

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

CONGRATULATIONS to our Men's Softball Team 3rd place



Front Row: Drew DeLathower, Craig Ford, Eric Nelson, Michael Mauriello, Chad Ford, Conner Hartman. Back Row: Tim Burress, Tyler Claeys, Tim Reynolds, Peter Kincaid, Jesse Gessel and Grant Burress. Absent from photo: Garrett Donaldson, Dan Matyasse, Derek Welge, and Shawn Welge

2009 WELLNESS WALK CHAMPIONS!

Geneseo Evangelical Free Church had a title to defend and defend it they did! This title demonstrates our competitive nature for sure but more importantly it demonstrates our commitment to a healthy lifestyle. Keep up the good work!

GEFC	7,360 miles
Concordia	5,862 miles
1st Lutheran	4,133 miles
Grace UMC	3,729 miles

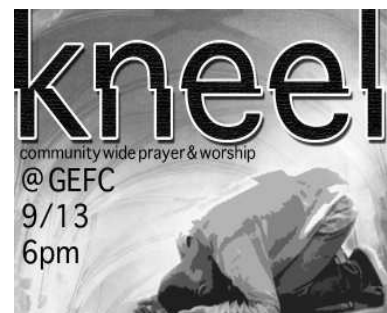
A special thank you to De Kosman, Wellness Team Chairman, for keeping track of everyone and getting everything submitted on our behalf.



Financial Peace University is a biblically-based video-driven small group study that teaches families to beat debt, build wealth and give like never before.

This study was offered at GEFC for the first time January thru May of this year. Due to the great success by those who participated it is being offered again beginning September 22 at the Miller's home. It's not too late to participate but will be soon so contact Chad Miller at 933-0181 by September 6 so that membership kits can be ordered for you. The cost of the materials is \$100 and is due by September 6.

Don't miss this opportunity to get your finances on track!



GEFC's Prayer Team will be hosting a night of worship, seeking God, and praying on September 13 at 6pm. We're calling it "KNEEL", because, well, that is exactly what we will be doing together: bowing before our great God, calling out His praise, and asking Him to watch over the students, parents, and administrators of our community schools.

Purpose of the Church

by Elder Carl Brinkmann



Carl & Charlotte
Brinkmann

“The study has been a good reminder that each of us has a responsibility to be serving in the body of Christ.”

Every other Tuesday the Elders have been meeting with a group of men to study a 12 week series of lessons on “the church”. It has been an interesting and insightful series. We started by looking at the purpose of the church as found in scripture, and found that GEFC’s purpose statement was a good fit (Praise God someone knew what they were doing). The purpose of GEFC as stated in Article II of our constitution is to:

- 1) Worship God...
- 2) Teach God’s word...
- 3) Reach those w/out Christ...
- 4) Train each believer for ministry...
- 5) Serve one another...
- 6) Send each believer into a needy world... in order to bring glory to God.

It is probably easy for us to

agree that these “functions” of the church are important. There may however be legitimate differences in our opinions as to the “form” accomplishing this purpose takes. It is the “form” where we so often need to apply Phil 2: 2-4 in putting others before self. As we at GEFC demonstrate unity, love, and glory of God, we are like a preview of God’s coming attraction, (a little taste of what the main event will be like) when we are with Christ in eternity. That is God’s expectation for our church...what an awesome thought.

The study has been a good reminder that each of us has a responsibility to be serving in the body of Christ. We have looked at the church as Christ’s body, Christ’s bride, and His means of reaching the lost. We have discovered why the church is so special to God and its members are referred to as the “family” of

God. We have been reminded of the importance of attendance, membership and service. Last week’s study on leadership in the church was a good reminder of my responsibility as an elder to be a humble protective shepherd and to live righteously before God. Consequently I resolved to be a better encourager to those serving in our various ministries.

We have 3 months to go before we complete this study and I’m looking forward to new insights from God. I’m not sure what studies may be offered after this series is over, but we are striving for more small group opportunities for everyone this fall. I’d especially like to invite the men of our church to make time to get involved in a small group study. I’ve enjoyed getting to know the fifteen plus guys during this series. ☺

The Red Shoe by Paula Price

A while back, I received a card from Teresa Johnson, right after her diagnosis with breast cancer. We had spoke in ABF about our common desire to kick cancer. On the card was a couple dancing and it said.....

“Just think, Ginger Rogers had to do everything Fred Estaire did, only backwards and in high heels.”

Then, Teresa wrote that we were going to get through this (kick cancer), in high heels! Ron and I love to dance and we know how hard it is to dance like Fred

and Ginger. So, I thought a high heel could be a symbol of our struggle with cancer. I got on line and found a red enamel and rhinestone high heel pin. Perfect! One for Teresa, one for me.

But then, I sat and thought about the Ginger Rogers statement and God opened my eyes to its Christian significance. Like Ginger Rogers, cancer (any illness) throws us backwards. We feel like we are dying when we should be living. We are cared for instead of caring for others. This struggle seems to take us backwards (especially

with housework!!!). But, regardless of our circumstances, we have to let God (Fred) take the lead. Only then will our dance work. This was not only a struggle with cancer, it was a trust issue. God wants to lead us, backwards when necessary, so that we can learn to trust Him. When we let Him take the lead, we can dance with confidence and beauty. The fantastic part, no matter your outcome, is that your dance with God is visible for all to see. Just like watching Fred and Ginger, it can be a beautiful thing that others want to emulate. ☺



Pastor Greg on Sabbatical

by Pastor Greg Chenoweth

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to be refreshed during my recent Sabbatical. I had a fantastic time in Colorado, Florida and Minnesota. Hiking in the Colorado Mountains was no doubt the highlight. I kept a little journal of lessons learned on the trail.

On one of my hikes to the top of Belleview Mountain, I came to a fork in the trail. One fork went up and another went down. My gut said, "Go up." After all, the destination is up not down and the shortest destination between two points is a straight line. But my map pointed to the lower fork. A hiker who I met earlier in the day forewarned me of this fork in the road and advised taking the lower route.

What should I do? I chose to go against my gut and go with the map and my counselor. And am I glad I did.

After a ¼ to ½ mile stretch of going down and around a bend, I came to the steepest part of the hike which pointed to the summit. The path took me to a series of switchbacks that systematically made their way up the side of the mountain. Later as I looked down from the summit, I could see that the higher fork led to a dead end cliff.

Life lesson: While standing at the crossroads of a decision we often cannot see the consequences. But the Lord provides direction through His Scriptures and the corroborating counsel

of His people who have lived life ahead of us. Who will I trust: the map of God's Word which originates from the designer of life or my gut which only sees what is in front of me?

What about listening to the counsel of those who have gone on before us? It depends. The counsel I received from the former hiker corresponded to my map. This gave me greater confidence in my map. But later in the hike, I was faced with another decision.

The switchbacks to the top were long and steep. My new hiker "friend" advised me to leave the switchbacks and make my way over to an animal trail which led more directly to the top. As I made my way up the switchbacks, I could see off to the distance the animal trail. However, to get there I would need to cross a deep gulch and make my way up a steep slippery incline.

What should I do: leave my map and follow my "friend's" advice or stick to the map? I decided to stick with the map. And am I glad I did.

The map's trail was difficult enough but it got me to the top. At this point in the hike, my lungs gasped for air every five steps due to the altitude. I didn't need to add to my misery by traversing the gulch and steep incline to get to the animal trail.

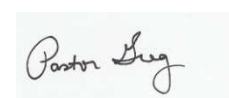
Life Lesson: When counselors conflict with God's Word – go with God. His ways may not be easy

but they will get us to His destination with the least amount of pain.

The exhilaration of summiting a mountain is worth the burning muscles and gasping lungs. Not only is the sense of accomplishment rewarding but even more are the previously unseen panoramic vistas of distant snow-capped mountain ranges and the views of forested valleys, vast basins and winding horseshoe streams. At the top, I found myself in speechless awe. What words express appropriate praise to the Almighty Maker of the majestic mountains?

Life Lesson: For a follower of Christ, life is hard and then you die but then you reach your summit. According to the Scriptures, our destination will be worth any heartache and pain. And words will not be enough to praise the One who made us to enjoy Himself and the vistas of the new heavens and new earth. As it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9)

(To view Greg's Mountain Pictures go to <http://gcheny.photoshop.com>)




"Who will I trust: the map of God's Word which originates from the designer of life or my gut which only sees what is in front of me?"



Sneak Peek

by Pastor Michael Mauriello



Pastor Michael
Mauriello

“What is God doing in the world, in ourselves, and in his Word?”

This coming semester, Pastor Greg has asked me to teach an elective ABF on discipling students. I don't know if you know this or not, some of you might, but I've actually been working for about a year on a book pertaining to that very subject. I've been taking a big step back, asking where we've gotten some notions and concepts that we regularly apply in discipleship, and asking how do they work themselves out in our lives.

I'm not sure if you've ever seen a certain triangle that's been used for a long time in discipleship. The triangle has three words, one each associated with a different corner, *knowing*, *being*, *doing*. I've seen this triangular concept used in a few books, but I never knew where it came from, or who developed it.

Then, this past week, I picked up a book by a man named Francis Schaeffer, one of the greatest Christian thinkers of the 20th century. Of course, he knew where it came from. Mind you, he didn't reference the triangle (he may not have even been aware of it). But he

presented the idea of it clearly, not from a perspective on discipleship, but from a perspective rooted in philosophy.

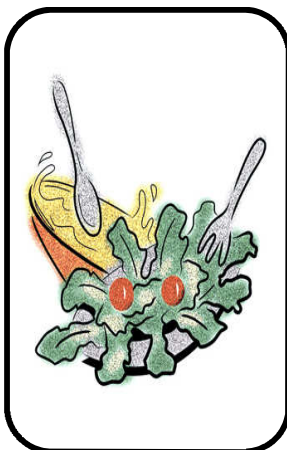
The book was called *He Is There, and He Is Not Silent*. In this book, he writes that humanity throughout all ages has had to answer three questions, what is the nature of being (*metaphysics*), what is knowable, and how can we know it (*epistemology*), and what is right or moral to do (*ethics*)? The three corners of the triangle instantly emerged: knowing = epistemology, being = metaphysics, and doing = ethics. For Schaeffer, the only adequate, indeed the only answer comes from the presence of a real, personal, relational, and verbal God. Only a Christian answer describes the reality in which we find ourselves.

Schaeffer did not begin to address concepts of discipleship directly (how does a follower of Jesus Christ live in the day to day of their world?), but he set the groundwork up. Before we ask “How then shall I live?” (which is the title of another Schaeffer book), we have to understand

what we are. And that question can only be answered in the wake of asking deeply philosophical and theological questions.

As a father of two now, with my older girl beginning to formulate much bigger questions, I'm finding myself answering the question, “What is discipleship?” not just as a youth pastor, but as a father and husband. The triangle helps us get our minds around the answer—especially when we take in tandem with another triangle, “What is God doing in the world, in ourselves, and in his Word?” We can only answer this question with the presence of a real, personal, relational, and verbal God.

This coming fall, I hope you will come along with me as we answer this question together: “How do we disciple our children?” We'll take a look at some great minds, like Francis Schaeffer. You'll get a sneak peak at a very rough idea of my book. It will be fun, interactive, and full of discovery for all of us. I hope you will come along for the ride. ☞



Dining Out Together is back!

John and Peg Terry are starting off the Dining Out Together season at a new restaurant in Geneseo on Friday, September 25. We'll meet at Sweet Pea's at 7 pm. It will be necessary to register for this by September 20. You may

register on the welcome card on Sunday morning or call the church office 944-4667.

We'll meet on Saturday, October 24 at 5:30 pm. The location has not been determined yet. In November, we'll meet

immediately following 2nd service on Sunday, November 22 at Danny Boy's Pizza. So, mark your calendars and come out and enjoy fellowship with the church family. Each family is responsible for the cost of their meals. ☞

The joy of serving children

by Jen Mills and Teri Walters

Note from Jen Mills, Children's Coordinator: Seems like so many times all that you hear from children's ministry is "we need more help!" What you don't often hear, is how blessed you can be while serving in children's ministry. I have found this myself when I teach or help out in various areas and I have heard countless others express the same sentiments. On two occasions this past month, I have had someone tell me, "I enjoyed this so much more than I thought I would", "I am sad to see it end" and "I am really going to miss the kids". I know I may be biased, but I think we have a really extraordinary group of kids right now and many adults are missing a blessing by not getting to know them. I pray that you will prayerfully consider being a blessing to our kids by volunteering in one of our many children's ministries starting in the fall -who knows, soon, you may be saying the same thing!! Please read on about how Teri enjoyed our preschoolers and one of the many anecdotes she has to share!

What a privilege it was for me to get to teach your precious little ones in preschool Sunday School this summer. Who ever said that young ones can't learn!!! Wrong!

We were learning from the book of Genesis and, although some of the topics were difficult to know how to explain to preschool children, God was faithful and brought the thoughts

and words - and the children remembered them because they were from God's Holy Spirit, and they had listened.

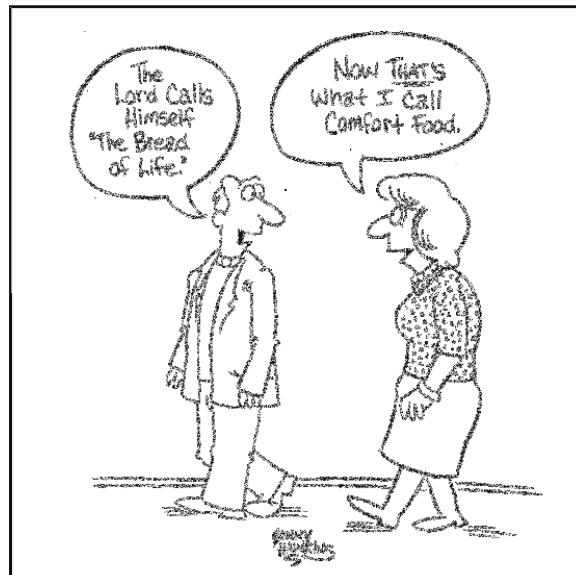
One day we talked about Jacob and Esau and the account of how Jacob tricked both his father, Isaac, and his brother, Esau. Isaac was getting old and couldn't see well. He asked Esau, his favorite son, to bring him a meal and then he would give him a special blessing. Rebekah, Jacob's mother, heard the request and, because Jacob was her favorite son (we learned that having favorites was wrong) she devised a plan for Jacob to take a special meal to his father, dress up in Esau's clothes, put goat hair on his arms so he would be hairy like Esau, and go in and tell his father that he was Esau and would, then, receive the blessing promised to Esau. In doing this, Jacob sinned because he tricked both his

father and his brother and lied to his father. Esau was so angry with Jacob that he determined to kill him. Jacob paid for his sin by being sent away to his uncle Laban's house, 600 miles away, to stay until his mother sent for him and told him that Esau was not angry with him any longer. This never happened. However, God came to him in a dream and promised to be with him always. We learned that, even when we do wrong, God still loves us. He wants us to come to Him and ask forgiveness, but He never stops loving us.

One of "my" little girls was telling the story to her Grandma and told her she had learned that day about Jacob and Esau. It took a few minutes for Grandma to understand where that story was in the Bible and that she hadn't missed seeing that name. Aren't they precious! ☺



What a privilege it was for me to get to teach your precious little ones..



Finance Update

by Dan Leigh, Treasurer



A LOOK at the BUDGET

It's that time of year again; the Administrative Council and the Elders are preparing the budget for next year. The budget process identifies the needs of the church to continue the ministries for another year. It's the Treasurer's responsibility to keep accurate financial records of the income and expenses within the church. After a budget is adopted by the congregation, the Treasurer is authorized to make disbursements of the church funds.

Money is donated to either the General Fund or Designated Accounts. The General Fund supports the budget of the church. Designated Accounts support specific ministries such as the Benevolence Fund, Missions, and Special Relief Offerings that come up during the year. Among the Designated Accounts is one called Rising Above. This is a capital improvement fund for miscellaneous repairs and improvements within the church, above what is allocated in the yearly budget. Rising Above is an account with on-going needs. You generally don't hear much about it until a specific need arises and/or the balance is depleted. Improvements in 2009 fully depleted the current balance of this account. To give to Rising Above or other designated accounts just make a note in the memo field of your check, otherwise your contribution goes directly to the General Fund to support the budget.

One way to assist families with donations is through

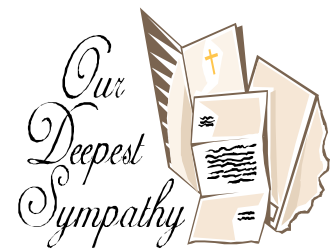
the electronic giving program within the church. We have the ability to accept donations via electronic fund transfers. The money transfers directly from your bank account to the church's account. You are in full control of the amount you wish to donate and when you want to donate. No pre-authorization is required and anyone can begin donating at anytime. The process is user friendly, secure and completely automated, creating a streamlined process. Your donation will be included in your year-end statement from the church. To access the online giving website visit our website at www.gefc.org and click on Stay Connected, Donations link. Two programs are available for online giving: one program accepts debit/credit cards and the other program makes an electronic withdrawal from your checking or savings account. No up-front fees are required by the contributor. The donation goes into the General Fund to support the ministries at GEFC. This service is provided for your convenience. Online giving constitutes 10% of the church's donations.

Additional ways to donate to the church is through the transfer of stocks and bonds. The church maintains an Edward Jones account and a Charles Schwab account for transfers. For the farmers, the church accepts checks from the proceeds of grain sales. If you are interested in making donations in any of these ways, send me an

email and I'll explain the process.

If you've heard conversations around the church referring to gazelle intensity, setting priorities by the four walls or debt snowball, it's the new language spreading throughout the church. Come join Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University beginning September 22nd and see what it's all about. A special thanks to Chad Miller for facilitating the classes.

If you have any questions feel free to email me at treasurer@gefc.org



to

Rick Danielson and his family as they mourn the loss of his brother, Larry, who passed away August 7, 2009

and

Cheryl Whitford and her family as they mourn the loss of her mother, Betty Anderson who passed away on August 22, 2009

DOLLARS
SENSE

Drawing Near to God

by Teri Walters

In the book of James we will find this promise - "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." God has made the first move, inviting us, through his Son Jesus Christ, to become His forever family and to come as close to Him as we want to. In order to love Him and worship Him, we have to get to know Him. How do we get to know someone? By spending time with them, seeing what they are like, watching, listening, learning, giving, receiving.

A good place to start to really know God better is to consider His attributes. Let's take, for example, the attribute of **faithfulness**. Choose to praise Him in every situation where you see His **faithfulness** for an entire day. Let **faithfulness**

be foremost in your thoughts - chew on it, digest it, meditate on it, talk to God about it, journal some thoughts about it, think about it a little more, ponder it, respond to it, imitate it, be influenced by it, pray about it, appreciate it, go to bed thanking God for it - maybe even dream about it. Do this for 30 days, or for one week. At the end of one month/week you will be amazed at how much better you understand what **faithfulness** is and how that is an attribute of God. It is who God is. The next month/week, choose another attribute. Some other attributes (to get us started) could be: fire, gracious, hiding place, examiner, transformer, conqueror, incomparable, merciful, holy, refiner, rock,

mighty, just.

The little book, "*The Air I Breathe*" by Louie Giglio, he states that: "Unless we see God, we cannot worship Him. Worship is what spontaneously flows out of us when we come face to face with Him. It is the natural response to all of who He is. When God is not greatly praised, it's only because we don't think He's that great of a God. When our worship is small, it's because our concept of God is small. When we offer God little-bitty sacrifices, it's because we've somehow reduced Him in our hearts to a little-bitty God."

Make September the jump-off point to learning to know God better than you did in August. ☞



Make September the jump-off point to learning to know God better than you did in August.

Check Out New Library Material

Karen Burress has been busy processing new library material this summer. There have been many additions to our juvenile section as well as youth and teen so stop by and check out a book!

We will soon be weeding out VHS tapes so watch for details on an upcoming sale.

Teen Fiction

Brio Girls

- *Good-Bye to all That*
- *Dragonfly on My Shoulder*
- *Grasping at Moonbeams*

- *Going Crazy Till Wednesday*
- *Croutons for Breakfast*
- *When Stars Fall*
- *No Lifeguard on Duty*
- *Bad Girl Days*

Youth Fiction

Faith Girlz: Lucy

- *Lucy Out of Bounds*
- *Lucy's "Perfect" Summer*
- *Lucy Doesn't Wear Pink*

Wormling Series

- *The Book of the King*
- *The Sword of the Wormling*

- *The Changeling*
- **The Incredible World of Wally McDoogie - #23, 24, 25, 26**

Juvenile

- *Bella Bean*
- *Sylvia & Bird*
- *Time for Bed, Little One*
- *Llama Llama Misses Mama*
- *Martha Doesn't Say Sorry!*
- *Do You Want a Friend?*
- *Daddy's Home!*
- *It's Hard to Hurry When You're a Snail*



Fall ABF & Elective Offerings

New locations beginning Sept. 6



You are welcome to attend any class of your choosing at any time.



Fellowship

Our Adult Bible Fellowship teachers have enjoyed a well deserved break for the summer. ABF participants have also enjoyed a little change to normal routine as we learned *How Everybody is Normal Til You Get to Know Them* and took in amazing information on Bioethics from Chris Nordick. We also got to connect with old friends and meet lots of newcomers but just as it is time for the kids to go back to school it is time for us to get back to our ABF's.

The following elective and Adult Bible Fellowship's will begin on September 6th in the noted locations. We encourage you to attend an ABF as this is where we live life together at GEFC. You are welcome to attend any class of your choosing at any time.

ELECTIVE: A Woman After God's Own Heart by Elizabeth George is a wonderful study that teaches women what it means to pursue God in our everyday busy lives. We will examine our pursuit of God, pursuit of priorities in our lives, and, how to put it all into practice within our homes, families, friends and communities. Sign up today for a book to follow along during our time together. Cost of book is \$6.00 **TEACHER:** Paula Price **LOCATION:** Woodridge theater room (across the street). Sign up for this elective in the foyer!

IMMANUEL ABF: Knowing God Through the Psalms. Our lessons

will reveal the character of our loving God. God cares for us in so many ways. He offers help, calms our fears, guides and strengthens us and can be the one to bring true satisfaction to our lives. **TEACHER:** David Walters **LOCATION:** NE corner of Awana/Fellowship Hall

CORNERSTONE ABF: What in the World is Going On?:10 Prophetic Clues You Cannot Afford to Ignore by Dr. David Jeremiah. We will cover what is happening now and how we could very well be living in the end times. Study guides are helpful and will cost \$10.75. **TEACHER:** Jim Bos **LOCATION:** Woodridge Living Room (across the street from the church)

SOJOURNERS ABF: Discovering God: A Chronological Study of Creation to Christ. This class will be picking up where they left off at the end of spring. **TEACHER:** Rick Worgess **LOCATION:** Lower level (go down the stairs in the foyer, turn left at the bottom of the stairs and it's the room at the end of the hall)

TRUTHSEEKERS ABF: Isaiah: God's Provision for Man's Deepest Need. Geologists tell us that the Grand Canyon is a miniature history of the earth — a condensed history, a pocket volume of the past. In the same way the book of Isaiah has long been recognized as a miniature Bible. This book sometimes called the gospel according to Isaiah,



contains the most complete revelation of Christ in the Old Testament. **TEACHER:** Jim Mason **LOCATION:** SE corner of Awana/Fellowship Hall

YOUNG FAMILIES ABF: Discipling Our Children. A framework will be provided for helping parents disciple their children in the Christian Faith, as they grow towards maturity. **TEACHER:** Pastor Michael Mauriello **LOCATION:** the open area of the Awana/Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTIAN HOMEBUILDERS: This is a class made up of married and single parents of middle elementary through high school aged children. The class alternates between parenting and other topics of interest to the group. Topic to be determined. **TEACHER:** Brad Ulick **LOCATION:** conference room. ☪



**Begin
Wednesday,
Sept. 9 @
6:25 pm
For children
age 4 - 6th
grade.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Women's Reading Connection 10 am Men's Group 7:00 pm	2 Awana Leader Meeting 6 pm Jr. High 6:30 pm	3 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am & 7:00 pm	4	5
6 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8 Elder's Meeting 7 pm	9 MOPS 9 am Awana 6:25 pm Jr. High 6:30 pm	10 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am & 7:00 pm Deadline for Free News Submissions	11 	12 Overflow Worship Training 8am Sr. High Kick-Off at Leigh's 4 pm
13 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am KNEES Prayer Service 6 pm	14 Missions Team meeting 7 pm	15 Nursery Steering Team Mtg. 9:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm	16 See You @ the Pole 7 am Awana 6:25 pm SYATP after party @ the Rock 6:30 pm	17 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am & 7:00 pm	18 Crafting at Mauriello's 7:00 pm Connected Together @ Svendsen's 7 pm	19 Date Night 4:00 pm
20 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am Newcomers Lunch @ the Brinkmann's 12:00 pm Sr. High 6:30 pm	21 Administrative Council Meeting 7 pm	22 Financial Peace University 6pm MOPS 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting 7 pm	23 Awana 6:25 pm Jr. High 6:30 pm	24 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am & 7:00 pm	25 Dining Out Together at Sweet Pea's 7 pm 5th Quarter @ the Rock following football game	26
27 Partners In Prayer 7:45 am Sr. High 6:30 pm	28	29 Financial Peace University 6pm	30 Awana 6:25 pm Jr. High 6:30 pm			

Reaching UP Reaching IN Reaching OUT

Free News

September 2009 Volume 14, Issue 8

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



SEPTEMBER