

Current sermon series:  
***Paradise Redeemed***  
A study of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible)

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Uniquely & Wonderfully Made Women's Retreat



Ladies of the church and guests are invited to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual retreat at GEFC on Tuesday, November 8 from 5:45 – 9:00pm, & “Chocolate Spa for Body and Soul” will be the theme for the night. Our guest speaker is Sarah Chapman McManus from Bartlett, Illinois and she invites us to de-stress and enjoy an evening to just take care of you!

Sarah knows stress as a wife, mother, grandmother and writer with a never ending to-do list. Using humor, stories and Bible passages, Sarah demonstrates how to rest, renew, and rejoice, even in the midst of hectic lives.

She relates spa services that rejuvenate the body to the wonderful refreshment God gives our mind and spirit. The cost of the event is \$15 and includes a catered meal by Riefe's. The menu includes roast eye of round or stuffed breast of chicken with broccoli and cheese, assorted salads and fruit, scalloped potatoes, glazed carrots and dessert.

“Book your spa appointment” today to learn how to live your life to the max using essential principals from *Chocolate Spa for Body and Soul*.

**REGISTRATION DETAILS:** Advanced payment and registration is a necessity due to limited seating. Payment & registration will be accepted through October 30 or upon maximum capacity. **Spots are reserved based on paid registration.** Submit name, address and phone number for each registrant. You may mail in or drop off registrations to GEFC, 914 N. Chicago St., Geneseo, IL 61254, or register at the Welcome Center in the foyer. Checks are payable to GEFC. **Payment is transferable but non-refundable.**



## Annual Budget Meeting Monday, October 31 @ 7:00pm

Pick up a copy of the 2012 proposed budget at the Welcome Center beginning October 23 for review. Contact the appropriate Coordinator if you have any questions or concerns prior to the Budget Meeting on October 31.

Everyone who considers GEFC their church home is encouraged to participate. Per our constitution only members are able to vote.

Childcare will be available for children 10 and under. Please indicate your intent to use childcare on the Connection Card in service or by calling the church office.



## Sharing Life by Carl Brinkmann, Elder



*The bonds we formed in those early days were life long and we watched each others' children grow up in the church.*

As I get older and my hair turns gray, I often think back of the blessings this church has been to my family. When I began attending this church over 30 years ago, we were a very young church, and it was hard to find any gray hair in the congregation. On Easter and Christmas when most churches needed to bring in extra chairs, GEFC attendance was down, since most of our young families went home to the church in which they were raised.

In those days the fellowship, love, and care extended to each other was remarkable. There wasn't a food committee or a "Care Team"

ministry. We were a small church and when there was a need, everyone responded to it. The bonds we formed in those early days were life long and we watched each others' children grow up in this church. We shared hurts, joys and in general supported each other in raising our children. My children were permanently impacted for the Lord through caring adults that they saw as Christ-like examples of daily living in this church.

Today I'm excited to see the large number of young families that are attending GEFC. I see opportunities for care, love and fellowship that these young families can extend to

one another. As we seek a family pastor, hopefully we can provide even more opportunities for this group of people. If you are a young family at GEFC and do not feel the camaraderie of others at GEFC, please be pro-active in inviting others for a meal, trade babysitting services with each other, join a small group and/or attend an Adult Sunday School elective.

It is my hope and prayer that you will be able to look back in 30 years and see the many blessings that came about as a result of your attendance at GEFC.

## Respond! by Jim Bos, Elder

A while back I had the privilege of visiting with some new attendees of our church before they became members. One of the questions that we as elders ask is, "How did you come to know Christ as your personal Savior?" Without fail each one answered:

- I felt the Lord calling me
- I heard the Lord in my head
- I felt God urging me
- Some other variations of, "I was moved by the Holy Spirit"

Each one of these people responded by accepting Christ as their Savior after being chosen by God and pulled or moved by the Holy Spirit.

Scripture tells us we did not choose God but that God

chose us. All we can do is accept the free gift that God is offering which is eternal life with Him through Jesus Christ.

If you were financially broke and someone offered you some money, when would that money become yours? Not until you accepted it! Likewise, when God offers you salvation, when would 'that' gift be yours? It wouldn't be yours until you accepted it.

If the Spirit of God prompts you in some way to receive Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior and you do not respond you grieve the Spirit. The only unforgivable sin is grieving the Holy Spirit which means rejecting the gift being offered by Him.

Do you hear the Lord calling you? Do you hear the Spirit prompting you? THEN RESPOND! Accept the gift! This gift is salvation through Jesus Christ. Don't wait. Accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.....TODAY! Don't be left behind when Christ returns.

P.S. Works (the things we do) and being 'good' will not earn you forgiveness and salvation or a spot in heaven. "ONLY" and I repeat "ONLY" the blood of Christ takes away your sins and my sins.

Let's worship Him together, forever. Amen.

**NOTHING  
BUT THE  
BLOOD  
OF JESUS**

# Do You Worry? I do.

by Dan Leigh, Finance Director

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commands His followers not to worry. In my own life, this is easier said than done. Most people believe that anxiety is not something that we choose to experience, and neither is it something that we think we can control.

Just listening to the daily news is enough to cause us anxiety. A source of anxiety these days is from the economic sector with high unemployment and the housing crisis. As Baby Boomers reach the Golden Years, the availability of Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid funds is a worry. Will there be enough to cover the inevitable cost of illness and preventative health care? Many people are impacted by natural phenomenon such as floods, tornados, hurricanes and fires, as well as the security and safety of our families and neighborhoods.

The scriptures provide insight to worry and anxiety as they relate to different periods in our lives: past, present and future.

In dealing with the past, anxiety takes the form of regret or remorse over a decision or action that has yielded a cost in finances, relationships or a clear conscience. We may be haunted by words or actions that we wish we could undo. This leads to the need for

forgiveness or reconciliation. Paul gives us a promise in Colossians: "For God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13, 14)

Jesus offers perspective about the present when He teaches, "Therefore, I tell you do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (Matthew 6:25-27)

The focus in this passage is investing our emotional energy and faith in the One who cares the most for us, rather than waste our energy in pursuit of things that rob us of the peace that comes from living in relationship with God.

Jesus took a look to the future by saying, "But seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its

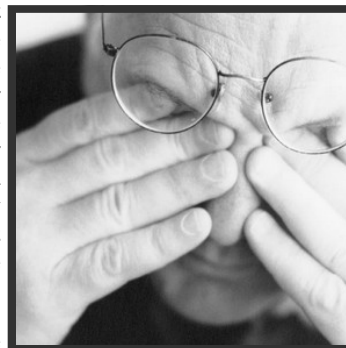
own." (Matthew 6:33, 34)

This is not an empty promise. It is the Lord urging us to have our priorities in order so we may experience His work in our daily lives. This provides the reality of God's reign in our lives. It also tells us to have a commitment to just and holy living, with the assurance that whatever we need will be furnished.

Jesus reveals that we should live day by day rather than consumed by things we cannot affect because they are in the future where He is in control.

Paul gave encouragement to the believers in Macedonia. "Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything, by praying and petitioning, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your heart and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6, 7)

I'm learning to turn my worries into a prayer and leave the results to God. I also pray for patience, that God will answer the prayer in his timing and I pray to open my eyes so I can see the results so I can tell others what God has accomplished in my life.



***"I'm learning to turn my worries into a prayer and leave the results to God."***

## A Guide to Giving

"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is

up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little."

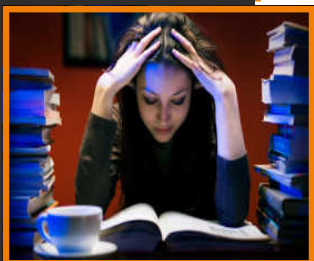
"If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are

too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them."

- C.S. Lewis



C.S. Lewis



Words of encouragement are a blessing to our college students.

## College Student Addresses

These are the addresses submitted to the Free News for publication. Please take a moment to jot them a note of encouragement sometime during the school year.

We have several students attending college locally that are still living at home. Please make contact with them when you see them.

- Christy Brewer  
642 12th Ave. #3  
Coralville, IA 52241
- Dustin Brewer  
345 S Hickory  
Platteville, WI 53818
- Katie Brewer  
4010 N. Brandywine,  
Apt. 108  
Peoria, IL 61614
- Garrett Donaldson  
Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Neihardt Hall room 2005  
540 North 16th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68508-1293  
gdonaldson15@huskers.unl.edu  
Phone: 309-944-7735
- Laurel Donaldson  
Purdue University  
Shreve Hall room 363  
1275 Third Street  
West Lafayette, IN  
47906-4268  
donaldsl@purdue.edu  
Phone: 309-945-7201
- Chad Ford  
308 East Daniel St.  
Champaign, IL 61820



They need you!

## Postponement of Wednesday Junior High Youth Group

To provide a safe environment for our youth and children events, the GEFC Child Abuse Prevention Policy requires us to have adequate adult supervision. Currently, we only have two adults serving our Junior High Youth Group. This is not adequate

supervision for the 20 students who have been attending youth group so far this fall. As a result, we will be postponing our Wednesday night Junior High Youth Group program until the first part of November. During the next month, we will be recruiting

and equipping a team to lead and serve the Jr. High Youth Group. If you have interest in this area or questions please contact [pastorgreg@gefc.org](mailto:pastorgreg@gefc.org).



## Lee's Lanes Offers a Church Bowling League

Starting the first week of October, Lee's Lanes will offer a church bowling league (men, women, & mixed). If you are interested contact Jan at Lee's Lanes 944-4334.

# October 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
						1 Private Shower 10am	
2 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am  ELEVATE 6pm	3 Mission Team Meeting 7pm	4 Reading Connection 10am  Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 pm	5 AWANA Mtg. 6:20 pm	AJ on vacation October 5-11			6 Women's Bible Study 9am & 6:30pm
9 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am  Newcomer's Lunch 12pm @Brinkmann's  ELEVATE 6pm  Sr, High God Talk 8pm	10 Mission Team Meeting 7pm	11 Elders Meeting 7pm	12 MOPS 9am  AWANA Mtg. 6:20 pm	13 Women's Bible Study 9am & 6:30pm	14 ELEVATE Sr. High Fall Retreat		15
16 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am  ELEVATE 6pm	17 Administrative Council Meeting 7pm	18 Pastoral Search Meeting 7:00 pm	19 AWANA 6:20pm	20 Women's Bible Study 9am & 6:30pm			22
Snowbird Couples Retreat October 20-23							
23 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am  ELEVATE 6pm	24	25 Men's Leadership/Elders study 6:30pm  MOPS 6:30pm	26 AWANA 6:20pm	27 Women's Bible Study 9am & 6:30pm	28	29	
30 Partners-In-Prayer 7:45am  ELEVATE 6pm	31 Congregational Budget Mtg 7pm						

## STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH

“The harvest season is a wonderful time for remembering God’s faithfulness, goodness, and blessings. October has been a month during which we recognize our GEFC staff for the blessings they are to us. Please consider how you might recognize the faithful service these saints provide to us. A basket labeled “Staff Appreciation” will be available in the foyer for cards, gifts, and notes of encouragement during the month of October.

– Gary Dawson ”

### Treasurers Financial Report

August 31, 2011

Annual Budget:	\$367,504.00
GF Contributions	
YTD:	\$255,761.34
Expenses YTD:	\$224,762.81
Emergency Fund	\$90,000.00
Building Fund	\$60,308.48
General Fund	\$67,105.77
Missions	\$1,348.94
ABF's and SS	\$375.41
Gifts and Memorials	<u>\$421.69</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$219,560.29

### Geneseo Evangelical Free Church

914 N. Chicago St., Geneseo, IL 61254

Phone: 309/944-4667

Fax: 309/944-4668

Email: [gefc@gefc.org](mailto:gefc@gefc.org)

Web: [www.gefc.org](http://www.gefc.org)

Senior Pastor, Greg Chenoweth  
Worship & Sr. High Director, AJ Reynolds  
Administrative Assistant, Catherine Sommers

### Sunday Worship Services

- Conventional Service - 8:15 a.m.
- Contemporary Service - 10:45 a.m.

**Education for all ages - 9:30 a.m.**

### The FREE NEWS

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