

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

### “Everybody’s Normal Til You Get to Know Them”

Isn't that the truth? The more you get to know someone the more you realize – “Gee, you're weird or quirky.” But on the other hand, there are those with more visible, obvious quirks. The more you get to know them you realize, “Hmm you don't seem near as quirky – just normal quirky.”

In spite of being quirky or abnormal, the Lord instructs us to love one another. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you...By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

I'm embarrassed to say this, but I think I'm just learning this lesson of loving one another. Oh, I've known that I need to love others unconditionally. But I think I've qualified it with the idea, “Yeah, I'll love you as long as you pursue changing your *quirkiness*.”

But the older I get, the more I realize people don't change their quirkiness; if anything they just get quirkier – including me (sorry Sue.). But the Lord seems to be ok with that or at least He's not in a hurry to change us. He keeps reminding me of Ephesians 4:2-3, “With all humility and gentleness with patience, showing tolerance for one another (*that means put up with others' quirkiness*) in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

You may already know this, but Geneseo Evangelical Free Church is full of quirky people. But according to 1 Corinthians we are sanctified quirks called as saints (1:2). We are the holy temple of the Spirit of God (3:16-17); the quirks at

GEFC are made clean, made holy and made righteous in Christ Jesus (6:11). Hey, we're not just ordinary quirks! God takes delight in us!

As a church we want to help one another Reach In in our love for one another. We desire to be a church that reflects authentic relationships. This summer we'd like to make a concerted effort to focus on our Reaching In and learn more about how to love one another and develop authentic relationships.

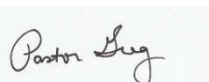
#### Summer Adult Bible Fellowship

Starting Sunday, June 7 we will be combining all of our Adult Bible Fellowships and going through John Ortberg's book, **Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them**. Some of the topics we'll be addressing are: The Porcupine Dilemma – how do you love prickly people? Authenticity; Acceptance; Inclusion; Empathy; Conflict; Forgiveness; Confrontation

We'll have an assortment of our GEFC teachers guide us through the book and guide us in application oriented discussion. Being all together in the Fellowship Hall will give us opportunities to get to know others from different ABFs.

I would like to invite you to be a part of this special summer series. You can order a book by calling (944-4667) or emailing the church office – [gefc@gefc.org](mailto:gefc@gefc.org) My prayer is that as a result of our time together, we will excel still more in our love for our fellow quirks (1 Thess. 3:12).

Your Fellow Quirk,



### COFFEE TIME



### GATHERING

Ever feel like you don't know everyone in our church, and would like to make some new connections? Did you switch ABF's, and the only chance to catch old friends is on Sunday Morning? Are you new, and you just want to meet some folks and get a feel for who and what GEFC is?

This summer, we are offering a chance to do all of these things in between first service and our combined ABF time. We are setting up a coffee time in the AWANA room, from 9:15 to 9:45. Just come on in, grab a cup of coffee, tea, and a donut or bagel, and hang out with some old friends, or come and meet new people!



7:00 pm  
 Monday, July 6

Members it is your responsibility and privilege to participate in business meetings. If you are not a member you are also welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Reaching Out by Gary Dawson, Elder Chairman



Bill & I recently took a trip to San Antonio, Texas as a brief get away from the cold winter to celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. There were lots of historic things to see – the Alamo, the river walk and some early 1700s era mission ruins. There were also some sobering reminders that there is a world in need of serving Christians. There are many homeless men and women in San Antonio who struggle daily to find food and shelter. These needy are mostly relegated to side street benches and doorways only visible to those who walk a broader circle or take public transportation.

We ate a “free” breakfast daily in our hotel lobby. Lunch and dinner were taken at restaurants where serving sizes sometimes exceeded available stomach space. After one such meal we asked for a

take home box for the leftovers knowing we could find someone to give it to. We didn’t walk far before the Lord provided three needy young people begging for leftovers. We handed them over.

This small gesture didn’t involve the exchange of a faith story or a sharing of the gospel. But I realize more than ever that if I am going to be effective in reaching out to others in my community, I have to first be where the needy are and then I have to respond to the needs that are there. It is in service that men see our good works and glorify God (Matt 5:16). The apostle James wrote: If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it

does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (James 2:15-18, NKJ). This passage serves as a model for the “reaching out” portion of our vision statement. ☞

### Wiesel’s great insight

Holocaust survivor and Jewish author Elie Wiesel made a statement we all should remember when it comes to our judgment:

The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference.

The opposite of art is not ugliness, it’s indifference.

The opposite of faith is not heresy, it’s indifference.

And the opposite of life is not death, it’s indifference. ☞

“...I have to be where the needy are and then I have to respond to the needs that are there.”

## The Wellness Walk - A Title to Defend!

The Wellness Team of GEFC is partnering again with Grace United Methodist Church and other surrounding churches for the summer Wellness Walk. You may recall that GEFC was the big winner last year so there is a title to defend!

In essence this is more a ‘focus on fitness’ challenge than just a walk because you are not limited to walking to participate. Whether you are a first time exercise enthusiast, or in an organized exercise program, or an old timer, it doesn’t matter, ALL ARE WELCOME!! All you have to do is keep track of the

miles or time spent exercising (based on the exercise of your choice) and turn in your results to De Kosman via email to [dkosman@geneseo.net](mailto:dkosman@geneseo.net) or phone 944-6622 by Sunday night at 9:00 pm each week. Be sure to check the **Geneseo Republic** each week to see our church standing.

If you have a friend who doesn’t have a church home be sure to ask them to participate with you. You can turn in their results. Remember the more members on our church team the more miles we can count!

The Wellness Walk will run from June 7 - August 2.

**Special Note:** De is provided a special conversion program to use for calculating the total number of miles our church has contributed. Please submit your exercise totals to her based on the following:

**Report total miles for:** walking, running and biking

**Report total number of minutes exercised for:** swimming, water aerobics, dance aerobics, stationary cycling.

If you have any questions contact De Kosman. ☞



## A Tribute to Dad by Craig Ford

I have always looked up to my dad as being a model of what a man and father should be, but this year has given me an extra reason to reflect upon that. I recently got engaged this spring and am planning on getting married next summer. Because of this, I have done a lot more thinking about what type of dad I want to be some day. I have found that God has blessed me with a great example of what a godly man and father should be. One of the qualities that I really admire about my dad

is his passion for his family. I can see his willingness to put his family first; before his own personal gain or desires. He treats his wife and children with love and respect which is exactly what God commands of a husband and father.

My dad has taken the initiative to serve in quite a few leadership positions in both the school and the community. I have observed him successfully lead many organizations, including his job, and have seen what it takes to be a

successful leader. I feel that many of my leadership traits are a result of the model which he has set before me. In the leadership positions that I have taken at Purdue, I have discovered the blessing it is to be raised by a godly father. I know that as I look forward to getting married and becoming a father myself in the years to come, I have an example to which I can emulate as to what it means to be a godly father and husband. Happy Father's Day Dad! ☞



**Craig & Doug  
Ford**

## The Price of Children submitted by Pam White from the internet

The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up with \$160,140.00 for a middle income family. Talk about price shock! That doesn't even touch college tuition.

**But \$160,140 isn't so bad if you break it down.** It translates into:

- \$8,896.66 a year
- \$741.38 a month
- \$171.08 a week
- A mere \$24.24 a day!
- Just over a \$1 an hour

Still, you might think the best financial advise is: don't have children if you want to be 'rich.' Actually, it is just the opposite.

**What do you get for your \$160,140?**

- Naming rights (first, middle, and last!)
- Glimpses of God every day.
- Giggles under the covers every night.
- More love than your heart can hold.

- Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs.
- Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, and warm cookies.
- A hand to hold usually covered with jelly or chocolate.
- A partner for blowing bubbles and flying kites.
- Someone to laugh yourself silly with, no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day.

**For \$160,140, you never have to grow up.** You get to:

- Finger paint
- Carve pumpkins
- Play hide-and-seek
- Catch lightning bugs

**You have an excuse to:**

- Keep reading the Adventures of Piglet & Pooh
- Watch Saturday morning cartoons
- Go to Disney movies

- Wish on stars
- You get to frame rainbows, hearts, and flowers under refrigerator magnets and collect spray painted noodle wreaths for Christmas, hand prints set in clay for Mother's Day, and cards with backward letters for Father's Day.

For a mere \$24.24 a day, there is no greater bang for your buck. You get to be a hero just for:

- Retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof
- Taking the training wheels off a bike
- Removing a splinter
- Filling a wading pool
- Coaxing a wad of gum out of bangs
- Coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless

**You get a front row seat in history to witness the:**

- First step
- First word
- First bra

- First hit
- First basket
- First date
- First time behind the wheel

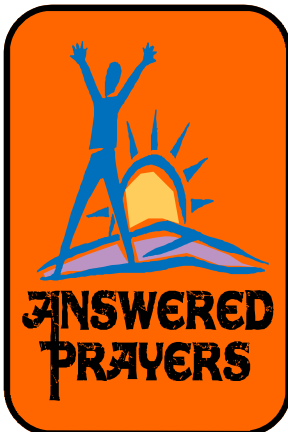
You get to be immortal. You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you're lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren and great-grandchildren. You get to teach religion, psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications, and human sexuality that no college can match.

In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there under God. You have all the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever, and love them without limits, so one day they will like you, love without counting the cost. That is quite a deal for the price.

**Love & enjoy them! It's the best investment you'll ever make!** ☞



**Those who consider themselves strong tend to strut... think they can fix it [without God].**



## Prayer Myths by Teri Walters

The Quad Cities Prayer Center held the "iPray" conference on Saturday, May 9. Our main speaker, David Perkins spoke on some myths about prayer and we would like to share them with you.

### 1) Prayer is boring

The Lord says in Isa. 56:6-7 that to those who come to Him, He "will give joy in my house of prayer". It is what God wants, above other things, that His house be a house of prayer - that we be pray-ers. How can something so pleasing to our God be boring? Jesus set the example by spending much time talking with His Father. The best place we can be is before God, asking and watching Him answer. He delights in our prayers - Prov. 15:8.

### 2) I shouldn't ask

The springboard for prayer is desperation and the language of prayer is asking. Luke 11:5-13 gives

example of the realization of a need driving one to desperate asking. God wants to give good gifts - "the cookies are on the bottom shelf for all of us", as David Perkins says. In our affluent society we tend to think we can handle things but in doing so, we miss out. God hears us when we ask. He knows even the number of hairs on our head so how much more does He care about everything else that touches our lives.

### 3) Prayer is for spiritual heroes

No, prayer is for the weak and desperate - those who recognize they need God. He is big - I am not. Those who consider themselves strong tend to strut, to rely on their education or investments or experience, think they can fix it. Those who are weak ask, are desperate, cry "Oh God", are not necessarily eloquent but rather real/raw.

Prayer is a gift - it is the privilege of talking with our Creator God. It is acknowledging Who it is that is in control of our outcomes. What could be accomplished if each of us desperately sought our Almighty God regularly! ☩



Pam White & family  
in the loss of her  
sister on  
April 24, 2009  
&

Scott Stahl & his  
family as they  
mourn the loss of his  
grandmother who  
passed on Sunday,  
May 10, 2009

## Answered Prayer by John & Peg Terry

Peg & I have always been very dependant on prayer. We call our God the God of the little things. But a friend in our church gently reminded me that a better description might be that He is the God of details. I am prone to believe this. A case in point; on the 11th of April a friend of ours went home to be with the Lord. This lady was in her mid 80's. We found out she had been teaching and leading girls and young women to our Lord for more than 60 years.

On our way to the funeral we prayed, as we always

do, for a near-by parking spot because Peg's legs will not allow her to walk very far. God has been faithful to provide a doable parking spot every time we've asked in prayer.

We headed to St. Louis via the interstate. I've never driven anywhere but the Interstate in the St. Louis area but this time I couldn't get to where I was going unless I ventured away from the Interstate. I followed the Lord's leading rather than MapQuest. We stopped at a Comfort Inn for Peg which I thought was about 2-3 miles from

the church. We were so surprised (aren't we always) to find the church was less than 100 yards from the Comfort Inn. Well that's what happens when you step out in faith. God will always be there. This is only one of a lot of face-to-face meetings we've had with our Lord. I pray this story will give you confidence to pray next time you need Him. He is the God of details, and we love Him.

**Note: Your answered prayer story can be submitted to [gef@gef.org](mailto:gefc@gef.org) ☩**

## Church as Grace by Michael Mauriello

**W**hat is grace? Grace is unmerited favor. Christians have long understood that Jesus' death on the cross, resurrection from the dead, are an act of extreme grace, and that our salvation is by grace. We respond to God's grace in faith.

But what if the church is also a form of grace? Now, I am not talking about the sacraments, or what we call the ordinances (baptism and the Lord's Supper). But, I am talking about the community itself, and the ministries offered.

There seem to me to be a succession of gifts that come to us from God. The first is the Holy Spirit. The second is the body of Christ, in whom the Holy Spirit dwells. The third is the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the fourth is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. I think that we can see this

progression in Ephesians 4. Now, I would like you to notice that this passage says that "grace was given" to individuals of the church, to perform certain ministries on behalf of and to the other members of the church. To each one, grace has been apportioned. This does not seem to be salvific grace (that is, God's unmerited favor in salvation), but it does seem to be ministerial grace (that is, God's unmerited favor to provide ministry and gifts through the members of the church). Note that we are given to one another, that we are all part of the same body, with the same Lord, and the same faith. The church is an expression of God's grace—each individual member to all the other members, and their gifts working in ministry to all the other members, who are in turn doing ministry one to another.

If we understood the church as an expression of God's

grace to us, how would that change the way we understand one another, or the different things we offer for our edification, our education, and our fellowship? How would that change the way we worship, or the way we treat one another when we enter this place?

Our culture is caught in a spiral of self serving appetite. I learned today that there is a concept called hedonic acclamation. Essentially, this concept says that the more we accumulate, the more we will desire. What was seen as amazing yesterday is tomorrow's old hat boring fad. I wonder if we in the church have given way to this danger, as regards the church?

What do you expect out of church? Why do you expect it? If the church is a form of unmerited favor, an expression of God's kindness to us, of God's love and provision for us, how ought we to judge one another, and what is provided to us?

I'm not saying we shouldn't have any expectations of what church ought to be like, or what ought to happen. But I am saying we need to make sure our expectations are biblical, and we do not perceive what God gives us in the church as a right, but as an expression and demonstration of God's grace to us. Perhaps, we need to think carefully of how we understand God's goodness, and how it is coming to us through the church, even if it is coming to us in an imperfect manner. ☪

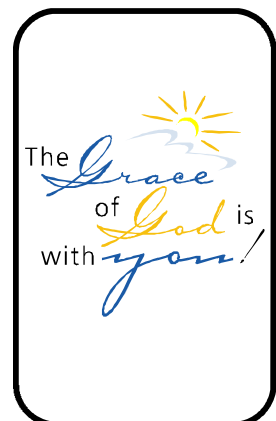


**..we are given to one another, that we are all part of the same body, with the same Lord, and the same faith.**

**Ice Cream Social  
to benefit  
Geneseo Food Pantry  
Tuesday, June 2,  
6:00-9:00 PM at City Park**

Sign up at the Welcome Center to donate a cake or pie for serving. Please bring food donations to the city park by 5 p.m.

Volunteers are also needed to help serve that evening. A limited number of ham sandwiches will be available for purchase also. The Maple City Band will be the entertainment for the evening. Contact Beth Dykstra if you have questions. This is our only fundraiser, and we hope to see you there. ☪



## BABIES....BABIES...BABIES



**T**ricia Henkhaus invites the ladies of GEFC, on behalf of Blessed Expectations, to a baby shower for Rebekah Joy Zimmerman at 10:30 am on Saturday, June 27. Rebekah is the newborn baby girl of Josh and Danielle Zimmerman. Tricia will be collecting for a group gift through June 14 in envelopes located in each ABF class and the information center. Checks are to be made payable to Tricia Henkhaus.

**J**oin us in welcoming Madyson Mae Dolieslager. She was born April 30, 2009 weighing 5 lbs 10 oz and measuring 18 inches long. She is the daughter of Dean & Erin Dolieslager. ☪

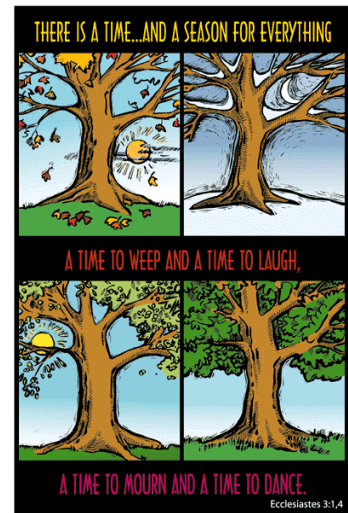
**B**lessed Expectations is a ministry that comes along side expectant mothers to offer support and prayers throughout their pregnancy. Participating expectant moms are assigned a mentor that checks in on them on a frequent basis. The mentor is also the one who initiates a baby shower for the mom if she wishes along with the help of the mothers ABF (Adult Bible Fellowship class). This is a very rewarding ministry for both the expectant mother and the mentor. If you are interested in becoming a mentor mom contact Teresa Johnson. ☪



**W**e would like to say thank you to everyone who came to my grandmother's visitation, sent cards, and especially for everyone's prayers. It meant so much to us. This has been extremely hard for us, as we lived with "Marilyn" for almost three years. She was more than a grandma to us. She was a mom, grandma, friend, and a wonderful historian on the great depression she lived

through. Our grandma had deep faith in God, and we know she went right up to heaven. My grandma had noticed a great change in me since joining GEFC. Again we thank everyone.

Melody & Michael Panno



## Sun Rock Kids's Camp Vacation Bible School July 27-31 5-8 pm

Join us for Sun Rock Kid's Camp at Geneseo Evangelical Free Church this summer. We'll have awesome games, great crafts, and tons of snacks...all with a positive message!

Family Camp is on Sunday, August 2 where our camp staff will treat you and your family to a picnic and fun ☪



**P**lease join us in recognizing the diligence of 7th grade student, Michelle Henry, as she completes the requirements necessary to earn an Awana Timothy Award.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Missions Meeting 7 pm Assimilation Mtg. 7 pm Softball @ Richmond Hill 7:00 pm	2 Softball @ Richmond Hill 7:00 pm Men's Group 6:30 pm	3	4 Worship 6:00 pm	5	6 Sojourner's ABF House to House in Hooppole 4:30 pm
7 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am Summer ABF begins	8 Softball @ Richmond Hill 8:15 pm	9 Elder's Meeting 7 pm Softball @ Richmond Hill 7:00 pm	10 Sr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm DEADLINE for JULY/AUGUST FREE NEWS	11 Worship 6:00 pm	12	13 Date Night
14 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am	15 Administrative Council Meeting 7 pm  <b>Men's Softball Tournament at Richmond Hill - Times TBA</b>	16 Nursery Leadership Team Meeting 9 am Men's Group 6:30 pm	17 Jr. High Youth Group 7:00 pm	18 Worship 6:00 pm VBS Meeting 6-8 pm	19 Wedding rehearsal & decorating Crafting @ GEFC (in the basement)	20 Whitford wedding
21 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am  FATHERS DAY	22 Men's Softball 8:15 pm Bridal Shower (outside of church) 7 pm	23 Freedom House 2-3:30 pm Elders meeting 7:00 pm Men's Softball Richmond Hill 7:00 pm	24 Sr. High Youth Group 6:30 pm	25 Worship 6:00 pm	26	27 Zimmerman Baby Shower 10:30 am
28 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am Jr/Sr High Paintballing after 2nd service	29 Men's Softball 8:15 pm	30 Freedom House 2-3:30 pm Softball @ Richmond Hill 8:15 pm				

## Free News

JUNE 2009 Volume 14, Issue 6

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



### 1 Corinthians 3:6-8

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but  
God made it grow.

So neither he who plants nor he who  
waters is anything, but only God, who  
makes things grow.

The man who plants and the man who  
waters have one purpose, and each will be  
rewarded according to his own labor.

