

**Reaching UP in our LOVE for God!  
Reaching IN in our LOVE for one another!  
Reaching OUT in our LOVE for the world!**

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The newsletter will no longer be mailed out after the December 2008 issue. It is already available online at [gefc.org](http://gefc.org) where you can subscribe to it and have a link delivered to your email inbox as soon as it's posted each month.

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- 9) If you have any trouble contact Catherine at the office between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

## GEFC Hires 1st Ever Worship Director

On Sunday, October 12, 2008 Geneseo Evangelical Free Church welcomed AJ Reynolds as their first ever Worship Director with a vote of 47-5.

Aj and his family are attendees of GEFC and he's been serving in the area of worship here for about a year. He is no newcomer to worship leading however, as God laid worship leading on his heart when he was in High school.

Aj will assume a 3/4 time paid position beginning some time in November. He is looking forward

to serving the Lord through the people of GEFC. Feel free to contact AJ at [opraisehim@hotmail.com](mailto:opraisehim@hotmail.com) with questions or concerns that you may have.

AJ is the husband of Rebekah (White) and the proud father of 2 year old Amelia and 3 month old Claire. In addition, he is the son-in-law of Ken and Pam White. The Reynolds reside in Geneseo.

If you haven't already met the Reynolds' please make it a point to introduce yourself to them. You won't be disappointed. ☞

## Pastor Greg's Russian Brother Visiting GEFC

by Pastor Greg Chenoweth

I would like to invite you to meet my long lost Russian brother from birth, Pastor Pavel Zhirov. On Sunday evening, November 9, Pastor Pavel and his wife, Zoya, will be visiting us from Ryazan, Russia. You may remember that Dave Walters and I stayed with them during our two trips to Ryazan the last two years. I call Pastor Pavel my long lost brother from birth because of the kindred spirit we shared during our two visits with them. I am excited for Pavel and Zoya to meet you and for you to meet them.



will have a special meeting at the church for Pastor Pavel and Zoya to address the church and

share what the Lord is doing in Ryazan, Russia. A fellowship time will follow with dessert.

Now, I also have a challenge for us. During our visit to Ryazan in 2006 & 2007, Pastor Pavel's church overwhelmed us with food and desserts. I'd like to

give him a taste of Midwest hospitality! Would every family bring its favorite dessert? We'll send them back to Russia having to pay extra for weight gain.

☞

Sunday, November 9 @ 6pm we

## What Are You Thankful For?



**“Who am I  
that He  
should be  
this good to  
me!”**



**Jim Gessel:** I'm thankful that one year after my surgery I am cancer free—praise God!

**Karen Kincaid:**

“God is good to me.  
God is good to me.  
He holds my hand.  
He helps me stand.  
God is good to me.”

It's a little song heard in many children's Sunday School classes. And it expresses what I am thankful for — God's goodness to me. His “goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life.” (Ps. 23:6) Believe it or not, I can be less than perfect on a daily basis — just ask my family. I don't figure I deserve much of God's goodness, but when I am faithless, He remains faithful. (II Timothy 2:13)

God, in His goodness, has blessed me with:

- A faithful, loving, Christian husband.
- A safe community to live in with many friends who care about me.
- The opportunity to watch four uniquely wonderful children grow up successfully, in spite of my less-than-perfect parenting skills.
- Seeing the awesome miracle of salvation firsthand as I experienced our prodigal son give his sin-stained life over to Christ.

- The blessing of seeing both my parents and Jeff's parents remain healthy and independent as they grow older.

- His mercies, which are new to me every morning. (Lam 3:22) He gives me a clean slate every day when I wake up. He blesses me with another chance to try it all again. He understands my humanness. He's compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in love. (Ex. 34:6) I am so grateful that He doesn't treat me as my sins deserve (Ps. 1203:10)

Who am I that He should be this good to me! I thank Him that His goodness does not depend on my goodness. Plainly put: He is a good God and He does good things — period! (Ps. 119:68)

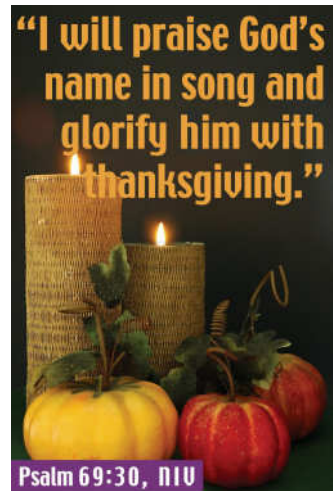
Thank you, God, for being good to me. In spite of who I am, you are ALWAYS who you are — our good and faithful God.

**Chris Kuster:** I am thankful for the blessings that come from relationships with family, friends and others that the Lord arranged by placing us together here at this time, and the freedom we enjoy as Americans.

**Faith Cashman:** I had read a story about being thankful for the thorns in one's life and how we never question why good things happen to us but when bad stuff hits we wonder “why me?”. Not a day goes by that I don't think of the painful thorn of Amber's illness 5 years

ago. I never thought the “Why Lord”, because I know cancer doesn't care who it touches. Instead I thought more of “Why not me instead of my daughter”. But as awful as it was to go through that experience, blessings resulted. The relationship between me and Amber was renewed and it's something that I treasure immensely. The love, care and concern expressed from our GEFC family still touches me so deeply. Each of you that stood by our side were most certainly used by God as angels of comfort to surround us and hold us up during a difficult time. As the song says...“How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me...” Simply, to God be the glory.

When Thanksgiving comes, it marks the anniversary of completion of Amber's treatment for her cancer. And by God's amazing mercy and grace, she remains cancer free. That is the ultimate prayer of thanks-giving from the Cashman's.✠



## Who Are You Banking On?

by Pastor Greg Chenoweth

Twenty years ago, the Lord brought a wonderful servant into our lives to give us wise godly financial advice to help prepare for the future. Since then we have set aside funds each month for our future. For most of those years the market worked in our favor. But the recent dive in the stock market has cut into our portfolio. We are cautious investors and yet, we have still lost over 25% of our retirement portfolio in the last four months.

But I can honestly say that I have not lost one wink of sleep over the current economic crisis. And I hope you don't either. I have no idea how our funds will turn out. But I know who ultimately owns and manages our funds and who our provider is – and it is not Oppenheimer!

The Scriptures speak with frequency and relevancy on finances: 2,350 verses in the Bible address money. One out of every six verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke is about material possessions. Nearly half of Jesus' parables are about possessions. Jesus spoke more about money and how to use it than he did about heaven and hell combined. So what might the Lord have to tell us during times like this?

**1 Timothy 6:17-19** - Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our

enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

**Matthew 6:19-21** - "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal [and where banks and markets crash]. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**1 Timothy 6:6-10** - But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

**Philippians 4:11-13** - I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of

being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.

**Ecclesiastes 5:10** - Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.

**Proverbs 11:28** - Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

**Hebrews 13:5** - Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

**Psalms 34:8-10** - Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

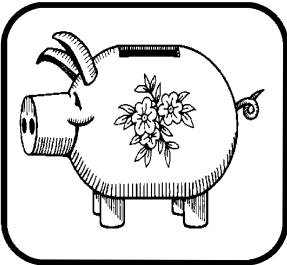
**Philippians 4:6-7** - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Banking on the Lord Jesus!! ☺



Senior Pastor, Greg Chenoweth

**"But I can honestly say that I have not lost sleep over the current economic crisis."**



## Examining Who We Are & What We Do

by Pastor Michael Mauriello



Youth Pastor,  
Michael Mauriello

What is your  
everyday life  
given over  
too?



Over the last two months, two things have occupied a lot of my attention. The first is my ordination paper. In order to become ordained, the Free Church requires its pastors to write a thirty page defense of the Free Church Statement of Faith. Now, this is sort of my cup of tea. I love this kind of thing. Anytime I can lock myself in a room full of theological dictionaries and commentaries and work on this sort of project, I'm in seventh heaven. But what always takes me by surprise is how much I learn about the Scriptures, and how much more it forces me to think about how theology impacts my life.

The second thing that has occupied my mind is what the Senior High is doing in Sunday School. Over the last couple of months, we've been examining the "Everyday Life." Most Christians have a hard time understanding how to apply the teachings of Jesus, and more fundamentally, the doctrines concerning the nature of God, Christ, the Church, Atonement, etc. to their everyday lives. Now, most of the time, we place the blame on the difficulty of interpreting Christian doctrine. Yes, sometimes the Bible is difficult to understand and interpret. So, it would make sense that this plays a role in our difficulty of applying the Bible to our lives.

But I've come to believe that a substantial part of the problem of application doesn't lie with the Bible, or the difficulty of its interpretation. It comes with the difficulty of

understanding of our everyday lives. What I'm saying is this: Few people take the time to understand the Bible. And few people take the time to understand their daily lives. We struggle to understand Scripture because we don't take any time to discern or take account of our times, settings, relationships, or goals. Allow me to take an analogy from a lock and key. It's not that we can't make the key (Scripture) fit in the lock (our daily lives). It's that we haven't taken the time to assemble the lock in the door (understand our lives to see how Scripture *could* apply to it).

A good chunk of the time we spend our lives just going through the everyday motions. An everyday life is just that, a set of patterns that happens everyday. But an everyday life is the most important part of our lives, because it is the part of life that we spend the most time doing. Crises and problems come and go, and will rearrange our everyday lives. But, we will still have everyday lives. Everyday life is how we spend our time accomplishing the goals that we create for ourselves, based upon our beliefs and values. We may not be aware that we have goals, but we do, and they will spring from our beliefs and values, whether they perceive them or not.

Christian theology and our everyday lives are not unrelated. They are fundamentally married. Christians believe (or should), that they have a finite amount of time on

earth, that God has called us to live a certain way to accomplish a certain goal (to glorify him so that others will glorify him and receive Jesus), often while accomplishing a certain God-given task (a call). Christian theology is necessary so we will understand what the universe is like, what the God who created this universe is like, what we are like, so we can have correct values (what is good, beautiful, and true), and so magnify life. In order to do this, we must examine Scripture, but also examine ourselves.

What is your everyday life given over too? What are the patterns you have set for yourself? If you aren't sure, on the Sr. High Sunday School page on the website are some handouts and guides for self-examination. I invite you to join our students as we examine who we are and what we do, so we can then have the great privilege of applying God's great truths to our lives and to our time. *cs*



Mark your calendars for Christmas Eve Service Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm.

## November Prayer Focus

by Teri Walters

During the month of November our prayer focus will be on one member of your family who does not know Jesus as their Personal Savior.

If we know Him, we want others to know Him too - and especially those in our immediate families. Let's ask God to show us ways to steer conversations toward an opportunity to share what Christ means to us, and then to ask that relative something about where they are in their spiritual journey - or what their relationship is with Jesus Christ. God is so creative - He'll give you the right words to say and the right timing. Here are some scriptures to share with that loved one ~

The Bible says we are created for Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:16) therefore, we will never know true joy, permanent satisfaction, or deep fulfillment apart from a personal relationship with Him. God didn't program us to automatically love

and live for Jesus. He has given us the freedom to choose Him for ourselves.

The Bible says in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Our sin separates us from God and keeps us from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, condemning us to an eternity apart from God. But, even in our sin, there is hope: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

Therefore, to establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and have the gift of eternal life, you must first acknowledge that you are a sinner. As sinners, you and I are totally helpless in our spiritual deadness. Our only hope is Jesus - He is the bridge to God. "God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, Himself man, is between them to bring them together." (1 Timothy 2:5 TLB) "But God demonstrates His

own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

So, secondly, in order to benefit from the loving sacrifice of Jesus, you must confess your sin sincerely and be willing to repent of it - turn from it. (Romans 10:9) "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

And thirdly, you must deliberately open the "door" of your heart and invite Jesus Christ to come into the center of your life as your Lord and Savior. "To all who receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12) Welcome to God's forever family!

There is nothing that gives more joy in life than seeing another person come to the place of accepting Jesus into their life. I wish you much joy!☺



**..our prayer focus will be on one member of your family who does not know Jesus as their Personal Savior.**

## Chix Mix: Something New for Women

by Rita Ford

I must tell you about the first Chix Mix, we laughed until we cried, I am considering budgeting in De Kosman and Jan Anderson to be at every one. Six women gathered at the home of Jan Anderson, she opened her heart and home to us, We sat around and talked and then Jan told the story of her jury duty experience. You must ask her about this. We solved all the

world problems, and forgot about what concerned us. On the way home I said thank you God, it was so good. I know each of those women had heavy hearts and concerns for their families but for 2 hours the laughter came.

Mark your calendar for Monday, November 17 and plan to meet at Carol Anderson's home. Please let us know if you

plan to attend on the welcome card or by calling the church office. We do hope you can come!☺



## Leroy F. Stoneking

(July 25, 1915—September 24, 2008)



Leroy Stoneking

Leroy F. Stoneking, 93 of Geneseo, passed away Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island.

Funeral services celebrating his life were held at Geneseo Evangelical Free Church on Saturday, September 27. In lieu of flowers the family requested memorials be left to the Geneseo Evangelical Free Church.

Leroy was born July 25, 1915 in Macomb, IL the son of Harry and Lillian (Pestle) Stoneking. He was united in marriage to Evelyn Bone on August 27, 1937 in Galesburg, IL; she preceded him in death in 2004. Leroy was employed at International Harvester

Works for over 40 years from 1935-1981, retiring as an Advanced Planner. He was a member of the First Evangelical Free Church, Moline and had been attending the Geneseo Evangelical Free Church. Leroy enjoyed fishing, raising vegetables and things on his small acreage.

Survivors include a daughter and spouse Ivone and David Lindblade, Naperville, IL; a son and spouse Dr. Jerry & Johanna Stoneking, Seminole, FL; five grandchildren Kimberly Stevenson, Bradley Stoneking, Jeffery Lindblade, Christopher Lindblade, Stefanie Bauer, eight great grandchildren,

Caleb Stevenson, Nathanael Stevenson, Isabelle Lindblade, Benjamin Stoneking, William Stoneking, Noah Lindblade, Marissa Bauer, Bria Lindblade and a brother and spouse Richard and Gladys Stoneking, Milan, IL.

He was preceded in death by two brothers Albert and Edward and a sister at infancy. ☞

**Editors note:** We all knew Leroy as a kind, loving, gentle and godly man who shared his love of Jesus Christ with anyone that had a moment to listen. We will greatly miss him. We rejoice with him as he rests in the arms of our Savior!

## Words of Thanks

The family of Leroy Stoneking express their gratitude to the ladies and gentlemen who graciously provided the delicious luncheon after Dad's funeral celebration.

Dad and Mom considered Geneseo Free Church their church home during their last years on earth. You were a blessing to them and therefore to us also. Thank you

In Christian love,  
Leroy's family

Dear GEFCh

*Thank you so very much for graciously allowing us to borrow the Living Beyond Yourself Bible study from your library. We are truly grateful, as at least one young woman has come to the saving knowledge of Jesus through one of the studies meeting. Your extra set of DVD's has made it possible.*

*In Christ's love,  
Anne Haring  
DeWitt, IL*

The Church and Staff,

We truly appreciate your open heart and caring. You have a wonderful facility. Thank you for sharing.

Penny Stahl  
(family of Wes Stahl)

**"..at least one young woman has come to the saving knowledge of Jesus...."**



Sun

Mon

Tue



Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 4!

2	<b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b> Partners In Prayer 7:45 am Sr. High Youth Group 6:00 pm	3	Missions Meeting 7:00 pm	4	AM Reading Connection II 10:00 am  Women's Retreat 5:45 pm	5	Awana 6:25 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm	6	Women's Bible Study 9:30 am & 7:00 pm Worship Practice 6:30 pm & 7:15 pm	7	Homeschool Group 10:00 am	8	
9	Partners In Prayer 7:45 am Sr. High Youth Group 6:00 pm Missionary Speaker 6:00 pm	10		11	Elder's Meeting 7:00 pm  <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	MOPS 9:00 am Awana 6:25 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm	13	Women's Bible Study 9:30 am & 7:00 pm Worship Practice 6:30 pm	14	Worship Practice 6:00 pm	15	Date Night 4:00-8:00 pm
16	Partners In Prayer 7:45 am Sr. High Youth Group 6:00 pm	17	Chix Mix @ Carol Anderson's 7:00 pm  Administrative Council Meeting 7:00 pm	18	Nursery Meeting 9:00 am	19	Awana 6:25 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm	20	Women's Bible Study 9:30 am & 7:00 pm Worship Practice 6:30 & 7:15 pm	21	Homeschool Group 10 am Dining Out @ Parkway Grill 6:15 pm Crafting @ Mauriello's 7:00 pm	22	
23	Prayer Group 7:45 am Sr. High Youth Group 6:00 pm	24		25	MOPS 6:30 am Elder's Meeting 7:00 pm	26		27	 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	28	Worship Practice 6:00 pm	29	

30  
Prayer Group 7:45 am  
Sr. High Youth Group 6:00 pm

# November



## Reaching UP Reaching IN Reaching OUT

### Free News

November 2008 Volume 13, Issue 10

Geneseo Evangelical Free Church  
914 N. Chicago St.

Phone: 309-944-4667  
Fax: 309-944-4668  
E-mail: gefc@gefc.org

#### Sunday Worship Services

- Conventional Service - 8:15 am
- Contemporary Service - 10:45 am

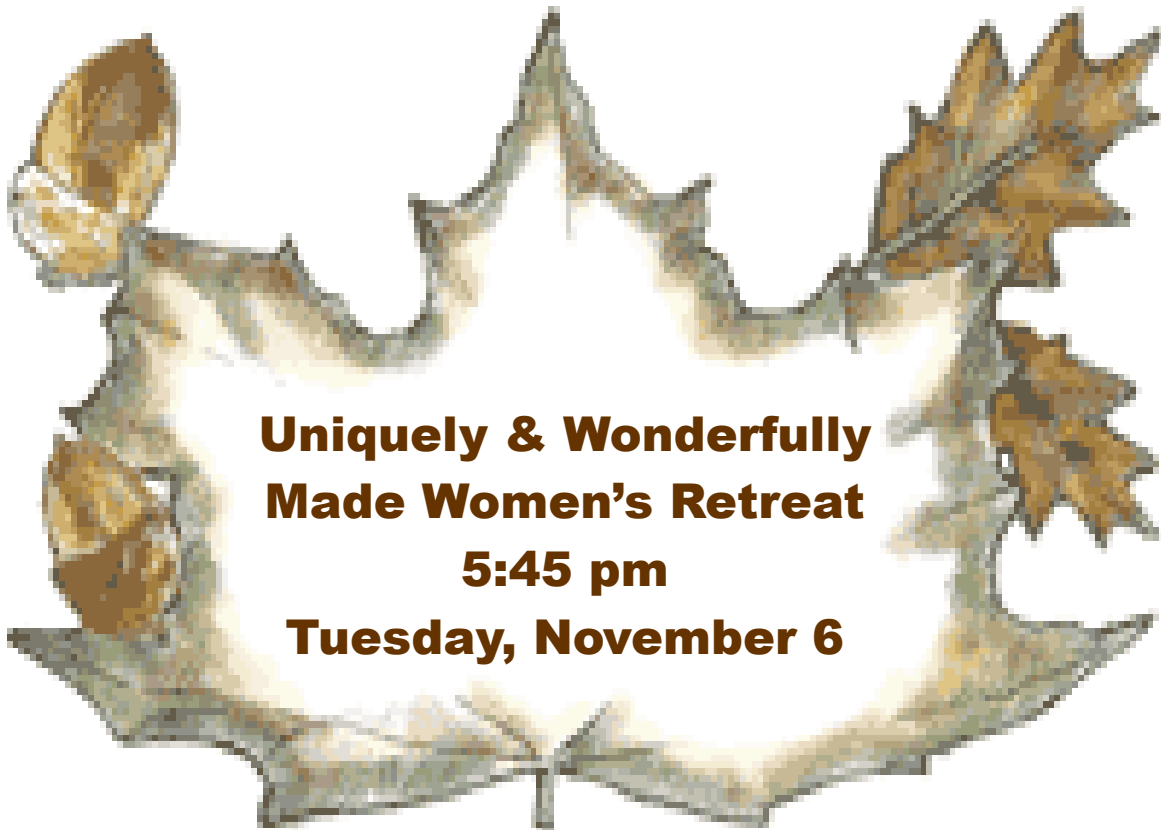
**Christian Education** - 9:30-10:30 am

Senior Pastor - Greg Chenoweth  
Associate Pastor - Cliff Gilleland  
Student Pastor - Michael Mauriello

#### The FREE NEWS

Is published monthly by  
Geneseo Evangelical Free Church

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Rock Island, IL  
Permit #57



**Uniquely & Wonderfully  
Made Women's Retreat**

**5:45 pm**

**Tuesday, November 6**