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## Hearts at Home Christian Women's Conference

Ladies are you interested in spending the weekend with other Christian women who want to learn how to be the best mom that they can be? If so, this is the conference for you. The conference is held on March 16-17 at the Illinois State University campus in Normal, IL. The cost will be \$89 plus hotel accommodations. You may sign-up at the Welcome Center in the foyer or in any one of the adult Sunday school electives no later than January 29. For more information contact Marie Donaldson at 944-3826.

## MOPS Fundraiser Mothers of preschoolers

The Geneseo MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group is partnering with Antiquities photography studios for a fundraiser. Antiquities specializes in creative and unique old-fashioned portraits and even provides the clothing and props for your children up to age 16. For a \$10 donation to Geneseo MOPS, you will receive a coupon (one coupon per household or family) for a free photo session and free 10 X 13 photo. Additional photos will also be available for purchase. Antiquities has come in years past, and we have been more than pleased with the adorable photos of our children. Photos will be taken on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 8-10 and will be received back by the last week in March. If you are interested in purchasing a coupon, please contact one of our MOPS members.

## Mighty Oaks Lunch

What is a Mighty Oak? According to the Women's Ministries of GEFC it is ANYONE (married or single) age 70 or older. If you are a Mighty Oak you are invited to lunch at the home of Ron & Rita Ford at 12 noon on Friday, February 3. If you are part of a couple and one of you is not quite a Mighty Oak yet, please know that you are still welcome to join us. Dale and Annette Kirschenmann will be telling us about his hobby of woodworking. Sign up in the foyer or call 944-4283 by January 29.

## GEFC Father-Daughter Dance



Friday, February 24  
6:30p-8:30p

Dads, grandfathers, uncles, and special father figures **of all ages** are invited to an enchanted evening that will be filled with memories to last a lifetime. Beverages, snacks, a disk jockey, and souvenir photo will be provided. This is a special evening so get out your Sunday best and dads you may want to consider buying your daughter a flower for this special occasion.

**Donation:** \$5 per family due at time of registration. Registration is available at the information desk or in the church office during office hours from January 29 - February 19.



# Meaning of Christian Stewardship

by Steve Rogers, Trustee Coordinator

The meaning of stewardship has been debated for quite some time with definitions surrounding time spent focusing on the Lord, building relationships with others and using the gifts God has given. The meaning of Christian stewardship has focused many times on tithing, but this is not the priority definition when discussing the subject.

The priorities involved are how time is spent, how relationships are retained, and then how money is spent. This also happens to be one of the main responsibilities of the Administrative Council of GEFC. There are a lot of things that have to do with this responsibility that

many people have never been aware.

Most agree that it's a good idea to spend time studying ways to become a responsible Christian. The Lord gives a few thoughts on the subject in the Bible, but those who were good stewards, were incredibly blessed. The meaning involves how the precious gifts that God has given to all are used and cared for. The good steward is someone who is doing the best he can with the things that God has given him. The reality shows up in how a person reacts in situations and how much they are willing to sacrifice to retain their responsibility. As I see it all the members of the Administrative

Council take their position on the Council very seriously and really do sacrifice their time and efforts to serve the body of believers at GEFC. They pray, ponder and practice good stewardship with all that God has blessed us with as a church. To be a good steward we all should take our turn at serving the Lord somewhere in the framework of our church. Many already do and are blessed for it. If you have not been serving in some capacity at GEFC you are missing out on a blessing.



Steve Rogers, Trustee Coordinator, and his wife Debbie.

## Fill a Bottle for Life!

Pregnancy Resources offers men and women the facts they need to make an informed decision about their pregnancy. They offer free pregnancy tests, early ultrasounds, parenting classes, adoption education, and help with maternity clothes and baby items.

You can help protect these sacred lives. Take time today to pray for the men and women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy. Consider volunteering or donating to our ministry.

If you know someone in need, let

them know we are here to help.

Fill a bottle for life! When you fill your bottle, you are protecting sacred lives in our community. Money raised through Baby Bottles for Life fuels the work of Pregnancy Resources to reach abortion-vulnerable families with help, hope, and healing in the name of Jesus Christ. You may pick up a baby bottle to fill with your donation at the church and return it by the end of February.

You may contact Pregnancy Resources in Moline or Davenport

at (309)797-3636, (563) 386-373 or email [qcprenancy.org](mailto:qcprenancy.org) or [qcpregnancypartners.org](http://qcpregnancypartners.org).

If the Lord is prompting you to volunteer in a more extensive way than financial support through the Baby Bottles for Life ministry please don't hesitate to contact them.

**“When you fill your bottle, you are protecting sacred lives in our community.”**

## Church Office Hours

Administrative Assistant, Catherine Sommers, has used up her vacation hours and is back in the office from 8:30 am

- 5:00 pm on Fridays instead of just until noon. The business office is open Monday - Friday from 8:30 - 5:00 pm.

Worship & Youth Director AJ Reynolds is in Tuesday – Friday and Pastor Greg Chenoweth is in Monday - Thursday.



# Food Pantry News



**“If your closets have too many clothes and not enough space, you might consider donating outgrown or no longer needed clothing items to the Food Pantry.”**



On Valentine’s Day, we express our love to the special people in our lives. One way to do that is to make a donation to the Food Pantry in honor of someone you love or care about. An acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to the honoree, and you will receive a thank you in the mail.

Unemployment remains high in our area, and many people with jobs have had their hours cut. These facts contribute to a steady increase in the number of people who need assistance from the Food Pantry to feed their families. Monthly client numbers average between 60 to 70 families and singles. We expect this number to steadily grow until the economy starts to turn around. Your prayer, support, and donations are keeping up with the increased need and we appreciate the many ways in which you provide assistance to those who need it.

Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> representatives from AARP will be at the Geneseo Public Library to assist people with tax preparation. They will be available every Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm through April 11<sup>th</sup>. This service is provided free of charge.

In February and March we will continue our focus of encouraging clients to make wise choices to stretch what little food dollars they may have. Betty Gavin, University of IL Extension Outreach Representative, is periodically available when clients come to pick up food. Betty provides low cost recipe ideas using ingredients that the Food Pantry has available. She also takes a minute to speak personally with each client. It is challenging to consistently find low cost nutritional foods that all members of the family enjoy, and people appreciate Betty’s help.

If your closets have too many

## Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;

**FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY.**

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives;

**BE KIND ANYWAY.**

If you are honest, people may cheat you;

**BE HONEST ANYWAY.**

If you find serenity and happiness, people, may be jealous of you;

**BE HAPPY ANYWAY.**

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

**DO GOOD ANYWAY.**

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

clothes and not enough space, you might consider donating outgrown or no longer needed clothing items to the Food Pantry. We especially need baby and children’s clothing of all sizes. We also take household items. We have an ongoing need for items such as kitchen utensils, pots and pans, plates, cups, silverware, etc. Your help is appreciated!

Food needs for February are: sugar, cereal, canned fruit, pancake syrup, pancake mix, soda/graham crackers, rice, spaghetti sauce, and hamburger helper.

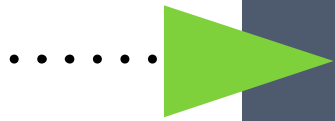
Non-food needs are: diapers (all sizes), laundry detergent, dish soap, Chap Stick, and OTC cold relievers.

**GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU’VE GOT ANYWAY.**

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God’

It was never between you and them anyway.

— “The Paradoxical Commandments,”  
Kent M. Keith



# February 2012

Happy Valentine's

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm  AWANA - 6:20 pm	2	3 Mighty Oaks Lunch 12:00 noon @ Ron & Rita Ford's home	4
5 ELEVATE Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm  Communion	6 Missions Team Mtg. 7 pm	7 Reading Connection Women's Book Group 10 am	8 MOPS - 9 am REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm	9 Women's Bible Study 9 am & 6:30 pm	10 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px;">REACH Jr. High Ministry Retreat February 10-12</div>	11
12 GoFish Planning Meeting 4 pm  ELEVATE Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm	13 Missions Team Mtg. 7 pm	14 PEO Meeting 7 pm  Elder Meeting - 7 pm 	15 REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm AWANA - 6:20 pm	16 Women's Bible Study 9 am & 6:30 pm	17	18
19 ELEVATE Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm	20 Administrative Council Mtg. - 7 pm	21	22 REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm AWANA - 6:20 pm	23 Women's Bible Study 9 am & 6:30 pm	24 Father Daughter Dance 6:30 pm	25 Men's Lenten Breakfast @ St. Malachy's 7 am
26 ELEVATE Sr. High Youth Group 6 pm	27	28 MOPS - 6:30 pm  Elder Meeting - 7 pm	29 REACH Jr. High Youth Group 6 pm AWANA - 6:20 pm			

# Welcome back to GEFC Small Group Ministry!



The 2012 spring quarter will run from February through April.  
Sign up sheets are available in the foyer.

Groups will be following the sermon series this spring, discussing the past Sunday's sermon at group time the following week. Please check with group leaders for details on specific meeting times. Groups will start the first week in February.

For more information contact GEFC Small Group Coordinators  
David or Lori Gilmore at [dlkc@mchsi.com](mailto:dlkc@mchsi.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Meeting Preference

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa

## Current Groups (others may be added as needed)

Day	Time	Host	Leader
Sun*	evening	Daniels	Brian Daniels
Sun	Evening	Gilmores	David Gilmore
Mon	evening	Brinkmanns	Steve Alexander
Tue	evening	"The Vic"	AJ Reynolds
Wed	evening	Laymans/ Gessels	Chuck Rizer
Thu	evening	Donaldsons	Pastor Greg
Thu **	evening	Jones	Jim Mason

\* Child care shared on-site

\*\* This group will study the Truth Project

## Treasurers Financial Report

December 31, 2011

Annual Budget:	\$367,504.00
GF Contributions YTD:	\$455,713.41
Expenses YTD:	\$390,514.85
Emergency Fund	\$115,000.00
Building Fund	\$ 62,308.48
Capital Improvement	\$ 24,000.00
Moving Exp. & Equip	\$ 13,955.00
General Fund	\$76,747.91
Missions	\$ 58.94
Sunday School	\$ 500.81
Gifts & Memorials	\$ 921.69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$293,492.83</b>

## Geneseo Evangelical Free Church

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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

is published monthly by  
Geneseo Evangelical Free Church