

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

### Mauriello's Say Good Bye

**M**y family and I are overwhelmed by the generosity of the congregation shown to us at the congregational meeting. We know that this gift is an extraordinary grace and kindness to us as we start a new phase of life. I know that no expression of gratitude can cover or express our joy, but I promise to the congregation that we will use your gift thoughtfully and wisely as I work on my education. Thank you so much! We praise Jesus for the chance to have ministered in Geneseo with you.

Before I say goodbye, I wanted to let you know how our team has decided to set up the summer for our students in Jr. High, Sr. High, and College.

Senior High will be meeting every week at Dan and Gretchen Leigh's house on Wednesday evenings, from 6:30 PM until dark or kicked out. Start date is June 9<sup>th</sup>, the second Wednesday of the month. Chad Miller will be taking our students through a money management curriculum based off of the philosophy of Financial Peace University. A workbook comes with the training (we are asking that students contribute \$12.00 for the workbooks). Rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome.

Jr. High will be meeting every other week of the summer at the church on Wednesday evenings, from 6:30—8:00 PM. Cole Kraft will be teaching through the summer. Jr. High will

include rising 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders for the summer.

Finally, I have met with some of the college students to work out details for the summer with them. They deeply desire an ABF of their own that meets on Sunday mornings. We are trying to work out these details.

The Lord has been very good to Londa and I and our girls. We want to say that we have loved making GEFC



our home for five years now. We want to say thank you for years of support and care.

I want to let the kids know, that I will always love and miss them, that they have a deep place in my heart, and I can't wait to see and hear what the Lord chooses to do

through them.

I'm going to miss so many things: church softball, Christmas Eve Services, AWANA penny carnivals, and volley-tennis. I'm going to miss the crowdedness of the foyer on Sundays. I'm going to miss writing letters of recommendation, and I'm going to miss Woodbridge and Hammond-Henry services. But most of all, I'm going to miss all of you. Thank you for all you have done for us! Londa and I will always love and miss you.

In Christ,  
 Pastor Michael

### Honoring the Mauriello's

**W**hat better way to show appreciation to Pastor Michael and Londa than honoring them with homemade desserts and ice cream. Join us on Friday, June 25 at 7 pm at the church to show Pastor Michael and Londa what their ministry at GEFC meant to us. Please R.S.V.P. on the green connection card during our Sunday worship or call the church office to let us know how many will be attending.



**T**hank you to everyone who helped with the flood clean up and control during the month of May. We are so grateful for everyone who volunteered time, energy, and materials to help us with this enormous project.

We also thank our Sunday School staff for their flexibility in location. They took an awkward situation and did the best with it. We can't thank you enough.

Also, a thanks to our Adult Bible Fellowship classes who jumped right in to help clean tables and chairs during their education hour.

There are many decisions that will need to be made in regards to prevention of future problems so we ask that you would pray for us as we work through all of the details.

## Have You Shopped the Dollar Menu at a Fast Food Restaurant Lately?

by Ken White, Mission Team

**“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and blameless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”**

James 1:27

**“Fear not; you will no longer live in shame. The shame of your youth and the sorrows of widowhood will be remembered no more, for your Creator will be your husband. The Lord Almighty is His name?”**

Isaiah 51:4-5a

I would like to introduce the MJANE/ YATIMA MINISTRY (Swahili for Widows and Orphans Ministry) and Elizabeth Mativo from the Mbooni district of Kenya, East Africa. After the death of her husband the Rev. Onesimus Mativo, Elizabeth realized first hand the perception of her community towards widowed women. It is that they have done something wrong and are shamed into believing they deserve the absence of their mates. As a result, Elizabeth began the Widows and Orphans Ministry among her people. The women in this ministry have lost husbands, love, personal support and companionship, but above all their primary source of income. Often times if the husband dies, the wife cannot support the children and they become a victim of human trafficking, sold into prostitution etc. The family loses the only “possession” they had, their land, because with no husband to protect the family they are forced from their land.

The objective of the ministry is to present the Gospel, demonstrate the love of Jesus and to care for widows and orphans in their most basic need of food and water. Elizabeth grows the crops and travels great distances by vehicle to markets for the necessary food to feed her friends. The ministry also focuses on securing a natural water source in the village and protecting the water source so

that in the dry seasons there can be water for the community. There is a great need for clean water. Many deaths are still attributed to malaria and water borne diseases.

Seventy-four percent of her monthly support is to care for other people. Almost 3 out of every 4 dollars! The monies are directed towards feeding widows and orphans spiritually through widow Bible and children of widow Bible studies. Elizabeth is also concerned that the children receive an education. Part of her support is school fees, tuition, school uniforms:



shirts, skirts, pants, cardigans, socks, shoes, supplies and books for the children. There has been no rains in most parts of Kenya for the last two years and most of the children and women in the village have no food.

How many times do you purchase food from the dollar menu at a fast food restaurant? Every Saturday and Sunday Elizabeth prepares and provides meals for 12 widows and their children plus 5 orphans at a cost of \$1.30 per meal per person. The next time you frequent a fast food restaurant and order from the dollar menu I want you to:

- Pray for Elizabeth and her ministry of presenting the Gospel to widows and orphans.
- Pray for the widows and orphans they might have receptive hearts to the Gospel.

If you have been attending GEFC for some time, you might remember Elizabeth's name. She received

monies from one of the ABF's several years ago for solar stoves.

After a 5 month stay in the US, Elizabeth returned to Kenya in March. Unfortunately while she was gone, many of her crops were stolen, her house broken into and items stolen. Her home has no electricity, running water or heat.

Elizabeth is a graduate of Ukamba Bible College and Eldoret Missionary College in Kenya. She has served the Lord since the early 1970's with her late husband among some of the least evangelized and gospel resistant tribes of Kenya. How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!

Some prayer requests for the ministry:

- Committed monthly supporters to fund the feeding program 2 meals per week, help with school fees for 5 orphans, 12 poorest widows and their 36 children.
- The 25 widows and their children as they meet for prayer, Bible study and encouragement.
- The un-churched widows and children will come to know the Lord.
- Donation of funds to provide a reliable, used 4 wheel drive vehicle. The widows and children are spread throughout the countryside and the food needs to be purchased quite a distance from Elizabeth's home. Roads are dirt, mud, holes and boulders.
- Funds for uniforms for the orphan children.
- Salvation for 16 year old Syokau. A young lady that has recently moved in with Elizabeth. Her father died of Malaria and her mother cannot afford to send her to school.

## Serving God's Way

by David Walters, Elder

Each person who is a follower of Christ has a gift to be used. If it is not used, the entire body suffers. Not only that, the individual does not grow and flourish. In the first 2 verses of 1 Cor. 3, Paul addressed the 'brothers' as "in the flesh" and as "infants" still only able to handle milk and not solid food. One result of not applying yourself in serving with your ability and gift is that you remain a baby.

Paul goes on in 1 Cor. 3 to talk about how the Corinthian believers were taking up allegiances to Apollos or to Paul himself. Paul clearly taught that both he and Apollos were merely servants (vs 5). They were giving of themselves at personal cost or

sacrifice for the sake of Christ. Servants want to make others better, help them grow!

In verses 8 & 9 he says, "one planted and one watered" but it was God who gave the growth. Each of us has an opportunity to serve, if we take it. Apparently Paul is teaching us to do what The Lord gives us to do. Maybe it is not necessarily what you want to do but God will give the growth; both to you and those being served.

Wages: verse 8 talks about wages – something given in exchange for work. Paul says each will receive them. Who can measure the blessing of seeing someone you serve, grow? How about the satisfaction of knowing

you obeyed God's call and plan? What about laying up those wages on a deferred basis in heaven? Are there blessings you receive because of God's grace and mercy because He loves your obedience and faithfulness? God sees all we do – who cares if someone else sees it? Blessings (wages) may be tangible or intangible.

Verse 9 – we are fellow workers! Have you joined the work force? Or are you unemployed? You are needed, you will grow spiritually by doing your part and the benefits are great! FIND A PLACE!



*John Hemminger in the passing of his brother on April 27, 2010*

*We wish to thank our church family for all of the notes, cards of encouragement and prayers at the time of John's brother's death. You were an encouragement to us and we thank you all for caring.*

*John & Pat Hemminger*

## Vacation Bible School July 26-30 5:30-8:00 pm



**VBS is open to all children age 3  
(by 7/30/10) thru those entering 6th grade.**

## This Is My Story

by Beth Dykstra

When I was growing up my grandmother would tell me how when I was 9 weeks old, sick and in the hospital, I was baptized by the “on call Catholic priest” before I turned all blue and died. Now as an adult when I think of that, I believe God must have brought me back because he had a plan for me. I was raised in the Reformed Church in America and was baptized in church when I was 6 years old along with my brother and baby sister. I guess you could say I’ve already been “reborn” once and baptized twice. So this time should be my last.

When I was a sophomore in high school our church had a Lay Witness Mission weekend. People from area churches, high school age and above went to other churches for a kind of revival. I have talked to Chuck and Glee Bos who attend here and they say they used to be a part of those so they may have even been at my church that weekend. At the end of the weekend I accepted Christ as my personal Savior. The theme song for the weekend was “He Touched Me” and whenever I hear that song I think of that weekend. In high school science class one day the teacher asked who believed God created the world. Only a few of us raised our hand. I remember looking at a couple girls that were in my Sunday school class and wondered why they did not raise their hands. Peer pressure I assumed.

After Kevin and I were married the church we attended had weekend women’s retreats. We would have speakers to motivate us to renew our commitment to God. After attending one of these my co-workers on

Monday would say I glowed; that I looked different. Proverbs 13:9 says “The light of the righteous shines brightly”. I’d like to keep that glow all the time. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 is one of my favorite Bible sections. “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...” I have been thru many of the seasons or “times” talked about in this passage.

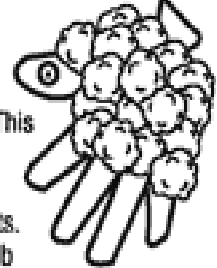
I have attended a Reformed Church all my life and believed in infant baptism. Ryan, Stephanie and Amanda were all baptized as infants. We moved to Geneseo in 1993 and came to Evangelical Free. Pastor Rick Cryder preached about baptism. Several times I have wanted to do it but always was afraid to come forward, afraid to give my testimony in front of people because I had no big life changing story to tell.

The past few weeks Pastor Greg’s sermons made me decide to be baptized. In Romans 6 Pastor talked of having a new identity in Christ; the old me is dead and I

am now alive to God. I have a new destiny with an outcome of eternal life. You hear this over and over again throughout the course of your lifetime but this time it just clicked for me. Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Isaiah 48 says God created me for His glory. Pastor Greg said I am a trophy to God. I thought about what kind of trophy I am to God, not one of the small participation trophies, but the Stanley Cup of hockey or the elusive Masters green jacket of golf.



## Lamb Mission Bank



God can do great things with our gifts. This craft reminds us that every little coin counts. When your lamb is full, empty out the coins and give them to a charity or church mission program.

### What you need:

- Knit glove (black or white)
- 1-foot-long piece of thin ribbon, any color
- Stapler
- Craft glue or hot glue gun
- Fiberfill or cotton balls
- 2 googly eyes

### What you do:

1. Staple one end of the ribbon to the inside of each side of the glove's opening to make a hanger.
2. For the lamb's body, cover the palm and half of the thumb with glue. Stick the fiberfill or cotton balls onto the glue.
3. Glue a googly eye to each side of the mitten's thumb. (The other fingers will be the legs.)
4. Hang the lamb where you'll see it often. Whenever you have extra change, drop it into your lamb bag.

# Reaching UP, Reaching IN, Reaching OUT



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Men's Softball 7 pm @ Richmond Hill	2	3	4	5 Burress Graduation Party 1-4 pm
6 Partners-in- Prayer 7:45 am  Begin summer ABF rotation	7 Missions Team meeting 7 pm  Men's Softball 8:15 pm @ Richmond Hill	8 Elders Meeting 7 pm  Men's Softball 7:00 pm @ Richmond Hill	9 Sr. Hi Youth Group 6:30 pm @Leigh's  Jr. Hi Youth 6:30 pm @ GEFC	10 Worship Band Camp 6-9 pm  Deadline for July/August Free News	11 Wedding Rehearsal & Decorating	12 Men's Ministry Izaak Walton fishing  Wedding
13 Partners-in- Prayer 7:45 am	14 Men's softball tournament Time: TBA	15 Men's softball tournament Time: TBA	16 Sr. Hi Youth Group 6:30 pm @Leigh's	17 Craft Night 6 pm	18 Wedding Rehearsal & Decorating	19 Wedding
20 Partners-in- Prayer 7:45 am  FATHER'S DAY	21 Administrative Council Meeting 7 pm  Men's softball tournament 8:15 pm	22 Elders Meeting 7 pm  Men's softball tournament 7:00 pm	23 Sr. Hi Youth Group 6:30 pm @Leigh's  Jr. Hi Youth Group 6:30 pm	24	25 Wedding Rehearsal & Decorating  Mauriello Reception 7:00 pm	26 Wedding
27 Partners-in- Prayer 7:45 am	28	29	30 Sr. Hi Youth Group 6:30 pm @Leigh's			

## What Do You Love Most About Your Dad?

**F**ather's you make a difference in the lives of your children. It's up to you to make it a good one!

**Stephanie (Dykstra) Cathelyn, age 27:** "What I love about my Dad, Kevin Dykstra is that he is so funny, even though most people probably see him as a quiet man. He is the most loving father and would do anything for me. I love him!"

**Londa Mauriello, age ?:** "My Dad is a man of integrity."

**Pastor Michael Mauriello, age ?:** "My Dad is one of the wisest men in the universe."

**Faith Adams, 42:** "I love my Dad because he has left for his kids a legacy of Godliness, integrity, faithfulness and kindness. I am proud to call him Daddy!"

**Eli Adams, age 7:** "I love that he builds things for me, like swords and guns."

**Luke Adams, age 9:** "I love that he rides dirt bikes with me."

**Erin (Dawson) McCallister, age 28:** "What I love most about my Dad is his gentle spirit, his wisdom and his servant's heart."

**Landon Shoemaker, age 5:** "I love it when Daddy plays games with me and teaches me how to play basketball and soccer. And, when he reads stories to me."

**Laylah Kraft, age 3:** "I love my Daddy because he's my boyfriend."

**Addie Mills, age :** "I love that my Daddy can fix anything!"

**Phoenix Cox, age? :** My Dad is Gerald Gross from Chicago. I would say that I like best about my dad that he is a very hard working man who really enjoys life to the fullest. He would do anything to help anyone in need.

**Chris Cashman, age ?:** There are many things I could say, but I have grown to love all the little sayings and words I got from my dad growing up. As a teacher, I often say, "C'mon in, take off your skin, rattle 'round in your bones!" as students enter the classroom."

**Melissa (Johnson) Olson, age?:** "I love my Dad for his sense of humor. He always knows how to make me laugh."

**Jessica (Reiling) Moore, age 30:** "I love my Dad because of his great sense of humor and how he can remain calm in any situation. I also love how he has become such a Godly leader in our family."

**Rachel (Whitford) Simenec, age ?:** "What I love about my Dad is that he can fall 30 feet basically to his death and come out of it praising the Lord."

**Taylor Mills, age 10:** "I love that my dad goes fishing with me and does fun stuff with me."



**Abbey DeGrave**

Trinity School of Nursing  
Nursing Degree

**Brad DeGrave**

Northern Illinois University  
BS Industrial Engineering  
\*\*Brad was deployed to the Sinai Peninsula on May 20, 2010

**Matt Dulin**

Armstrong Atlanta State University  
BA Chemistry

**Katie Pearson**

Bradley University  
Nursing Degree

**Dayna Sommers**

Olivet Nazarene University  
BA Social Work

**Donna Westerlund**

Augustana College  
Masters Social Work

Geneseo Evangelical Free Church  
914 N. Chicago St.  
Geneseo, IL 61254

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

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