

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Summer Adult Class Electives beginning the 1st of May
- Celebration for the High School Graduating Class of 2011
- Summer plans for Children's Sunday School

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

You Are Invited	2
God & the Iris Plate	3
Summer Bible Study	3
A Tribute to Momma	4
Mom Survey	5
Fighting War	6
Calendar	7

Summer Adult Class Electives

There are four electives that you can choose from for the summer. Please choose one and sign-up via the Connection Card or at the Welcome Center in the foyer. Classes will run from May 1-July 31.

- **What is GEFC All About? -**

Teacher: Greg Chenoweth
Location: open area of the Awana/Fellowship Hall

Theme: This is for those who are new to GEFC and are interested in considering membership.

- **How to Outlive Your Life -**

Teacher: David Walters
Location: NE corner of the Awana/Fellowship Hall

Theme: Based on Max Lucado's book. This is a roadmap for your life journey, inspiring you to be all God intended, taking seriously our call to be the light of Christ.
Materials: book by the same title is needed

- **Hebrews -**

Teacher: Jim Mason
Location: Sanctuary
Theme: Using the book of Hebrews to connect the dots between the Old Testament and the New.

- **Communication & Teamwork in Marriage**

Teacher: Chad Miller
Location: SE corner of the Awana/Fellowship Hall

Theme: Learning together the art of communication and to see your spouse as your teammate growing closer and stronger in marriage
Materials: Workbooks are necessary.

Coffee and tea will be served in the Awana/Fellowship Hall from 9:15-9:35am with classes beginning promptly at 9:40am in the rooms noted above.

Celebrate with the Class of 2011

Join us after 2nd service on Sunday, May 22 for a lunch in honor of our the GEFC High School graduating class of 2011.

Please bring a side-dish or salad to share. Meat,

beverages and cake will be provided.

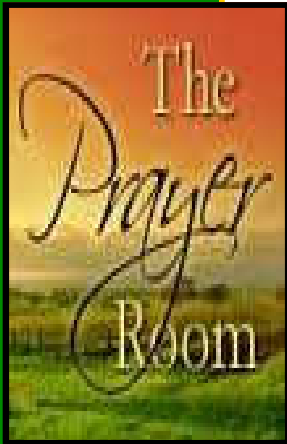
Our graduates are:

- Austin Bos
- Jessica Brewer
- Garrett Donaldson
- Conner Hartman

- Andrea Kastorf
- Chantel Nelson
- Tim Reynolds
- Joel Stoneking



You are invited by Teri Walters



*“Come to Me,
all you who
labor and are
heavy-laden and
over burdened,
and I will cause
you to rest—I will
ease and relieve
and refresh your
souls.”*

To a quiet place just to be with me

I'll meet you there every time you come and I'll love on you—we can become as close as you want—it's up to you

We can share secrets and I won't tell another soul—you share your heart and I'll share mine

If you want counsel, I'll gladly give it

I'll talk if you want to listen, and I'll listen if you want to talk

I'll always give you what is best for you

I love you more than my life

RSVP - and I'll meet you in the prayer room (the little room to the left in the front of the church) - the little room set aside especially for you and Me

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and over burdened, and I will cause you to rest—I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest—relief, ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet—for your souls. For My yoke is wholesome (useful, good) not harsh, hard, sharp or pressing, but comfortable, gracious and pleasant; and My burden is light and easy to be borne.”

- Jesus

Children's Summer Sunday School

by AJ Reynolds, Senior High Youth Director



Year round, our children's Sunday School staff does a great job. Each week our teachers prepare lessons founded in the Word of God in hopes that our children may learn truth and even live out their faith as kids.

Because of our teachers' hard work from August until May, we have always tried to offer them a break during the summer months as a sabbatical.

This year I am excited to

let you know that the Senior High students and staff will be leading our children through the entire book of Matthew. Children will be memorizing verses, hearing Bible stories, and learning now to read their Bible during our time together each Sunday.

We are most excited about our weekly family devotional that we will be sending home with the children each week. This devotional will help families read the Bible together at home 5 days a week. We think this

is a great way to not only teach our children the importance of Scripture, but also help support our families in pastoring their children.

Our Senior High staff includes: Shawn King, Alli Stahl, Kisha Shoemaker, Nellie White, and Dan Pearson and they are all excited to help teach our Grade School children this summer and train our Senior High students how to serve in ministry.

Is it June yet? We can't wait!

God & the Iris Plate by Jill Joyner



A few weeks ago a plate rail fell in our home breaking 3 favorite plates of mine, one of my grandmother's I inherited when my mother passed away and the others acquired while I was antiquing. All of these plates had my favorite flower, the iris, on them. In our small group I shared that although it saddened me to lose them I realized that I had the joy of having them in my home for over 20 years.

Recently on a day off, after shopping in the cities, I was headed home and decided to stop at the mall in Coal Valley. A thought came to me (inspired by the Holy Spirit) to look for some plates that I could use on the plate rail, perhaps even some with an iris on them. As some may know, in that mall you must be prepared to really look, pick up, stoop down, and dig to find your treasures. After an hour and a half I hadn't found anything and was telling God that it wasn't looking good but it had been fun hunting.

To shorten this up, at the very last building I found a small plate with an iris design. I almost passed it by because it wasn't like the one I had previously owned. Another thought told me (again the Holy

Spirit) that I hadn't asked for the same plates but just some with an iris design. Encouraged, I went through the same stores, much faster this time and found a matching vase. Do you know what I think? I think my mighty God knew how much losing those plates meant to me and He took the time to restore the joy of fellowship I had with Him over these two small finds.

Two verses came to me.....

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them that those who love your name may rejoice in you. – Psalm 5:11

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. – Hebrews 13:1

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. - Hebrews 13:1

Women's Summer Bible Study

Made to Crave is the missing link between a woman's desire to be healthy and the spiritual empowerment necessary to make that happen. The reality is we are made to crave. Craving isn't a bad thing. But we must realize God created us to crave Him. Many of us have misplaced that craving by overindulging in physical pleasures instead of lasting spiritual satisfaction.

This is not a how-to study. This is not the latest and greatest dieting plan. This study is the necessary companion for women to use alongside whatever healthy lifestyle plan they choose. This is a book to help women find the "want to"

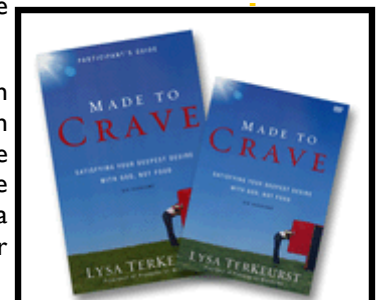
in making healthy lifestyle choices.

- Food can fill our stomachs but never our souls.**
- Possessions can fill our houses but never our hearts.**
- Sex can fill our nights but never our hunger for love.**

Ladies, can you relate to these statements? Join us for our summer Bible study by Lysa TerKerust. We will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm from June 23-August 4. This study uses both a book and a participant's guide. You

may register for the study and materials at the Welcome Center in the foyer of the church. The cost is \$10 a piece for book and guide (\$20 total). We will order materials for those who register and pay by June 2. If you have questions contact Alli Stahl, Teri Walters or Catherine Sommers.

NOTE: Although this study focuses on issues with food the principles are practical to any area of struggle in your life.



A Tribute to My Momma by Erin McCallister



Jill Dawson &
Erin McCallister
(mother & daughter)

“But most importantly, she loves her Savior more than anyone or anything.”

This year, I have become aware of some of the challenges mothers face in raising their families. I have only begun to scratch the surface of understanding the pain, sacrifice, and obedience that being a Proverbs 31 mother and wife requires. And I want to recognize and thank my mother, Jill Dawson, for being that kind of woman.

When I think of raising our daughter, Grace, and everything it will entail, I feel overwhelmed by all the “what ifs” and “how-tos”. How are we going to raise her to be the woman of God that we want her to become? My mom’s example helps me answer those questions.

Sometimes a parent’s actions can speak even louder than their words. From a very young age, I was aware that my parents were praying for my own salvation, my future spouse, etc. But I have also been blessed to observe nearly 30 years of my mother’s generosity, kindness, obedience and dignity.

All my life I have seen her quietly give sacrificially to others, whether financially, through her time, or in so many other ways. She has always made sure my needs (and wants) were met before her own. And she hasn’t just done that for her own children, but has consistently put others care and comfort above her own.

I have watched my mom refuse to engage in gossip, even if it results in others disliking her. Obedience to Christ is more important to her than being popular. She has been an example of having the wisdom to do what is right, even when others around her don’t.

I have watched my mom grieve her own mother without truly understanding all she was going through at the time. I now watch her honor and care for her own father in his old age, using her one day off of work every week to do whatever is needed, such as bathing, cleaning, seeing to his medical care, encouraging him, and getting him out of

the house.

I never saw or heard my mom and dad fight during my childhood. Not once. But I did see her submit to and show respect towards him. She is an Ephesians 5:22-23 wife, and for that she is to be commended.

My mom is my confidante. When I cry, she cries. When I hurt, she hurts, and when I rejoice, so does she.

But most importantly, she loves her Savior more than anyone or anything.

Proverbs 31:25-30 says, “Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue...Her children rise up and bless her ... Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she is to be praised.”

My hope and prayer is that I might become half the wife and mother that she has been and continues to be. I am grateful for your example....I love you momma!



Welcome Reese Elmer

Blessed Expectations would like you to join us in welcoming Reese Victoria Elmer. She was born on April 2, 2011 and is the daughter of proud parents Josh & Kari Elmer.

Sweet baby Reese weighed 6 lbs 10oz and was 18 1/2 inches long.

Reese is welcomed by older siblings: Anthony, Hope, Gabrielle, & Kaden.

The Elmer’s are a newer

family to GEFC so if you have not had the pleasure of meeting them please introduce yourself to them when you see them.

Mom Survey

Why did God make mothers?

- To take care of kids
- Because they will love more than anybody else
- Because my mom loves me and would be sad without a child
- To take care of children
- Because we wouldn't have no kids if we didn't have moms
- To take care of people

How did God make mothers?

- Magic
- They are made from God and are sweet
- They are made of bones muscles, blood and clay and Adam's rib
- Mothers are made out of live and kindness
- With His hands

What ingredients are mothers made of?

- Love & Forgiveness
- Salt
- Bones and blood

Why did God give you your mother and not some other one?

- Because He loves us
- Because she loves me
- Because my mom loves me
- I was the first baby
- She loves me
- Is because she loves us

What kind of little girl was your mom?

- Nice
- Creative
- A good girl
- My mom was a funny and good girl
- A good girl

- A tattle tail
- My mom was naughty
- A good girl
- Naughty girl

What did your mom need to know about your dad before she would marry him?

- What would he be like?
- Was he a nice person?
- How many kids does he want?
- Does he get angry easy?
- She needed to know what they had in common
- Know if he was a good person
- Does he have anything in common
- If he likes pizza
- That he wanted to marry her
- If he was nice
- If he was a good kisser

Why did your mom marry your dad?

- Because they liked each other
- To have a good life together
- He was cute
- She liked him
- Because she loved him
- Because she would need help if she had children

What's the difference between moms and dads?

- Moms are clean and dads aren't
- They are not the same people
- Moms give birth and dads don't
- My dad is not funny
- My dad doesn't take care of his car and mom cheers up my sister

- Dad is funny and mom is a vet
- Mom has long hair and dad has short hair
- My mom sings and reads to me
- Mom washes the dishes
- One is a boy and one is a girl

What does your mom do in her spare time?

- She goes on facebook and goes shopping
- Looks online at furniture
- Plays games on her laptop
- She takes care of herself

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

- Be nice, kind and know everything
- Love from God
- Nothin much. She's as perfect as can be.

If you could change one thing about your mom what would it be?

- I would have her know everything
- Her work wouldn't be so far away
- I'd make her stop yelling at me a lot

We asked some of our youngest attendees these questions about moms and thought you might appreciate their responses. We did not include names to protect the innocent..... however some may be easily identifiable.





Moses, Aaron, and
Hur

“Our mission field is right here within our families, schools, sports teammates, neighbors, and friends as well as praying for our missionaries..”



Remember, We're Fighting a Winnable War

by Myrna Williams

We are living in very interesting times. For those of us who are Christians and have read the end of HIStory we have confidence that God is in control and He will have victory over the evil in this world. In the mean time many Christians are being persecuted, imprisoned, and even martyred. There are many Missionaries and Christians who are in very hostile counties and they put their lives in harm's way for the sake of Jesus Christ. Please remember to Pray for them.

Remember, we are in a spiritual war. Joshua was winning the war against the

Amalekites as long as Moses held up his arms till sunset. But he couldn't do it without the help of Aaron and Hur. We as God's children need to hold up our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in the battle against the forces of evil.

So far we have lived in a country free to worship our God without fear of arrest or persecution. I have to wonder, how long will this be true for us? Have we gone down the slippery slope so far that we will not be able to bring ourselves back to the top again? I can only Pray that this is not so. We know

that Jesus is coming again as He promised. Our lost neighbors, friends and family members need to come to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior. I, for one, am being challenged by God to be more intentional about my prayers and confronting the lost.

As I stated in an article last year, our mission field is right here within our families, schools, sports team mates, neighbors, and friends as well as praying for our missionaries. Be in the battles, we are on the winning side. PRAY, PRAY, PRAY.

Summer Reading Connection

Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? It's crazy if you think about it. The God of the universe—the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and e-minor—loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss.

Whether you've verbalized it yet or not...we all know something's wrong.

Does something deep inside your heart long to

break free from status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of dos and don'ts—it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis describes it, you will never be the same.

Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything.

The summer reading selection is **Crazy Love**, the #1 selling book of 2010, by Francis Chan. The book will be reviewed July 12 from 10:00-11:30am (exact date TBA.). This book is readily available in most book stores.

Join the book group for what is certain to be a lively discussion.

May 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am</p> <p>Sr. High Youth Grp 6pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Missions Team Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Reading Connection 10 am</p> <p>Financial Peace University 6:30pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Geneseo Ministerial Assoc. Mtg. Noon</p> <p>Jr. High Youth Group 6:30pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Homeschool Group 1-3pm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am</p> <p>Sr. High Youth Grp 6pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Missions Team Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Financial Peace University 6:30pm</p> <p>Elders Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Jr. High Youth Group 6:30pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Politics & the Bible 8am @ Alan Anderson's</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am</p> <p>Jr. High Leadership Team meeting 12:15 pm</p> <p>Sr. High Youth Grp 6pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Administrative Council Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Financial Peace University 6:30pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Jr. High Youth Group 6:30pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Craft Night 6pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Graduation Set-up 1-4pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am</p> <p>Graduates lunch—noon</p> <p>Sr. High Youth Grp 6pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Boys Track Banquet 6pm</p> <p>Men's Leadership/Elders study 6:30pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Girls Track Banquet 6pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Craft Night 6pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Homeschool Group 1-3pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Donaldson Graduation Party</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>31</p>				

Father-Son Camping Adventure May13-15

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 - 8:15am
- Contemporary Service - 10:45am

Education - 9:30-10:30am

The FREE NEWS

is published monthly by
Geneseo Evangelical Free Church

Treasurers Financial Report

March 31, 2011

Annual Budget:	\$365,504.00
GF Contributions YTD:	\$87,073.12
Expenses YTD:	\$76,616.25
Emergency Fund	\$90,000.00
Basement Rebuilding	\$70,664.00
Building Fund	\$59,154.48
General Fund	\$45,541.79
Youth Retreat	\$3,055.66
Missions	\$875.00
ABF's and SS	\$530.43
Gifts and Memorials	\$421.69
GRAND TOTAL	\$270,283.05

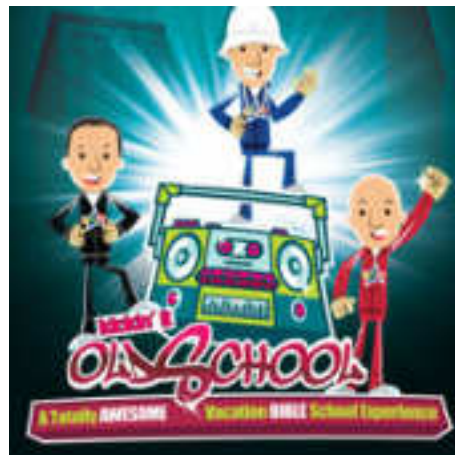
Donated \$1,110.00 to TouchGlobal—Japan

We're on the web
gefc.org

Upcoming FUN!

Father-Son Camping Adventure

How about some fishing, boating, hiking, campfires.....? The Men's Ministry of GEFC will go to Johnson Sauk Trail Park (Rt 78, Kewanee IL - 30 minutes SE of Geneseo) the weekend of May 13-15 (Come Friday evening if you are able, or join us Saturday and return on Sunday) for fellowship, father-son bonding, and appreciation of God's creation. Contact Rick Mills, Chris Kuster for more information. You may register at the Welcome Center in the foyer.



Vacation Bible School

It's time to get the calendars cleared for Vacation Bible School.

July 11-15

5:30-8pm

There will be all new curriculum from the GoFish guys and some new music too!

If you would like to volunteer, contact Christy Sancken, csancken@dist228.org or 944-0239. All of our children & youth workers must be CAP approved so let us know early if you want to help so we can get that process going.