

Reaching  
UP

Reaching  
OUT

Reaching  
IN

**INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:**

In The Early Years 2

Global Outreach 3

Craft Night 3

Reading Connection 4

Prayer Chain 4

Weekend to Remember 4

Small Groups 5

Photo Directory 5

Mom's In Touch 6

God's Wall of Fame 6

VBS 6

Calendar 7

## Is It Worth Your Time?

by Catherine Sommers

After being away from hands-on Awana ministry for a number of years I recently returned as a Sparky leader. If this terminology is unfamiliar, Sparks is the group of children in Awana representing grades K-2<sup>nd</sup>. God had been rattling my cage for a couple of months as I did everything I could to ignore Him. When I was reminded that He's the boss I made my way back.....hesitantly.

I had totally forgotten what a joy it was to be around children that are eager to learn. What a blessing these little people are to me. As always when we step out thinking we're doing God a favor He is quick to show us Who is actually doing the favors and in this case it wasn't me.

Have you ever made the statement, "I've done my time there" or "Let the younger people do it now"? If so perhaps it's time you acknowledge the Holy Spirit's rebuke of, "Get over yourself pllllllease!" I have made these statements too and am ashamed of myself. How dare we forget that it is not about us. As I delved into some training material for Sparks

leaders it became painfully clear why God was calling me back to this ministry. Only nine percent of Christian youth and one-third of born-again adults believe in absolute moral truth – the stakes could not be higher for our kids, for YOUR kids and grandkids, and the future of the church. In essence we have lost a generation and we can't afford to lose any more. Are children's ministries in the local church important?.....You bet they are! Awana exists to help churches prepare and join the battle for a generation. It doesn't matter how old you are, it doesn't matter how busy you are because it is worth your time.

As a member or regular attendee of Geneseo Evangelical Free Church you are committed to our core values:

- A commitment to the Word of God
- A commitment to Prayer
- A commitment to Christ as the Only Way
- A commitment to a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus
- A commitment to

Service

- A commitment to Evangelism

- A commitment to Family
- There is not another single ministry in all of GEFC that more completely fulfills these values.

From the Awana handbook we learn their prayer is that all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Is this worth your time?

The Awana handbook states the purpose of Awana is to help churches and parents worldwide raise children and youth to know, love and serve Christ. Is this worth your time?

We also see that Awana stands on these values:

- We will glorify God and serve the Body of Christ by committing ourselves to these values:
- We proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ with clarity and urgency.
- We commit to God's Word as our guide and standard.

*(Continued on page 2)*



*“If you look at our demographics you will see that young families are a significant percentage of our attendees. GEFC is at a generational tipping point.”*

# In The Early Days

by Gary Dawson, Elder Board Chairman

AJ’s sermon from January 23 stirred many memories for me. In that sermon AJ reviewed some of the history of GEFC. In the early days, attendance dropped during holidays. Because we were a young church many traveled to their parents’ homes for holiday celebrations. These days we often see children come home on holidays to visit parents.

GEFC rapidly grew to over a hundred attendees. In those early days, many young families stepped forward to assume responsibilities for teaching Sunday School, Nursery, Children’s Church, and Bible Studies. Teaching responsibilities serve as a forcing function for Bible learning. Teaching preparation provides

structure and gives purpose to one’s time in the Word. It also strengthens our commitment and fosters joy as we fulfill our responsibilities to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4). Teaching the Word prepares people for leadership. The phrase “apt to teach” from 1 Tim 3:2 comes to mind as a leadership prerequisite. In GEFC’s early days many of those who were teachers also served as Deacons. GEFC doesn’t have Deacons any more we have Elders. Many more of us now have the age that the adjective elder implies. Still, GEFC is a young church.

If you look at our demographics you’ll see that young families are a significant percentage of

our attendees. GEFC is at a generational tipping point. We need to be entrusting leadership to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Tim 2:2). To this end, I would encourage those of you who are interested in leadership to consider the teaching opportunities that are out there. Small group leaders, AWANA (teaching council times), Sunday School and ABFs. Another leadership training Bible study series for men is being planned as well. We hope to see many of you there.

## ...Is It Worth Your Time? continued from page 1

- We treat all people as created and loved by God.
- We maintain a servant heart in all we do.
- We manage God’s resources with faithfulness and integrity.
- We pursue excellence as unto

the Lord.

Is this worth your time?

Bringing a person of any age to Jesus is more important than anything else! **Is it worth your time?**



# Women's Craft Night



**Caption describing picture or graphic.**

Are you in need of some inspiration? Perhaps you are just needing a night away from home for a few hours because you are suffering from the winter blahs. Well we have just what the doctor ordered. We

invite you to Join a group of women on the 3rd Thursday of the month, in this case March 17 at 6 pm for a relaxing evening of crafting, conversation and fun.

may invite your neighbors and friends to come too. There is no program it is just a night out with the girls.

If you have other questions contact Alli Stahl at 441-5618 or email army1993@mchsi.com

Bring whatever craft project that you are working on and your supplies and spend the evening with a great group of ladies catching up on projects over good conversation. You

*“Worship stokes the fire in our hearts to be aware of Who our awesome God is”*

## Global Outreach

by Teri Walters, Missions Team

From a message I recently heard, these are some thoughts that should encourage us to share with others the wonderful salvation God has provided through His Son, Jesus Christ.

In some areas of the world the word “missions” is dangerous for the people it describes, so maybe the words “Global Outreach” could be used instead. This may even better describe what we want to happen because it not only includes people in other lands, but also those in our close vicinity.

Psalm 96 tells us that God has a global plan. This is what we are called to share.

⇒ **Verse 1** tells us to praise God in worship of song.

This prevents our sharing from being “just one more thing we are supposed to do”. Worship stokes the fire in our hearts to be aware of Who our awesome God is.

⇒ **Verse 2** tells us to bless His name – to make it valuable, give Him the honor due His name, the sacrifice of praise. Tell people about His salvation that is made available to all people.

⇒ **Verse 3** asks us to declare His glory among the nations. Do we have anything good to share about God? Do we elevate Him through bragging on Him of His wonders, telling that He is the answer to all things in our lives? What

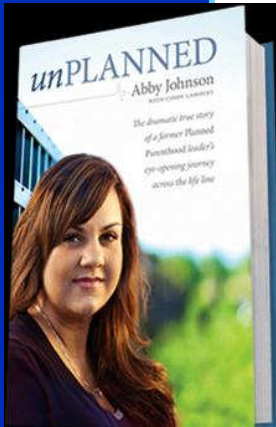
better way to foster a hunger in the hearts of others?

⇒ **Verse 10** – Declare His works, His greatness among all people. Give God praise and glory for Who he is—his characteristic, because He is greater than any god.

⇒ **Verse 13** – Proclaim His Lordship among the nations. He is the Judge of all the earth.

This all begins with worship – when we, ourselves, know our God, and in knowing Him, know that others need Him too.





A true story of a former Planned Parenthood leader.

To activate the prayer chain send your email request to [prayerchain@gefc.org](mailto:prayerchain@gefc.org).

April 1-3,  
2011  
Davenport, IA



FREE NEWS

## Reading Connection Selection

The Reading Connection season has flown by. We will meet at 10am on March 1 to review **Operation Jonah**. This is a suspense based on true events. On April 5 we will read Melody Carlson's, **As Young As We Feel**. These books have already been ordered but may be available in our library, the local library or local bookstore.

To end our season we will

review **Unplanned** by Abby Johnson on May 2. This is a true story of a former Planned Parenthood leader's courageous choice in favor of life. **Unplanned** is a heart-stopping personal drama of life-and-death encounters, a courtroom battle, and spiritual transformation that speaks hope and compassion into the political controversy that surrounds this complex issue. Telling Abby's story from both

sides of the abortion clinic property line, this book is a must-read. You may order a book through the church by registering at the Welcome Center or in your ABF class by March 6.

## Activating the Prayer Chain

Just a little refresher on how to activate the prayer chain.

Send your email prayer request to [prayerchain@gefc.org](mailto:prayerchain@gefc.org). When you are typing your request keep in mind that you are sending it to everyone on the prayer chain not to an individual. Once you hit send it will

automatically go out to everyone on the prayer chain. There is no middle man.

Please be sure that if you are sending prayer requests about anyone but yourself that you have their permission to send the request.

In order to avoid gossip

you should only state the actual request **NOT** all of the details leading up to the request.

If you are not part of the prayer chain but would like to be just jot a note on the Connection Card on Sunday morning, send the office an email request at [gefc@gefc.org](mailto:gefc@gefc.org) or call the office and ask to be added 944-4667.

## Weekend to Remember

FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember conference is a chance to get away from the distractions of daily life. Cell phones are shut off. To-do lists are temporarily forgotten. It's time to slow down and reconnect.

This year FamilyLife is bringing a conference to Davenport, IA April 1-3 at the Radisson Quad City Plaza. To get a group rate which is 2 for the price of 1 register online by March 31 at [FamilyLife.com/Weekend](http://FamilyLife.com/Weekend) or by calling 1-800-FL-Today under the group name: GEFC.

For more information contact Rita Ford 944-4283 or Marie Donaldson 944-3826.

Brochures are available at the Welcome Center in the foyer.

# That's a Small Group

by Rita Ford, Adult Ministries Co-Coordinator

When asked what does a small group mean to you, Christy Sancken gave me Hebrews 10:25 "Let us not give up meeting together..but let us encourage one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." How can we love one another if we don't really know one another? To me, being in a small group allows me to deepen relationships with fellow believers, and to receive encouragement from them..

Alan & Carol Anderson say, "Being able to share with other Christians informally is a great way for everyone to open up and give each other support. Being able to provide input and hear input from others really brings life to the words of Christ. It also puts pressure on procrastinators like us to get into the Word. It is such a joy to greet each other at the start of the sessions, to feel His presence during the sessions and to retain that feeling after everything is over. We always look forward to the next one."

"Small group has helped me to

become acquainted with others in the church, that I wouldn't otherwise have gotten to know," says Myrna Williams. "The studies that we have had have helped to broaden my view of Who God is and what a Mighty Lord and Savior I have. Small group have definitely helped me to feel a part of the GEFC family."

Mark & Teresa Johnson say that, "being in a small group gives us a chance to study God's Word in a small intimate setting. We can discuss things and ask questions that there may not be time for in an ABF, or that we may be too shy to ask in a large group. We have gotten to know members of our church family better and have some fantastic desserts. We thoroughly enjoy our time with our small group".

As you can see this has proven to be a time of developing relationships, the Bible becomes personal, sharing, serving and experiencing spiritual growth. I believe small groups are here to stay as we see God at work in our midst.

Lori Gilmore said "Small groups have always meant a lot to us. Many times our small group has been 'our family' when we haven't lived near our blood relatives. Small groups allow us to do life with other Christ followers. We learn from others as we discuss the Bible, we cry, laugh and support each other. It's a privilege to draw close to friends from our church family and pray for them during the week. It's definitely an important way to make our church – our church home."

Chuck Rizer noted that, "Small groups provide a time when church acquaintances become friends....When personal and professional struggles are shared and a burden lightened...When we can relax in the moment while praying, learning, crying, laughing.....that's a SMALL GROUP".



*Small groups provide a time when church acquaintances become friends.*

## Directory Photos

We don't want anyone to miss out on the pictorial directory!

We have scheduled two afternoons to take family pictures for those who didn't have a recent picture to turn in. Please note that this is NOT a professional sitting. There will be NO pictures available to purchase. This is an opportunity for us to get a

casual snapshot of your family members that attend GEFC.

We are taking pictures on the following days and times on a walk-in basis

**Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**& Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

If you are unable to make either of these days, you can always

turn in a snapshot to Catherine at a later date. The directory will be updated and reprinted a couple of times during the year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 4 4 1 - 6 7 2 6 o r [RebaDaniels@att.net](mailto:RebaDaniels@att.net)



**Rebekah, Danielle, Josh & Kirsten Zimmerman**

# Moms in Touch by Lori Gilmore



**“Pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord, lift up your hands toward Him for the lives of your children.”  
Lamentations 2:19**

Would you like to be a praying mom? Do you have a desire to be on your knees bringing the children of Geneseo before the Lord? Please consider praying with other women once a week with Moms in Touch. Moms In Touch is

an international program that can be established locally when two or more moms meet for one hour a week. During their prayer time they ask for God’s power to be released on their children and schools. Moms In Touch is for mothers, grandmothers, or any woman who is willing to pray for a specific child and school. This opportunity is for any woman who believes that

prayer makes a difference.

Currently, there is a small group praying for the children, teachers and administration of the Geneseo school district. These ladies meet each Friday morning at 9:30 at Lori Gilmore’s home. If you are interested in praying for the Geneseo schools and/or would like to know more, please contact Lori at 489-4006.

GEFC will be dedicating the next 6 months as a special focus on watching God fulfill His purposes through answered prayer.

## God’s Wall of Fame

GEFC will be dedicating the next 6 months (February – July) as a special focus on watching God fulfill His purposes through answered prayer.

**Our part** – write a personal current need from your life, or the life of GEFC, on the bulletin board across from the library. When God has answered, circle the request. When we

run out of room on the bulletin board, use the hall wall. Marking pens will be available to you.

**God’s part** – to glorify Himself and bless us by showing His will.

Then - - let’s brag on our Holy, Awesome, Powerful, Wise, Just, Faithful, All-Sufficient,

Loving, Incomprehensible God!!! Let God be GOD.

Make plans to attend VBS July 11-15



## VBS: Kickin’ It Old School!

In a world that is always searching for the “next big thing”, some things will never change and can never be improved upon. God, His Promises, His Word, and the Gospel are

unchangeable which is why the Go Fish Guys invite you to KICKIN’ IT OLD SCHOOL!

Join us this summer July 11-15 for another exciting week of Vacation Bible School.

If you are interested in

volunteering you must be CAP approved. You may get details about this from anyone on the CAP team (Christy Sancken, Trish Henkhaus, Holly Miller, & Rebecca Daniels).

Mark your calendars now!

# March 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Reading Connection 10am Financial Peace University 6:30pm	2 Awana 6:25pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30pm Community Center	3 Women's Bible Study 9am	4 Homeschool Group 1-3pm	5 Politics & the Bible 8am @ Alan Anderson's Directory Photos 1-4pm
6 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am Sr. High Youth Group 6pm	7 Missions Team Meeting 7pm	8 Financial Peace University 6:30pm Elders Meeting 7pm	9 MOPS 9am Awana 6:25pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30pm Community Center	10 Women's Bible Study 9am	11	12 Men's Lenten Breakfast @ 1st Lutheran 8am
13 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am Sr. High Youth Group 6pm	14 Missions Team Meeting 7pm	15 Financial Peace University 6:30pm	16 <b>NO YOUTH GROUP OR AWANA</b>	17 Women's Bible Study 9am Women's Craft Night 6pm	18	19 Men's Lenten Breakfast @ St. Malachy's 8am Private Party 12:30-3:30pm
20 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am Parent's Meeting 9:15am Sr. High Youth Group 6pm	21 Administrative Council Meeting 7pm	22 Financial Peace University 6:30pm MOPS 6:30 pm Elders Meeting 7pm	23 Awana 6:25pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30pm Community Center	24 Women's Bible Study 9am	25 Homeschool Group 1-3pm	26 Men's Lenten Breakfast @ 1st UMC 8am WinterJam Concert 12pm (noon)
27 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am Community Youth Worship Service 6pm	28	29 Financial Peace University 6:30pm	30 Awana 6:25pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:30pm Community Center	31 Band Camp		

## Geneseo evangelical free church

914 N. Chicago St.  
Geneseo, IL 61254

Phone: 309-944-4667

Fax: 309-944-4668

E-mail: [gefc@gefc.org](mailto: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

Is published monthly by  
Geneseo Evangelical Free Church

## Sermon Series:

### Congregational challenge:

Read 4-5 chapters from the Pentateuch

(Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy)

every day.

Don't let genealogies keep you from completing  
this task, skim over them and keep on reading.

We're on the web!  
[www.GEFC.org](http://www.GEFC.org)

# Geneseo Food Pantry News

The first day of spring is March 20<sup>th</sup>! Who will be the first to see a robin? Spring is a time of renewal, rebirth, and reaffirming of life. God's world wakes up after its long winter sleep and blesses us with green grass, flowers, birds, and chances to begin again as we know we should. As Christians, we also are experiencing Lent, when reflection and contemplation of the great sacrifice God made during the time leading up to Jesus' dying on the cross for all mankind, so that our sins could be forgiven.

"Scouting for Food" is a Cub Scout and Boy Scout project that helps stock the shelves of the Geneseo Food Pantry. The date this year is Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Watch for more information in the media, and remember to set out some food for the pick-up on March 26<sup>th</sup>.



Every year on the last Saturday in April, The Rebuilding Together Team gathers to repair the homes of low income residents, to build ramps for wheelchair accessibility, and to apply sealer to existing ramps. Joni Conrad is the Rebuilding Together executive director, and she is

always looking for volunteers to help. The time commitment may be as little as a few hours; however, if you are inspired to do more, many jobs are too extensive to be completed in one day. Sometimes time is spent on additional weekends, completing jobs that were begun on Rebuilding Day. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful group, please call Joni at (309) 944-6442 (office).

Food needs for this month are: pasta (macaroni, noodles, and spaghetti), pancake syrup, cake mix, instant mashed potatoes, and sugar

Non-food needs are dish soap, laundry soap, toilet paper, generic pain relievers, decongestants, cough drops, and band-aids