

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

## Tribute to Pastor Cliff

by Pastor Greg Chenoweth

I first met Pastor Cliff five years ago (spring of 2004) during my interview with our then Deacon Board. Everyone was a stranger. But it didn't take long for me to see that Cliff was a friend. During my interview, I sensed that Cliff and I connected. He gave me frequent affirming nods of the chin and the smirky smile underneath his beard.

We met the following morning in the corner booth at Pam & Franks for breakfast. As the interim at GEFC, he had an unbiased view of what the church was "really" like. At the time I was also an interim pastor at a church and knew what kind of questions to ask him. Cliff's love and admiration for the people of GEFC and his anticipation of God's future blessing on the church impressed me. And then he told me, "Greg, after reading and hearing about you and listening to your interview last night, I think you are God's man for this church." Whoa! What do you say when Moses tells you, "You're da man"?

It doesn't take very long being around Cliff to realize you are in the presence of a wise, godly and seasoned sage. With over 40 years of ministry in the local church, there are few ministry situations he hasn't experienced. For me as a middle aged guy with only

four years of church ministry experience and coming to his first senior pastor position, I felt green, green, green! Consequently, I asked the Deacons if I could ask Cliff to continue at GEFC as an associate pastor. Having come to love Pastor Cliff, the church was more than



pleased to extend Pastor Cliff's tenure. In my mind that was the wisest decision the church made in the spring of 2004.

My first year at GEFC was not what I anticipated. Oh, I had a great experience getting to know our church family. And I never questioned Prophet Cliff's assurance that the Lord had brought the church and me together. But my crazy lifestyle caught up with me, and anxiety and depression overwhelmed me for much of that first year. Cliff became a confidant. Being a deeper melancholy than myself

(that's why he reminds me of Eeyore), he knows what it is like to experience the emotional downs. The Lord used Cliff to frequently remind me of truth – God's promised presence and power. He encouraged me to keep walking by faith and to allow the church family to minister to me. You did!

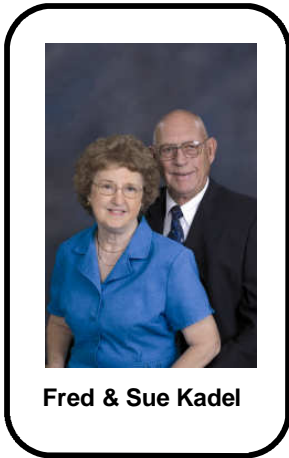
Few senior pastors have the privilege of having an older seasoned mentor on staff with them. The Lord knew that I needed Cliff's counsel these last five years to discuss ideas, to debate controversial issues and to pray over painful situations. (The Lord also knew that GEFC needed Cliff to protect it from a naïve new pastor.)

I am a blessed man because of Pastor Cliff. Little did I know what I was getting when I followed Jesus to Geneseo. Jesus said that everyone who leaves mother or father for His name's sake would receive many times as much and will inherit eternal life. (Matthew 19:29) I may have left my father in Iowa to come to GEFC, but I gained a father-mentor in Cliff Gilleland. Thank you Lord, for Cliff!

Pastor Greg

## Committed to serving the Lord

by Catherine Sommers



Fred & Sue Kadel

After working at GEFC for over ten years I have been blessed to work with some of God's most beloved saints. There is one specifically however that I choose to exercise editor privileges with and to recognize.

Fred Kadel recently retired as our Trustee Coordinator. He has served on the Administrative Council for the last 3 years but has served GEFC since GEFC's beginning. He knows the ins and outs of this church building better

than anyone in church past or present. Fred has spent countless hours loving our LORD by caring for this structure that we call our church home. Please don't hear me putting him on a pedestal or insinuating that he's perfect because he's not. He is a brother however that has demonstrated to us what it is to love His Lord and to serve him with integrity. He is a man of great wisdom and strength while also being a man with a tender heart.

Imagine what GEFC would look like to the lost of this community, that God has entrusted to us, if we were to learn from the Fred's of our church family, if we were to recognize our personal skills, talents and gifts and then to **COMMIT** to using them for the Lord's work through our local church. Wow, what an impact! Fred, I thank you for surrendering to the potter's hands and allowing him to use you for His work.

--- ✞

**Geneseo Ministerial Association sponsors Men's Community Lenten Breakfasts**

## Men's Community Lenten Breakfast

The Geneseo Ministerial Association organizes opportunities for the men in the community to come together each Saturday during the Lenten season to fellowship with one another. Men, you are encouraged to attend at least one of the breakfasts during Lent this year.

Each church holds to a

little different format but they all include good food and great fellowship. All of the breakfasts are scheduled to work with your busy schedule. The breakfasts run from 7:00-8:00 am on the following Saturdays.

Mar. 7 - Grace United Methodist Church

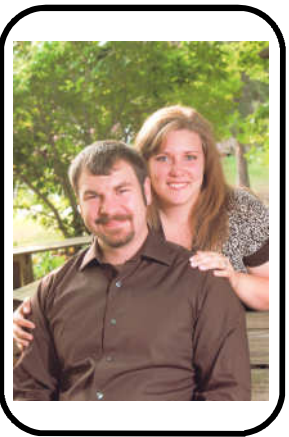
Mar. 14 - First United

Methodist Church

Mar. 21 - Geneseo Evangelical Free Church

Mar. 28 - First Lutheran

Apr. 7 - First Presbyterian



## Bridal Shower for Erin Iwinski

Ladies, please join us as we honor Erin Iwinski, daughter of Judy and the late Russ Iwinski, with a Bridal Shower Saturday, March 7 at 9:30 am.

Erin and fiancée, Bryan Parker are registered at Kohl's, Sears and JC Penney's. If you would prefer to contribute to a group gift you may do so via the envelopes located in

each Adult Bible Fellowship class or at the Information Center in the foyer. Contributions for a group gift will be accepted through March 1. Please make checks payable to Debbie Lord.



## God Answers Prayer

**Note: Our Prayer Coordinator, Teri Walters, tracked down answered prayer stories to encourage the family of God. Your answered prayer story can be submitted to [gefc@gefc.org](mailto:gefc@gefc.org)**

After being asked to submit a short account of answered prayer for the newsletter, I spent several days trying to decide what to say, and now I know why.

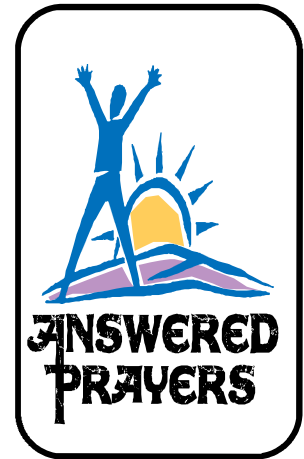
Last week we took a family vacation to Disney World. For those who haven't been there, yes, somehow it is possible for 5-year olds to be unhappy even at Disney. On our final night as Isaac and I rode the bus between theme parks to meet up with Dee Ann for the fireworks over Cinderella's castle at Magic Kingdom, he was in quite a sour mood that I wasn't taking him to where *he* wanted to go to do what *he* wanted to do on *his* vacation. For once I saved the lecture and just asked him to quit complaining, sit quietly and consider in his

heart what was wrong with his attitude. Not 30 seconds passed before he looked up with an expression of relief on his face instead of the previous scowl. I could see he was about to start talking again, so I reminded him he was supposed to be thinking. His response was not what I expected. "Daddy, God spoke to my heart and told me that this vacation is for all three of us, you, Mommy and me, and if Mommy wants to watch the fireworks I should go and be happy with her." I was speechless, so I just smiled and gave him a big hug. In that moment I was reminded that as parents we can and should work to correct, discipline and train our children in the way they should go to the best of our abilities, but that the best of our abilities and of course the mistakes we inevitably make pale in comparison to the Lord's power as we pray that our children will grow to know Him themselves and hear his voice.

Respectfully,  
Chris Kuster

Three years ago I asked the Lord for a part time job. His answer came through a special education teacher's aide position at Geneseo High School. I don't remember asking for a character development adventure (someone else must have been praying for that). I work with a variety of students, but some of the most challenging moments are trying to help special needs students. There have been some very difficult times when I find myself praying, "Lord, help me get through the day," or "Lord, help me to be patient," or "Lord what do I do?" The Lord has answered these prayers, but more than that, He has engaged my heart for my students. He frequently reminds me that they are created in His image, which helps me treat them with respect and dignity even when it is not reciprocal. I also find myself praying more for them and less for me. I can honestly say that I thank the Lord for them and the opportunity to work with them.

~ Sue Chenoweth



**"Daddy, God spoke to my heart....."**

## Accessing the prayer chain is easy

Anyone with a computer and the ability to send an email has the power to activate the prayer chain. In fact we encourage you to do so yourself.

The reason you are encouraged to activate the prayer chain on your own is because it saves time and gets your request out instantly.

Here's how you do it. Send an email to

[prayerchain@gefc.org](mailto:prayerchain@gefc.org). Include your prayer request in the email. It's always best to keep the email narrowed to the request itself rather than including a lot of story-like details. Remember that you're sending the email to everyone on the prayer chain. As soon as you hit send the email goes out to everyone immediately. It does not make a stop at the church office first and then

get forwarded.

If you do not have access to a computer for emailing you may call the church office and leave your request but remember that if you leave a message it will not go out until that message is retrieved so if it's on the weekend it won't be retrieved until Monday or if left after 5:00 pm it won't be until the next business day. --- ☞



## Check out the library

by Catherine Sommers



See a  
librarian to  
get a Ministry  
Perks card  
for Family  
Christian  
Stores!

Have You Read



a  
GOOD BOOK  
Lately?

What a blessing we have to have a church that encourages the spiritual growth of its people through the reading of non-fiction and fiction literature. You will find a wonderful selection of classic and new works in our library for the young and old alike. The library staff works very hard to keep the newest and most popular releases in the library for our patrons.

Last year we implemented a suggestion box which helps us be sure that we're getting what you're looking for in books and DVD's. The suggestion box is located on the check-out desk and all you need to do is fill out a slip with the title and/or author of what it is you're looking for and we do our best to accommodate.

Unlike most small libraries we have the luxury of having our library cataloged into the library computer. Pat Eklof worked countless hours getting everything entered into the computer to make using the library easier for all of us and we are so thankful. The instructions for use are on the desk and quite easy to follow.

The library staff also works to keep things neat, tidy and organized so that you have a positive experience when you use the library.

Now with having such a nice library comes some responsibility on the part of those who use it. It is very important that when you take **ANYTHING** from the library regardless of how long you plan to use it that you check it out properly.

The steps for check out are posted in the library and are very easy to follow. Several items are checked out frequently and have waiting lists so it is important that you return the items you check out in a timely fashion and renew them when necessary. When items are not returned it forces us to use budgeted monies to replace items that we already have instead of purchasing new items that people are requesting. We do request that if you have lost or damaged an item that you replace the item or make a donation to the library so that we can replace that item for you.

If you are the parent of a child or pre-teen we ask that you limit the number of items that are checked out and that you don't allow them to check out additional items until they've returned the items that are already checked out.

The Christian Family Stores has a program that pays back the church a percentage of every dollar spent in their stores by our church family. It's easy to do. You request a card from our library or church office and then you present the card to the cashier at any Christian Family Store every time you make a purchase. This does not nullify your personal Perks card. You are allowed to use both at the same time for each purchase that you make.

Librarians are on site to answer your questions and to help you find things before and after Sunday school on Sunday

mornings. If you have questions at another time you may call the church office for assistance. If you are looking for a place to serve within the church we're always happy to add people to our librarian rotation.

We hope you will check out our GEFC library if you haven't already. It's located on the left side of the hallway that leads to the restrooms, just past the bulletin boards. The library is open on Sunday mornings. If you require access during the week during normal office hours the office staff will be happy to unlock the door for you. ☺

### NEW FICTION IN THE LIBRARY

- *This Side of Heaven* by Karen Kingsbury
- *The Bone Box* by Bob Hostetler
- *My Sister Dilly* by Maureen Lang
- *Waiting for Daybreak* Kathryn Cushman
- *The Returning* by Ann Tatlock
- *Sweetwater Gap* by Denise Hunter
- *The Shape of Mercy* Susan Meissner

### Reading Connection for women

Ladies, the last book of the season can be ordered through March 15. The book is *First Light* by Brock & Bodie Thoene. The book will be read in April and discussed at 10:00 am , Tuesday, May 5 in the church library.

We will meet on March 3 at 10:00 am to review *Road to Nowhere* by Paul Robertson.

*The Atonement Child* by Francine Rivers will be handed out on March 3 to those who ordered from the church. It will be reviewed on April 7.

Although *The Road to Nowhere* and *The Atonement Child* have already been ordered you may still acquire a copy on your own and join us for the review.

Reading Connection organizer, Karen Burress, is collecting suggestions for the next season now. Feel free to email her your ideas at [burress89@mchsi.com](mailto:burress89@mchsi.com) The next season will meet for review in September.

There is a possibility that the group will meet once over the summer so watch the bulletin and newsletter for details. ☪



### Our deepest sympathy to .....



Ruth Windy and her family as they mourn the loss of her sister Marjorie Reschke who passed away on February 13, 2009

and to

Dan Rettig and family as they mourn the loss of Dan's father who passed away February 14, 2009



### Dining Out at Culver's

You are invited to Dine Out with us at Culver's on Friday, March 20th at 6:30 pm.

The fellowship and fun are free but you're responsible for the cost of your meal.

The purpose of Dining Out Together is to provide opportunity to REACH IN as we fellowship together over a meal without the

mess and fuss at home.

Registration is helpful so please note on the welcome card on Sunday morning if you intend to come and how many will be in your party. We do hope to see many of you there.

Ron & Rita Ford have coordinated this ministry since it's beginning and have recently passed the

torch to John & Peg Terry. If you have any questions about Dining Out please contact John and Peg at 309/887-4444. ☪

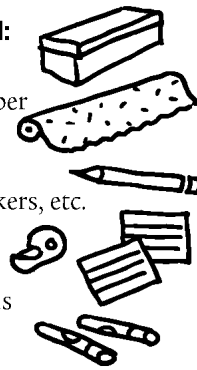


# PRAYER BOX

Family prayer time is a good habit. Make it fun with this activity for all family members. They can use this special box whenever they have a prayer request.

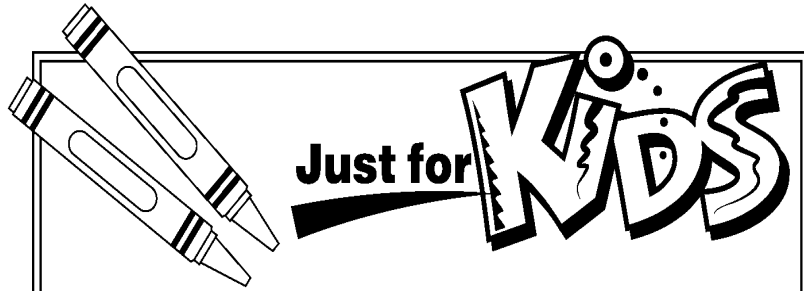
**What you need:**

- Shoebox
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stickers, markers, etc. (optional)
- Index cards
- Pencils or pens



**What you do:**

1. Wrap the shoebox like a present. Be sure to wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.
2. Let the whole family help decorate the box. You can write Bible verses about prayer, draw pictures, glue on pictures or add stickers. Be creative!
3. Put the box in a prominent location of your house. Keep a pile of index cards and pencils or pens near the box.
4. Whenever a family member has a prayer request, he or she can write or draw it on a card and put it inside the box.
5. Family members can share the cards in a prayer circle, or people can take turns praying for all the requests. Throughout the week, family members can check the box for new prayer needs.



## A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

**KEY:** a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

"He \_\_\_\_\_nd \_\_\_\_\_ll \_\_\_\_\_h \_\_\_\_\_s \_\_\_\_\_f \_\_\_\_\_m \_\_\_\_\_l \_\_\_\_\_  
 A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w \_\_\_\_\_r \_\_\_\_\_d \_\_\_\_\_v \_\_\_\_\_t \_\_\_\_\_nd  
 A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D


G \_\_\_\_\_d-f \_\_\_\_\_r \_\_\_\_\_ng; h \_\_\_\_\_g \_\_\_\_\_v \_\_\_\_\_  
 B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g \_\_\_\_\_n \_\_\_\_\_r \_\_\_\_\_s \_\_\_\_\_l \_\_\_\_\_t \_\_\_\_\_th \_\_\_\_\_s \_\_\_\_\_n  
 A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n \_\_\_\_\_d \_\_\_\_\_nd \_\_\_\_\_pr \_\_\_\_\_d \_\_\_\_\_t \_\_\_\_\_G \_\_\_\_\_d  
 A+C A+C A+D A+B A+C B+D B+D

r \_\_\_\_\_g \_\_\_\_\_l \_\_\_\_\_r \_\_\_\_\_l \_\_\_\_\_." \_\_\_\_\_cts 10:2, NIV  
 A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers:  
 "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am  Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm	2 Missions Meeting 7 pm	3 Women's Book Club 10 am  Financial Peace University 7 pm	4 Ministerial Meeting 12:30 pm  Awana 6:25 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm SOLE 8:15 pm	5 Women's Bible Study 9 am & 7 pm	6 Homeschool Group 10 am	7 Iwinski Bridal Shower 9:30 am  Men's Lenten Breakfast Grace UMC
8 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am  Sojourners Fellowship 6:30 pm Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm	9	10 Elder's Meeting 7 pm  Financial Peace University 7 pm	11 MOPS 9 am  Awana 6:25 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm SOLE 8:15 pm	12 Women's Bible Study 9 am & 7 pm	13 Homeschool Group 10 am	14 Men's Lenten Breakfast First UMC
15 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am  Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm	16 Administrative Council Meeting 7 pm	17 Nursery Leadership Team Meeting 9 am  Financial Peace University 7 pm	18 Awana 6:25 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm SOLE 8:15 pm	19 Women's Bible Study 9 am & 7 pm	20 Homeschool Group 10 am  Dining Out @ Culver's 6:30 pm  Crafting @ Mauriello' 7 pm	21 Date Night 4 pm  Men's Lenten Breakfast GEFC
22 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am  Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm	23	24 MOPS 6:30 pm  Financial Peace University 7 pm  Elders Meeting 7 pm	25 Awana 6:25 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm SOLE 8:15 pm	26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                         ASIST CONFERENCE                          8:30-4:30 March 26-27                     </div>	27     Homeschool Group 9 am	28     Men's Lenten Breakfast 1st Lutheran
29 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am  Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm	30	31 Financial Peace University 7 pm				

## Reaching UP Reaching IN Reaching OUT

### Free News

March 2009 Volume 14, Issue 3

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  
Student Pastor - Michael Mauriello  
Worship Director - AJ Reynolds

#### The FREE NEWS

Is published monthly by  
Geneseo Evangelical Free Church



MARCH

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 3 - Reading Connection 10:00 am
- March 7 - Iwinski Bridal Shower 9:30 am
- March 20 - Dining Out 6:30 pm
- March 21 - Men's Lenten Breakfast 7:00 am

*"Many things I have tried to grasp and have lost. That which I have placed in God's hands, I still have."*

- Martin Luther