click on the day.*
3. Follow the daily readings in your own Bible, using the simple schedule available through Maria Rosa (mrsmbrosa@yahoo.com).

Whether you want to be encouraged daily or prefer to just come to one group meeting a month, we will provide what you need. **The kick-off meeting will take place only 5 minutes from the church at Maria and David Rosa's house (143 Newtown Road, Acton) on January 4th at 7:15pm.** At this meeting we will discuss your availability to contribute to the group, your specific needs for encouragement, and your preference for meeting times. *The Holy Spirit will transform you from within as you grasp more of a landscape view of God's heart and His will for your life!*

Meals for the Month

Join with other women to prepare quality meals that can be frozen and reheated for quick and easy dinners on busy evenings. Our goal is to meet approximately once a month and make 4 different meals each time so that you can use one every week (or whenever you want). The first opportunity is Saturday, February 4, 1:00-4:00pm at the Raczelowskis' home in Westford. The next event will be Friday, March 9, 9:00am-12:00pm at the Woodrings' house in Acton. We are attempting to vary the days and times in order to accommodate a variety of women and their schedules. Please watch your weekly bulletins for additional information. See Charlene Wiebe for more information.

FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS



January 21st is our Annual Congregational Business Meeting at 4:30pm. Because of the amount of material that needs to be covered at this meeting, we also have a potluck dinner. We ask that you bring a main dish to share, and either a dessert or salad. Singles can bring just one item.

Join us on January 28th for a trip to Cannon Mountain in Franconia, NH. You can ski or snowboard and there is a nice lodge where you can just relax and hang out. **Vicki Stevens is coordinating this event.** We'd like to get at least 20 folks going, so that we can qualify for the group rate. We'll leave church at 6:30am and be back about 6:00pm. Contact Vicki at either 978-897-7194 or 4.stevens@verizon.net.





Acton Community Supper

Acton Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

Serving Acton, MA and surrounding area residents since 1985

We have revived our effort to support the Acton Food Panty. Their greatest needs are in **January, April, July, and October**, so we are going to collect donations during the first two weeks of those months. They are especially in need of the following items:

- Peanut Butter Soup Cereal Spaghetti Sauce Fruit Juice
- Canned Fruit Parmalat (milk in non-refrigerated cartons)

Please put food donations in the box in fellowship hall or near the mailboxes. It would be preferable to leave donations downstairs in the fellowship area. Please put it there if you are able. Any non-perishable food will be appreciated by the pantry so don't worry if you can only give a small amount. Juice boxes are a big hit and maybe if you have children you will think of a creative way to get them involved. You may visit their website, www.actoncommunitysupper.org, if you would like to learn more about their organization. If you have any questions, Claudia Fortes, Sam Woodring, and Heather Woodring have volunteered to coordinate this effort to help our extended community with their basic needs for nourishment.

Thank you for considering to help.

Claudia, Sam, and HEATHER

ReaLife

Youth Sunday is January 8th 2012. All those that participate will be asked to attend both services (8:30 & 11:00).

January 8th during youth group time is our **COSTUME PARTY**. Come decked out and bring a snack to share.



Winter Retreat at Camp Berea, March 9-11, 2012



Once again we are heading up to Camp Berea for our annual winter retreat. Camp Berea has everything you want for a winter retreat: good bands, speakers, all camp games, free time activities (like winter paintball, snowshoeing, tubing, basketball and volleyball tournaments, and rock climbing), snack shop, and great

food - no lie - this camp food is actually good!!. Total due is \$135 (\$50 deposit plus \$85 due the day of the retreat). For more information go to <http://www.berea.org> or speak with Dan Kasey. Please make checks out to Faith Evangelical Free Church. (spaces will be given on a first come first serve basis with all others being put on a waiting list)

Meet the Robertsons

The Robertson family lives in Billerica and together they enjoy biking the rails to trails in Massachusetts as well as hiking. They have lived in several different countries around the world, including Denmark and Germany.

Blake and Susan met at a singles group at Grace Chapel in Lexington. Blake is retired from the military and currently works at Hanscom Air Force base doing contract work. Susan heard God telling her very clearly to home school when their oldest son, Andrew, was two years old. They



are very proud of their four children, especially since all four of them came to their parents and asked to receive Jesus as their Savior and then started witnessing to each other.

Andrew is a freshman at Cedarville University where he is studying mathematics. He likes to be outdoors experiencing the peaceful atmosphere of walking in nature. He appreciates that his parents are available and always willing to listen. His favorite Bible character is Samuel.

Michael is a high school junior and enjoys studying US history. His favorite person from US history is Abraham Lincoln. He would like to study mechanical engineering in college. His favorite Bible character is Joseph because despite all the problems that Joseph faced, God worked with and through him in the end. Michael enjoys doing archery in his backyard with his compound bow.

Matthew, a sophomore in high school, enjoys physical labor. Their family uses a woodstove to heat the house so the boys get to work together to accomplish the task of getting the wood for the stove. He would like to be in the military someday. Currently he enjoys studying chemistry and playing soccer with a town league. His favorite Bible verse is Joshua 1:9. He has good memories of his family's vacation to Disney World.

Alicia is in eighth grade. She loves reading and hanging out with friends. In school she enjoys history and English. Right now she is reading *Soul Surfer* by Bethany Hamilton. She lived in Germany until she was three and would like to go back some day to visit the places she remembers. When she is older she would like to be a missionary to Africa. In the spring she also plays soccer. She is thankful for her parents and her brothers because they encourage her.

Their family enjoys being involved in AWANA. All the boys are leaders and Alicia looks forward to next year when she can be a leader for the Cubbies. The Robertsons have come to *Journey to Bethlehem* for the past eight years. They really enjoy the friendly and welcoming people they have come to know here at FEFC.

Thank you, Bethany Stobbe, for this interview.

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Family Mission Trip Opportunity - May 12-19, 2012 at Cortland Bible Club Camp, Pitcher, NY

Bible Centered Ministries' Cortland Bible Club Camp (CBCC) is hosting its second Family Mission Trip. Once again there will be a mix of outreach to school-aged children and outdoor projects. Families with children of all ages are welcome to attend.

The camp is looking to run an after-school program for elementary children. Last year's Bible club was a great success with two children praying to accept Christ as their Savior. In the mornings, the team will be working on camp projects.

The cost of \$200 per person will cover food, lodging, and some project costs.

For more information please contact **Blake and Susan Robertson** at blake.robertson3@verizon.net or call 978-667-5435.

Adult Haiti Trip

Keep praying and thinking about joining an adult team that will be going to Haiti this summer. We have a longstanding relationship with Hope for the Children of Haiti and will again be working with their orphanages and in the community. Tara and Dan Kasey are planning a meeting for sometime in January. Stay tuned for the date.



BIBLE TRANSLATION WARNING

In 1984 the *New International Version* (NIV) translation was completed. The NIV is meant to be a readable translation taking into consideration the many manuscripts of Scripture found in last 100 years. The NIV has been called the *King James Version* of today. FEFC has NIV pew Bibles and most of the preaching uses this translation. In 2002 *Today's New International Version* (TNIV) first came out and was completed in 2005. There was much controversy over the TNIV because of the great effort to use gender-neutral language. Masculine terms for God such as "Father" and "Son" were removed. Many other words were translated in a way that is not faithful to the original text. The TNIV was rejected by most conservative evangelical Christians. **Here's the warning!** In 2011 a new NIV translation came out. It is actually a revision of the TNIV. It keeps about 75% of the changes that the 2005 TNIV made. *If you buy a new NIV Bible, you are primarily getting the TNIV without any notification of that fact.* The 1984 NIV version is no longer being printed. The following website gives a balanced and more in-depth analysis of this issue:

http://www.cbmw.org/images/articles_pdf/jbmw_spring_'11_16.burk_only.pdf

My suggestion: The English Standard Bible (ESV) is an excellent translation, though not quite as readable as the NIV. For those wanting even more of a literal translation, the New American Standard Bible (NASB) is also excellent.

Pastor Brad

JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No 8:30 Service or Sunday School 11:00a Worship 	2 Office Closed	3	4 Annual Reports Due 7:00p RL Core Group	5 7:30p Prayer Group	6	7 8:00a Men's Ministry
8 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 10:30a Fellowship 11:00a Worship 5:00p RealLife	9 7:00p Young Adult: The 72 7:30p Committee Mtgs.	10	11 6:00p RealLife to Life Care	12 7:30p Prayer Group	13	14
15 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 10:30a Fellowship 11:00a Worship 5:30p RealLife	16 6:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00p Young Adult: The 72	17	18 9:45a Joy Bible Study 7:00p RL Core Group	19 7:30p Prayer Group	20	21 8:00a Men's Ministry 
22 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 10:30a Fellowship 11:00a Worship 5:30p RealLife	23 9:30a Mom to Mom 7:00p Young Adult: The 72 8:00p Deacons' Mtg	24	25 9:45a Joy Bible Study 7:00p RL Core Group	26 7:30p Prayer Group	27	28 8:00a Men's Breakfast ALL DAY SKI TRIP TO CANNON MOUNTAIN 
29 8:30a First Service 9:45a Sunday School 10:30a Fellowship 11:00a Second Service 5:30p RealLife	30 9:30a Mom to Mom 7:00p Young Adult: The 72	31				