

Pastor's Monday February 11, 2008

Whew! Simple Church. Simple Church! Simple Church? After the weekend – I don't know. Life is not Simple. Church is Not Simple. Being a Christian is neither easy nor simple. So what is this about "Simple Church?"

Simple Church is one of three books recommended to me by Pastor Dean Nadasdy. Dean is Pastor of Woodbury Lutheran Church in MN (3700 members), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the LCMS, and Seminary professor and prolific author. I was speaking with him a couple of weeks ago in preparation for his time with us Feb 29 – March 2. The subtitle is "Returning to God's process for making disciples." While the title and subtitle did not turn my head much (I've been around this bus several times before) the books basic premise along with the other two books have made a profound impact on me.

The concerns that I shared with Pastor Nadasdy reflect the concerns of many congregations; lack of sustained growth, transient membership, competition with sports, music, and dance for time in youth and children's lives, preoccupation with internal church functions and programs, failure to live out stated mission statements and missional objectives. Hence the three books which focus on helping a congregation move beyond its own walls to the "world."

In my conversation with Pastor Nadasdy this past week, we refined our focus for his time with us and we have three topics for his presentations on Saturday, March 1 from 9 a.m to 3 p.m

Session 1 – 24/7 Discipleship – The Equipping Church Inside

Session 2 – Outside the Walls – The Mission Church Outside

Session 3 – The Simple Church from Inside to Outside

Informational brochures are available at the Welcome Center. The brochure includes a registration form. To help defray the cost of bringing Dr. Nadasdy to Fairbanks, there is a \$10 per person fee for the seminar. A continental breakfast and lunch will also be served. Child care will be available upon request. Please call the church office at 456-7660 with children's names and ages.

Pastor Kuehnert