

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

Uniquely & Wonderfully Made Women's Retreat



Ladies of Geneseo Evangelical Free Church and community are invited to attend our 13th annual fall retreat. The featured speaker is Mari Mayborn from Macomb, IL and her presentation will be **"Spinning Out of Control"**. Every woman knows what it feels like to attempt to keep life's many "plates" spinning in the air. Many feel they can barely keep up and most have known disappointment of watching plates fall and shatter to pieces. Mari will look at the key reasons we busy ourselves



and invite women to relinquish control to the God who loves them deeply and has greater plans for them than they can imagine.

The Wellness Committee has planned an evening that promises to

be encouraging and appetizing. Of course we can't have a women's event without delicious food. Riefe's Restaurant in Davenport will cater a scrumptious meal with your choice of roast pork loin with BBQ sauce on the side or boneless breast of chicken in mushroom and wine sauce, buttered parsley potatoes, corn, green bean almandine, assorted salads, dinner rolls, ice tea & lemonade, and apple crisp for dessert. Hope to see you there.

REGISTRATION DETAILS: Advanced registration is a necessity due to limited seating. Registrations will be accepted thru October 24 or upon reaching maximum seating capacity. Cost of the evening is \$15 per person. Fee must accompany registration to hold your spot. Complete name, address and phone number is required for each registrant. You may mail in or drop off your registration form and fees to the Geneseo Evangelical Free Church, 914 N. Chicago St., Geneseo, IL 61254 Checks are payable to GEFC. Payment is transferable but non-refundable.



The Annual Budget Meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, October 11 at 7 pm. This is being done to accommodate the need to make decisions on the next phase of the basement project. Phase 1 included mold mediation which will probably be completed by this publication. Phase 2 includes handling the ongoing water issues. We will need to vote on moving forward with recommendations and accepting bids so the project can continue. We also will vote on the 2011 budget. The budget proposal is available now in the foyer. Please review it thoroughly and express your questions and concerns to the appropriate parties prior to the Business Meeting.



The Elders have designated the month of October as Pastor & Staff Appreciation Month. A single basket will be available to put gifts and notes of encouragement and appreciation beginning on October 3 and will remain throughout the month. Seize this opportunity to show your appreciation for their faithful service.

A Shiny Silver Star

by Debbie Rogers, Mission Team

We all know that long ago God sent a shiny silver star to a dark and lost world. We also know what a difference that star made. I would like to tell you about a chance for you to send a shiny star to someone in a dark and lost world today. Immanuel's Child is a program where we can send a shiny silver star to a child in Russia who lives in a dark and lost world.

As Christians we want to be involved directly in spreading the Gospel but often feel that we lack opportunities. Immanuel's child is something everyone can do. Immanuel's Child is an evangelistic outreach conducted by Bible-believing churches across the lands of Russia. Through Immanuel's Child, thousands of unsaved children and parents are invited to local churches for a special Christmas program. Each child will receive a gift, treats, an illustrated children's Bible and a Star of Bethlehem ornament, signed by a sponsoring family in the U.S. or Canada. Most importantly, the



children and their parents will hear a clear presentation of the Gospel.

Emmanuel's Child is a wonderful way for our congregation to help Russian churches present the Gospel to needy children and their families. But more than that, it is a special opportunity for our congregation to unite in our commitment to "the mission" of the church: Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to all nations.

In many parts of the former Soviet Union, evangelical churches are still looked upon with suspicion and fear.

One of the most exciting impacts of Immanuel's Child is that it changes people's perceptions about the church. Once the children and their families come to church and meet the members, they see firsthand the sincere love of God's people. This allows Russian-speaking congregations to build relationships based on love and trust with children and families who might otherwise not come to church.

So be watching for the shiny silver stars to appear and be ready to pick up one or several. All you do is pick up your star or stars and fill in the return part and bring it back with your donation of \$25.00 per star. That part will be put on the gift package and you will keep the other part as a reminder to pray for whoever gets the other half. It is a wonderful program that has had a long-lasting effect on so many children and families. Wait until you see some of the pictures that will be coming soon and be available to look at when you pick up your star or stars.

Food Pantry Preparing for Fall & Winter

by Nancy Noord

It's time to bring in your outgrown and no longer needed coats, sweatshirts, and boots for client families. Fall and winter clothing in all sizes, as well as gloves, hats, water proof snow pants, and waterproof mittens for kids are needed and appreciated.

There are some wonderful opportunities to make a difference in the lives of client families and individuals during the holidays.



Providing a family with a turkey or the ingredients for a complete Thanksgiving dinner will make their holiday very special. It's a

wonderful activity to do with your family. Each family member can pick out ingredients for his or her favorite

Thanksgiving food and add it to the food to be donated.

It is also not too early to think about adopting a family for Christmas. Please call 944-3165 to find out how rewarding it is to give of yourself.

A need that never goes away is for financial help with electric or natural gas bills for clients. Even though a family is working full time while



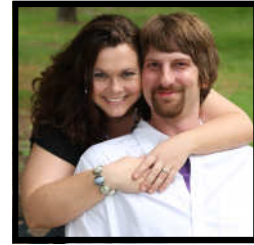
earning minimum wage, not enough money is earned to remain current with utility bills, rent, groceries, and children's needs. If you feel led to help, a check designated for utility assistance may be sent to the Food Pantry. A payment will be made by the Food Pantry to a client's account when the need arises.

Food needs for the month are: cake mixes, frosting mixes, cereal, canned potatoes, kidney beans, chili seasoning, hot chocolate, and coffee,

Non-food needs are: bathroom tissue, paper towels, dish soap, disposable diapers in sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6, generic pain relievers, tooth brushes, and laundry soap

Taking Part in God's Plan

by Carl Brinkmann, Elder



*Stephanie Rogers & Eric Bos
will be united in marriage
on October 3 at
Starved Rock State Park,
You are invited to celebrate
their marriage at a brunch
on
Saturday, October 9
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
at Geneseo
Evangelical Free Church*

October marks the month when many people are asked to make another year's commitment to teaching Awana or Sunday school, leading a small group, being a ministry coordinator, etc. I'm sure that many of us when making this commitment pray for God to use us to reach, teach or help others. We pray for what God will do through us as we minister. I would like to challenge us to also pray for what God will do to us as we minister.

When we look at Jonah in the Bible, we see how through Jonah's unwilling help, the entire city of Nineveh came to repentance and was spared God's judgment. When God called Jonah for this work, don't you suppose that in His omniscience He knew Jonah would run away from the task? Why

did God choose Jonah? He could have used anyone to work through. He chose Jonah because Jonah was the person he wanted to do a work to.

When God invites us to take part in His plans, it's not because he can't accomplish His purpose without us. He generally invites us to take part in His plans so He can do a work in us. Let's pray not just for what can be accomplished through us. Let's pray that God would accomplish His work in us.

Mold me O God!

Yours in Christ,
Carl Brinkmann, Elder

Reflections On God's Blessings

by Greg Longbons, Communications Coordinator

As the lazy days of summer slowly slip into autumn, my mind drifts back to days long past and the truly simple and amazing blessings that God has provided.

To days when the greatest treasure imaginable was finding a bright shiny penny on the path to the woods. When life's biggest hurdle was finishing the evening chores and trying to sneak off for some fun before your folks asked you to help with something else. When all of life's contentment could be found in a sunny afternoon, a wagging tail and an apple just picked from the tree. When you were too busy with a big project to be bothered with something as mundane as lunch. When getting to go barefoot was a positive experience because it meant that winter was months away. When enjoying a bowl of ice cream was a rare and wonderful treat, not to be

rushed, except that it melted so fast. When the only tools you ever needed were your two hands, a strong hammer and a sharp saw. When you forgot to close the screen door for the umpteenth time and it didn't matter to



you if the flies came into the house or not. When a great accomplishment was whapping your brother on the back of the head and running away before he had a chance to whap you back. When you stayed outside on

hot, summer nights—long past bedtime—until the mosquitoes finally drove you inside. When finding eight kids to play baseball was heaven-sent because that meant you could have four on a side. When waking up to a foot of newly fallen snow was greeted with whoops of joy, not groans of resignation. When you had two sets of clothes: Sunday clothes and Monday-through-Saturday clothes. When a new bicycle or scooter or car was commemorated as one of life's significant milestones. When Cupid drew back his bow and there were at least eight inches of air between the ground and the soles of your feet. When you got your first job and you actually got paid for your work. When "a long time ago" meant the day before yesterday.

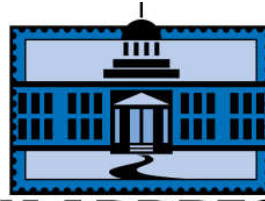
So much fun. So many experiences. So much life. So many blessings. Thanks God!

**Gerald Neer**

(Mar. 26, 1938 -
Sept. 3, 2010)

Funeral services for Gerald L. "Jerry" Neer 72, of Hope Creek Care Center, East Moline, IL, were 10AM Wed. at the Van Hoe Funeral Home Ltd., East

Moline. Visitation was 4:00-7:00PM Tues. at the Van Hoe Funeral Home Ltd., East Moline. Mr. Neer died Friday, Sept. 3, 2010 at Genesis Hospital, Illini Campus, Silvis, IL. Memorials may be made to the family. Jerry was born Mar. 26, 1938 in Morrison, IL, the son of Roy & Ada Frank Neer. He married Mary Winthurst Mar. 23, 1957 in East Moline. He later married Barbara E. (Francis) Graves May 25, 2006 in Rock Island, IL. After high school, Jerry attended & graduated from Lincoln Barber College, East Moline. He worked at Snip & Clip, Rock Island & then moved to East Moline where he opened Jerry's Barber Shop. He had cut hair for 50 years, 42 of them in East Moline. He was an avid Green Bay Packer Fan and loved the game of golf. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He adored his grandchildren. He was a kind and loving man with a great sense of humor. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Neer of Colona, daughter & son-in-law, Shari & Ken Hansen of East Moline, sons & daughters-in-law, Terry and Michele Neer of Port Byron, IL, Gary and Connie Neer of East Moline, Barry Neer of Moline; 17 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; sister & brother-in-law, Lois and Robert Finley of Geneseo, IL; brothers & sisters-in-law, Robert & Helen Neer of Aledo, IL, Don Neer of East Moline; half sister & brother-in-law, Ellen and Al Verstraete of Moline; half brothers & sisters-in-law, Charles and Helen Lenz of Colona, Richard "Scratch" & Mary Lenz of Alabama. He is preceded in death by his parents, step-father, Charles "Doc" Lenz, & sister, Ruby Shannon.



NEW ADDRESSES FOR COLLEGIANS

Christy Brewer

301 Hawk Ridge Dr. - Apt. 3316 A
Iowa City, IA 52246

Dustin Brewer

20 N College #18
Platteville, WI 53818

Laurel Donaldson

Purdue University
Shreve Hall - room 351
1275 Third St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2071

Chad Ford

308 E. Daniel Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Craig Ford

2251 U.S. Hwy 52W Apt. #7
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Laurel Whitford

518 W. Locust St.
Davenport, IA 52803





Blessed Expectations warmly introduces you to Chris & DeeAnn Kuster's newest blessing, *Faith Helen Kuster*. Their daughter was born September 24, 2010 6lbs 15 oz - 18.5 inches



To
Gary & Jill Dawson
and their family
as they mourn the loss
of Jill's brother
who passed away on
September 11.

Note: This is also the Uncle of Phillip & Erin McCallister

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Homeschool Grp. 1-3 pm	2 Brinkmann Bridal Shower 10 am
3 Partners-in- Prayer 7:45 am Sr. High Youth Group 6-9 pm	4 Missions Team meeting 7 pm	5 Reading Connection 10 am	6 Awana 6:25 pm Jr. Hi Youth 6:30 pm	7 Women's Bible Study 9-11 am 6:30-8 pm	8 Homeschool Grp. 1-3 pm	9 Bos/Rogers Wedding Reception 11 am- 2pm
10 Partners-in- Prayer 7:45 am Newcomers Lunch @ Brinkmann's Sr. High Youth Group 6-9 pm	11 Congregational Business Mtg. 7 pm	12 Elders Meeting 7 pm	13 MOPS 9-11 am Awana 6:25 pm Jr. Hi Youth 6:30 pm	14 Women's Bible Study 9-11 am 6:30-8 pm	15 Homeschool Grp. 1-3 pm	16
		GLD Conference				
17 Partners-in- Prayer 7:45 am Sr. High Youth Group 6-9 pm	18 Administrative Council Meeting 7 pm	19	20 Awana 6:25 pm Jr. Hi Youth 6:30 pm	21 Women's Bible Study 9-11 am 6:30-8 pm Craft Night 6 pm	22	23
					Sr, High Fall Retreat	
24 Partners-in- Prayer 7:45 am Sr. High Youth Group 6-9 pm	25	26 MOPS 6:30- 8:30 pm Elders Meeting 7 pm	27 Awana 6:25 pm Jr. Hi Youth 6:30 pm	28 Women's Bible Study 9-11 am 6:30-8 pm	29 Homeschool Grp. 1-3 pm	30
31 Partners-in- Prayer 7:45 am Sr. High Youth Group 5-9 pm						
			<p>To the 11 people who took the CPR and AED class on September 11, 2010. Everyone felt that it was worthwhile!</p>			

Quality Control

by Catherine Sommers, Librarian

Geneseo Evangelical Free Church has one of the nicest libraries around and is exceptional for the size of our church. The summer months proved to be very busy in the library which is very exciting. We are motivated and committed to continue offering you the most sought after and newest materials as well as keeping classics on hand by stretching our resources as far as possible but your cooperation is key. Here are a few ways that you can help us to maintain the quality of our library:

1. Make returning the books that you and your family borrow in a timely fashion a **priority**. 1 week for videos and 3 weeks for books. This keeps us from having to replace books that have already been purchased that others are waiting to borrow. **NOTE:** Our entire budget for 2011 could easily be spent on replacing books and videos that have been borrowed but not returned. This is not good stewardship!
2. Limit the quantity of books that you and your family have borrowed at one time.
3. Don't check out additional items until you have returned everything that you already have borrowed.
4. Replace lost and damaged items in a timely fashion with new or gently used versions.
5. Make a donation to the library or purchase gift cards to Family Christian Stores or Christian Book Distributors (CBD) so that we can purchase items that people are anxiously awaiting.
6. Consider purchasing an item or two off of our wish list that is posted in the library.

7. Support the church library when we have book sales by making purchases that benefit the library or by providing good used books for others to purchase.

The Administrative Council has been working on the budget diligently for a couple of months already. As you will soon see the proposal will include another significant cut to the library budget. The library has gone from \$1,350 to \$500 over the last few years.

We are excited to bring you some fun and creative ideas throughout the next several months that will give you the opportunity to partner with us in keeping our library the best around.

Our faithful library servants include:

- Lynn Bos
- Beth Dykstra
- Pat Eklof
- Janis Longbons
- Dawn Rettig
- Ashton Mills (student trainee)

Feel free to contact us about any questions that you have about the library including your possible interest in joining our ministry team.



Free News

October Volume 15, Issue 9

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
Worship Director - AJ Reynolds

The FREE NEWS

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deadline for
the *Free News*
is the 10th of
each month
for the next
month's
publication.**

**Bulletin deadline is noon
on Wednesday of each
week.**