

Reaching
UP

Reaching
OUT

Reaching
IN

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by Erica Venema

The Geneseo Food Pantry needs a new roof and **YOU** can help! The roof raising event will be held at 4pm Sun, April 10th at St. Malachy's. Many local churches will provide music for the afternoon,

including GEFC. A special offering will be taken for the roof. Come hear a variety of upbeat music featuring choirs, an acoustic band, instrumental soloists, and more. Also, our church needs to help provide some

cookies for the reception afterwards. If you are able to bring some cookies, please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Erica Venema at grantv@geneseo.net. We hope to see you there!

Easter: Making Disciples

by Catherine Sommers

As Easter is fast upon us my thoughts gravitate to what Christ's sacrifice means to mankind. I ask myself what His sacrifice means to me personally and the reality takes my breath away.

How can I possibly express my deep gratitude to the One who bore the penalty of my sins and the sins of the world on Himself? He died in my place. This truth is almost too overwhelming to grasp. Is it even possible to show Him my thanks? My head swims with questions for my Savior. I muster the courage to ask some questions and others I'm too afraid to ask for fear that He'll take back what He did for me, for you, for all. His word calms my fear in John 10:28-29 "I give them eternal life, and they will

never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." I cry out yet again, "Thank you, Jesus!"

My heart often breaks for those I know and love who don't recognize what Easter means to them. In John 14:6 Jesus tells us that, "I (Jesus) am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." There is no other way but through Jesus! As I reflect on these loved ones that don't see the reality of His word, one way to express my thanks to my Savior Jesus occurs to me. In Matthew 28:16-20, right after the resurrection account, Jesus gives us the picture of what we are to do. We are to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the

name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Hmm. Now I must ask myself how I'm doing with this command and expression of thanks. How are you doing? Are you making disciples? Let's make this Easter one that demonstrates our thankfulness to Jesus by reaching out to the lost with the Good News of Jesus Christ.





Imagine if you
will, Christ
walking among
the sick and
dying and not
healing any of
them.

VACANT

by Steve Rogers, Trustee Coordinator

First of all before I go any further, I was deceived, because no one ever mentioned my need to write a letter for the Free News as trustee. Now, enough about me and we shall move on.

Imagine if you will, Christ walking among the sick and dying and not healing any of them. Imagine that He knew He had the power to change lives but didn't use it. He simply preached to the people but didn't touch anyone or take any action to help anyone.

This is the way many of us are. We come week after week and sit in church and we come to Bible studies and faithfully do our daily devotionals but we become a spiritually filled warehouse and aren't utilizing our gifts and knowledge. We don't use it to reach out to others. Christ told Peter to "feed my sheep". Being a keeper of sheep this speaks to me. So, how are we doing? Are we becoming hearers of the word and not doers as it says in James and at least another dozen places where we are to "do".

Each of us young or old has something to offer of ourselves in the way of

helping a neighbor or co-worker or fellow student. We all need to take a look at the world around us and find where those needs are that we feel drawn to help with. And sometimes as Rick Clark used to say (a lot) we need to step out of our comfort zone. Knowing that with God's guidance and help we can be a part of feeding His sheep.

Having stepped out of my own personal comfort zone somewhat the last couple of years I can tell you it becomes more rewarding than you ever imagined that it would be. Like having so many volunteers sign up to help in the basement in these next few weeks. I thank all of you and look forward to working with you and seeing a usable finished basement again soon. We can all be witnesses for Christ in many different ways. Sometimes it is by words and sometimes it is by our actions.

As we look at the opportunities in our church and outside our church we can become completely overwhelmed unless we remember that old secular saying "many hands make light work".

Well, that brings us to the title of this article. There is a six letter word that appears week after week on the back of our bulletin in three places now. The word is **VACANT**. The Lord can not be pleased seeing that word in our Administrative Council roster (Children's, Youth, and Communications) week after week. Can you help remove that word from our bulletin? Listen to the call of the Holy Spirit on your life and obey the call. Contact Pastor Greg, an elder or anyone on the nominating committee to express your interest.

See if you can't find some small way to go and serve someone this week in Christ's name.



Step outside of your comfort zone!

Feed My Sheep

by Jim Bos, Elder

Our Lord Jesus once asked Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” And Peter answered, “Yes, Lord I love you.” Then Jesus said, “Feed my Lambs.”

We who know Jesus as Savior are also to be feeding His sheep if we love Him as we ought. What does this mean? It means getting out of one’s comfort zone, stepping up, and doing what needs to be done for the sake of the flock.

Then Jesus said the second time, “Simon, son of John, Do you love Me?” And Peter answered Him the second time, “Yes, Lord you know that I love You.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” Do you love Jesus? Are you taking care of any sheep here at GEFC?

The third time Jesus asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” At which time Peter being hurt when he was asked by Jesus the third time, “Do

you love me?” Peter answered, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my Sheep.”

Is Jesus asking you for a first, second, or third time, “_____ (put your name here), do you love me?” And if you do, “Feed my sheep.” We have positions and places for **YOU** right now, here at GEFC, that need to be filled. How about volunteering to fill a position or assisting in a place where we are short-handed? You may wonder, what can I do or what are the needs? Here are just a few suggestions:

- Youth Coordinator - see an elder or pastor
- C o m m u n i c a t i o n s Coordinator – see an elder or pastor
- Awana Staff – see Eric Bos
- Nursery Staff – see Erica Venema

- Sunday School Staff – see Teri Walters
- Small Group Leaders – see Chris Kuster
- Jr. High Staff – see Ken White or Cole Kraft
- Sr. High Staff – AJ Reynolds
- Trustee Team – see Steve Rogers



Let’s all lift our hands to Jesus and say, “Here I am Lord. I am yours. Yes, I love you. Use me. Help me feed your sheep!”

*“Do you love me?”
Peter answered,
“Lord, you know all
things; you know
that I love you.”
Jesus said, “Feed
my Sheep.”.*

New Books for Kids

.There have been several new books for our youngest readers added to the library recently.

Please make some time to visit the library with your little ones to see all the new books that are on the shelves. Books may be checked out for 3 weeks at a time.

New titles include:

- Charlie & Trike in the Grand Canyon Adventure
- Ronnie Wilson’s Gift by Francis Chan
- Princess Joy’s Birthday Blessing
- Princess Grace and the Little Lost Kitten
- Skid & the Too Tiny Tunnel by Jeffrey Stoddard
- Pete & Pillar: The Big Rain by Jeffrey Stoddard
- Chrissie’s Shell by Brooke Keith
- The Dragon & the Turtle
- The Dragon & the Turtle Go On Safari



Food Pantry News

by Nancy Noord, Geneseo Food Pantry



Watch for publicity about the annual "Postal Food Drive" in early May and other food drives in the area this spring.

Easter is April 26th. During Lent, we have the opportunity to reflect on the events in Jesus' life leading up to the crucifixion and the resurrection. He

suffered and died on the cross so that we might be forgiven for our sins if we believe in Him. His resurrection was a victory over sin and death and an assurance that we will never be alone. The King of Kings will be with us always.

"Scouting for Food" food drive was conducted on March 26th. If you would like to add to the collection, you may drop food donations off at the Food Pantry during

business hours. Because the economy continues to challenge people, each and every gift is appreciated and is looked at as a way to help the less fortunate people in the community who are struggling with hunger. Watch for publicity about the annual "Postal Food Drive" in early May and other food drives in the area this spring.

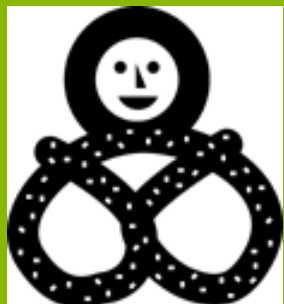
Remember that April 15th is the due date for income tax returns. The Geneseo Public Library will offer free tax return preparation through Wednesday, April 13th, and if you or someone you know need assistance, volunteers are available. Please call 944-6452 to check out available help with taxes.

Spring is here and once again seasonal kids' clothing is in demand. If your family has some outgrown or no longer needed items, client families would appreciate your donation. Thank you for your faithful giving to help others.

Food needs this month are: pancake mix, pancake syrup, instant potatoes, generic hamburger, chicken, tuna helper, generic canned meats (chicken, spam), condiments (catsup, mustard), soda crackers, and graham crackers

Non-food needs are: laundry soap in small bottles, dish washing detergent, household cleaners, razors, shaving cream, and generic pain relievers

Pretzels for Lent



The common pretzel was originally designed for use during Lent. Sometime during the Middle Ages, when Lent was accompanied by strict bans on dairy products and meat, people subsisted largely on breads, pastries, soups and vegetables. Bakers in Germany decided to create a food that would even look religious — the pretzel. The crossed arms

of a pretzel represent a Christian in prayer. Place the palm of each hand on the opposite shoulder, so that your forearms cross. That's the shape of a pretzel.

With Thanks

Leah Nitz and family want to thank those who sent cards and condolences because of the death of John, January 31, 2011.

"The memorial celebration was held Saturday, February 5. It was good to hear from friends. Thank you and God bless."

~Leah Nitz

April 2011

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



Vacation Bible School

July 11-15

More information coming soon!

1
Homeschool Group
1-3pm

2
Politics & the Bible 8am
@ Alan Anderson's
Men's Lenten Breakfast
@ Loraine UMC 7am
Private Shower

3
Communion
Partners-In-Prayer
7:45am
Sr. High Youth Grp 6pm

4
Missions Team Meeting
7pm

5
Reading Connection
10 am
Financial Peace University
6:30pm

6
Awana 6:25pm
Jr. High Youth Group
6:30pm Community
Center

7
8
Homeschool Group
1-3pm

9
Men's Lenten Breakfast
@ 1st Presbyterian 7am

10
Partners-In-Prayer
7:45am
Awana Sunday
Sr. High Youth Grp 6pm

11

12
Financial Peace University
6:30pm
Elders Meeting 7pm
Missions Mtg. 7pm

13
MOPS 9am
Awana 6:25pm
Jr. High Youth Group
6:30pm @ G E F C

14

15
Homeschool Group
1-3pm

16
Men's Lenten Breakfast
@ GEFC 7am

SET UP FOR AWANA PENNY CARNIVAL

17
Partners-In-Prayer
7:45am
Sr. High Youth Grp 6pm

18
Administrative Council
Meeting 7pm

19

20
Jr. High Youth Group
6:30pm @ GEFC

21
Craft Night 6pm

22
Good Friday Service 7pm

23

24
Partners-In-Prayer
7:45am

**NO Sunday School,
ABF or Youth Group**

25

26
Financial Peace University
6:30pm
MOPS 6:30 pm
Elders Meeting 7pm

27
Jr. High Youth Group
6:30pm @ GEFC

28

29
Homeschool Group
1-3pm

30

February 28, 2011

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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Annual Budget:	\$365,504.00
GF Contributions YTD:	\$56,160.59
Expenses YTD:	\$52,982.81
Emergency Fund	\$90,000.00
Basement Rebuilding*	\$70,664.00
Building Fund*	\$59,154.48
General Fund*	\$38,523.48
Youth Retreat	\$6,360.35
Missions	\$705.00
ABF's and SS	\$530.43
Gifts and Memorials	<u>\$421.69</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$266,359.43

* changes from 3/6/11 meeting included

We're on the web!
www.GEFC.org



**Good Friday
Service
7pm**

**Easter Sunday
Services**

8:15 & 10:45 am

No Sunday School or ABF classes