

# HARVEST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

## *Come Join the Fun...Game-a-Palooza!*

If you're already experiencing the January blahs, fear not! The **Harvest Family Game-a-Palooza** is just around the corner, on **Sunday, January 22nd**, from 6:30-8:30 pm. The event will take



place in the fellowship hall, and there will be yummy snacks and super fun-filled activities for all ages. If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Wilson or Ann-Victoria Kuenzle. It's time to get your game face on!



## *Congratulations to our Winners!*

Our December **Souper Sunday** included not only fellowship, but great food, fun, and a little competition. In case you missed it, congratulations go out to our chili and pie winners, and thanks go out to all who participated in the event! We were all winners in getting to taste such yummy pies and chili!



### **Chili Cook Off**

Spiciest: Bob Snyder  
Presentation: John Sacoulas  
Tastiest: Jim Hamilton



### **Pie Extravaganza**

Karen Ramaker (Turtle Pie) &  
Alura Christoffersen (Apple Pie)

## *Loaves & Fishes*

Harvest is excited to again be able to participate in the local **Loaves & Fishes** ministry on Sunday evening, January 29th. Loaves & Fishes provides nightly meals to individuals and families in the community who are currently under-employed or unemployed during the winter months. Please take a look at the sign-up sheets in the lobby and see how you might be involved. There are opportunities to cook, serve, clean up, visit with participants, or provide food items. Come join us as we serve our community!



Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.  
Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Romans 12:10,11

## LOOKING AHEAD:

- January 15:**  
Youth Bowling, 5 PM
- January 17:**  
WTTH (women) at Dori's, 6:30 PM
- January 22:**  
Community Groups  
"Game Night", 6:30 PM
- January 29:**  
Loaves & Fishes
- February 3-5:**  
Women's Retreat
- February 5:**  
Souper Sunday  
Youth Super Bowl Party
- February 21:**  
WTTH (women) at Elisha's, 6:30 PM
- February 22:**  
Ash Wednesday Service, 7 PM

Welcome Our  
Newest Additions  
to the  
Harvest Family



**Rebecca Grace**  
born to Joe & Naomi  
on December 31st

and

**Mason Leon**  
born to Tim & Amelia  
on November 21st



**YOUTH EVENTS**  
(Tentative)

Jr. & Sr. High Students - Be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss these great events:

**January 15**  
Theme Bowling  
(Nerds Night)

**January 22**  
Game-a-Palooza!

**January 29**  
Serve at  
Loaves & Fishes

**February 5**  
Super Bowl Party

**February 19**  
Sardines in the Dark

Wednesday nights  
Bible Study on Luke

Don't forget...  
Thursday Guys' Night  
& Girls' Night  
Jan 12 & 26  
Feb 2 & 16

Questions?  
Contact Hillary or  
Brendon

*Youth*

*Hillary Bargman*

It was an exciting 2011, and we are looking forward to 2012. In December we finished up *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis. It was a great book, and we were able to hear perspectives from different members of our congregation. We thoroughly enjoyed the discussions and insight from all who came to help out. We will start the new year with a study of the Gospel of Luke. We look forward to digging deeper into a book from the Bible!

The Youth finished out the year by having a New Year's movie night at Hillary's. It was a lot of fun, and now we are all rested and ready for a new year!

There are some exciting things already planned--our annual themed bowling and Super Bowl party, just to name a couple. We will also be participating in the church's community game night and serving at Loaves and Fishes.

Also, don't forget that we will be having our guy's and girl's nights and other fun events.



Trail riding at the Hamm Ranch—Fall Retreat



*Men's Ministry*

*Greg Stone*

We currently have a few men's groups that meet in small groups at various times and places. We are going to start a sign up for a few Sundays at church to gauge interest of other men wanting to join a Bible study with other men at Harvest.

In addition, Jim Hamilton and Rob Marshall are in discussions on men's ministry ideas. Our specific goals are to see men at Harvest involved in ministry both within our congregation and also out in the community.

On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, the men will be in charge of the meal for our Souper Sunday, since the women will be on a retreat that weekend! Joe Baker has graciously offered to help with the meal, so we're looking forward to some great cooking!

A possible Men's Spring retreat will be discussed in coming weeks. More info to come! If you have ideas for men's ministry at Harvest or would like to be involved in planning events, please contact Greg Stone or Jim Hamilton.

*Women's Ministry*

*Ann-Victoria Kuenzle*



**Ladies Retreat:** It's finally here! Registration for the Women's Winter Retreat at Tall Pines Resort in Blue Eye is now underway! We will hold retreat registration again Sunday, January 15th, downstairs during the fellowship time. If anyone is not able to register then, but still wants to go, please contact Ann-Victoria at [avkuenzle@yahoo.com](mailto:avkuenzle@yahoo.com). Also, if anyone needs a scholarship, they should also contact Ann-Victoria. More info is available on our blog at [www.harvestefcwomen.blogspot.com](http://www.harvestefcwomen.blogspot.com) as well

as the Facebook page.

Our **Women's Third Tuesday Hangout (WTTH)** will resume for 2012. All ladies are invited and encouraged to join us in a relaxed evening of fun and fellowship (as well as some tasty dessert)! Our hosts for upcoming WTTH's are: **January 17th** at Dori Rapinchuk's, **February 21st** at Elisha Rapinchuk's, and **March 20th** at Paige Ray's. Mark your calendars now so you don't forget. Details will be provided in the bulletin, but if you need more information, please feel free to contact the church office.

If you are crafty with needles of any type or would like to learn, the **knitting group** will meet Tuesday, Jan 24th, at 6:30 p.m. or Wednesday, January 25th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Keeter Center Lobby.

Finally, ladies, mark your calendars for **Pure Joy**, at 7 p.m., March 2nd, at the Tri-Lakes Center. This is an opportunity for community-wide worship. More details will be provided in the coming weeks!



## The Wild Side (Children's Ministries)

Jodi Stone

The kids at Harvest ended 2011 with a wonderful time of worship by performing "The Good News Flash." The actors and actresses did a great job explaining the true meaning of Christmas to some confused reporters (and the audience). I want to thank everyone who played a part, made signs and costumes, helped with the sound, played the piano, and helped kids learn their parts. Torie Youngblood and Nick Fried did a wonderful job directing the play. Thank you guys for stepping in and helping me out.

As we begin 2012, the kids in The Wild Side will be finishing up their study of **The 10 Commandments**. The teachers have done an excellent job of presenting God's Word to the kids. The next few months will be spent diving in deeper to the Old Testament and we'll be studying Bible heroes, prophecy, and God's faithfulness.

January 21st, the **4th-6th grade girls** will be having a **slumber party** at the church starting at 6 p.m.. It will be a night full of eating, playing games, doing crafts and watching movies. Mark your calendars to save the date!!

We would like to welcome **Mark Parry** as our new **4th-6th grade teacher**. Mark works for Kids Across America and has a passion to share Christ with others. What a blessing it will be to have him teaching our kids. He is a true answer to prayer.

Parents, I'm hoping that most of you were able to open **December's Parent Link newsletter** I sent out by e-mail. If you weren't, I'm terribly sorry. I'm having quite a few problems with the link and my computer that I am working on. Please stop by the check-in counter downstairs to get your January copy. Thanks for your patience. I have a new e-mail address; please make sure to add it to your address book: [jodistone28@gmail.com](mailto:jodistone28@gmail.com). May God bless you in 2012!



## HARVEST TEACHING SCHEDULE

*The elders will be having a retreat January 13-14. Please pray for our elders as they discuss and pray about Harvest.*

### Season of Epiphany

January 15 - Mark Rapinchuk  
John 1:43-51

January 22 - Gary Hiebsch  
Mark 1:14-20

January 29 - Mark Rapinchuk  
Mark 1:21-28

February 5 - Eric Bolger  
Mark 1:29-39

February 12 - Gary Hiebsch  
Mark 1:40-45

February 19 - Mark Rapinchuk  
Mark 9:2-9

### Season of Lent

February 26 - Eric Bolger  
Mark 1:9-15

### DID YOU KNOW???

You can listen to each week's sermon on the web. Just log on to [www.harvestefc.org](http://www.harvestefc.org) and click on Download Sermon.

## Worship

Eric Bolger

**Epiphany** is a less familiar season of the Christian Year. During this season we celebrate the revealing of Jesus as the Son of God through his public ministry. Scripture readings for the season focus on Jesus' baptism, temptation, and early miracles and teaching. Once we reach Ash Wednesday (February 22 this year) we turn with Jesus to Jerusalem and walk with him during Lent in anticipation of his ultimate suffering and death.

During this Epiphany season we will also see the "revealing" of a new leader of Harvest's worship team. Andy Thomas will be taking a greater role in leading the team this year, with Craig Wescott and Eric Bolger leading on a more limited basis. Andy is a fine musician and recent College of the Ozarks graduate. He is very excited about getting more involved with the Harvest congregation.

## God's Mission

A group of Harvest members have been meeting to discuss ideas and better define our vision for God's Mission through Harvest - what God would have us do, where He would have us go/send, and how we should accomplish these tasks both physically and fiscally. Each Sunday these discussions are continuing, and your prayers would be most appreciated.

As recommendations are determined, hopefully by early February, these will be shared with the congregation during the Equipping Hour for input and further development. We are excited to see where God will lead us during these discussions and hope we will then be able to clearly communicate our desires for stepping out as a congregation to share God's love with others.



*A huge thank you goes out to the Harvest congregation for their support of the Sioux Assembly of God congregation in Wakpala. Your Christmas gifts totaled \$1,436.00 to provide propane for those cold winter months in South Dakota! Thanks for your generosity!*



**Ash Wednesday Service—February 22nd—7PM**

## HARVEST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

### Staff Members

Staff Elder	Greg Stone
Admin. Asst.	Julie Marine
Children's Min.	Jodi Stone
Church Admin.	Dori Rapinchuk
Facility Admin.	Wayne Newcome
Youth Leaders	Hillary Bargman & Brendon Rapinchuk

We're on the web  
at:  
[www.harvestefc.org](http://www.harvestefc.org)

### Our Mission:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

### Our Vision:

To be a Christ-centered community of believers committed to biblical worship and teaching that reaches all people, restores them to wholeness, equips them for service, and sends them to reach others.

### Equipping Hour

Offering classes for all ages  
Join us!

#### Adult Classes:

##### ***Barnabas***

Prayer and discussion of the morning teaching.

##### ***Timothy***

Discussing Scot McKnight's book *The King Jesus Gospel*.

##### ***Mission Vision***

Discussing the changing mission field.

## Community Groups

Amy Wescott

As we head into 2012, we encourage you to take some time to evaluate the health of your Community Group....but perhaps in a different way than you might expect. Check out the following article and let it inspire you to make 2012 a year of HOPE in your Community Group!

Not in a community Group? Keep reading AND consider getting involved THIS year!

### **Are We Inspiring Hope? By Amy Jackson**

([http://blog.smallgroups.com/2011/11/are we inspiring hope 1. html](http://blog.smallgroups.com/2011/11/are-we-inspiring-hope-1.html))

*When I think of a great small-group meeting, I think of authentic conversations, new insights, several good laughs, and feeling known and loved. Something that doesn't normally come to mind? Inspiring hope. But that's changed.*

*Recently at my women's small group, I was filled with hope, and that was exciting.... Our discussion filled me with a renewed sense of mission, identity, and worth. Surprisingly, this great small-group meeting happened despite being in a group with less-than-perfect group dynamics, no clear leader, and a book study that's not exactly the best I've seen - red flags that would normally catch my attention. But our discussion stemmed from a great question, authentic sharing, and wisdom gained over years of following Christ. Our answers steered clear of the trivial and cliché and instead pointed to hard-learned truths.*

*So is inspiring hope something that we should strive for in small groups? Or should we be content with nice discussions?*

*The Bible certainly seems to say a lot about hope. Romans 12:9-13 says to be joyful in hope. Romans 15:4 points out that Scripture was written to fill us with hope, and 15:13 clarifies that it should be an overflowing hope, full of joy and peace. 2 Corinthians 3:12 reminds us that hope makes us bold to live out lives of faith. And 1 Thessalonians 1:3 says hope can give us endurance as well.*

*It certainly appears as if hope might be something Jesus wants for his followers. And if hope makes us bold and gives us endurance to keep on keeping on, it seems that hope is an important ingredient for spiritual formation. After all, if there's no hope of change or redemption, what's the point? Hope sounds perfect for small groups.*

*So do your group meetings inspire members with hope? Do your group members leave meetings feeling as though they've been on holy ground, that God was truly present in the meeting? Do they leave with a greater sense of identity and mission? Do they leave feeling emboldened to live a life worthy of their calling?*

*How do we make sure our meetings are brimming with hope? I imagine that depending on your study, some nights are more easily inspiring. For instance, talking about Jesus' miracles and discussing the miracles group members have seen in their own lives probably feels more inspiring than discussing the laws of Exodus. On the other hand, if we're reminding group members of Christ's power, the working of the Holy Spirit, and the deep love of God, can't any topic bring hope and inspiration?*

For more information about Harvest Community Groups, visit [www.harvestefc.org](http://www.harvestefc.org) or contact Amy Wescott at [amywescott@tri-lakes.net](mailto:amywescott@tri-lakes.net) or the church office at [office@harvestefc.org](mailto:office@harvestefc.org).