First United Methodist Church

Because People Need Jesus

March 2011

Upcoming Events in March:

March 1st
- "Just Girls" Women's Ministry
- Chairman's Meeting

March 3rd
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Children's Ministry Prayer Time
- First Thursday Prayer Service

March 5th
- Safe Sanctuaries Renewal Class
- Beginnings Class

March 6th
COMMUNION SUNDAY
- Silver Ring Thing
- Alpha Course

March 7th
- Nominations and Leadership Development Committee

March 8th
- Men's Fellowship Dinner

March 9th—ASH WEDNESDAY
- 7:00A Ash Wednesday Service
- 12:00P Ash Wednesday Service
- 7:00P Ash Wednesday Service

March 12th
- Pastor Prayer Partner's Meeting

March 13th
FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
- Silver Ring Thing
- Alpha Course
- Sunday "Crazy Love" Lenten Study Begins

March 14th
- Board of Trustees
- Monday "Crazy Love" Lenten Study Begins

March 16th
SPRING BREAK—No Confirmation Class, IGNITE, NexGen MSM
Wednesday "Crazy Love" Lenten Study Begins

March 17th
HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- Finance Committee

March 19th
- Beginnings Class
- Safe Sanctuaries Initial Training

March 20th
- Imagine No Malaria Celebration Event and Dinner

March 21st
- Sewing Fellowship

March 22nd
- United Methodist Women
- Church Council

March 26th
- Men's Lenten Breakfast

March 27th
- All-Church Conference
- Alpha Celebration Dinner

Pastor's Message—Crazy Love

Our culture seems to have an unwritten working definition of the goals of the Christian life: (1) Be a polite and helpful person, (2) Raise kids that don't curse much, and (3) Go to heaven when you die. When did we decide that an appropriate response to the death and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf is limited to attendance at a weekly church service? Could it be that there is more?

Francis Chan's book *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God* calls us out of our complacency and to a radical, dangerous, anything-goes love relationship with our Creator. *Crazy Love* is our theme for Lent 2011 in both worship and small groups.

I have some Lenten challenges for you. First, get the book. We have limited quantities available through the church at the reduced price of $8. The book is widely available at bookstores once our supply at church is exhausted.

Second, join a small group for Lent. Our existing and new small groups are gearing up to study *Crazy Love* together for six weeks. We also have some special groups forming at the church for the Lenten season. A complete listing of available groups can be found on the Information Table in the church lobby.

Third, be in worship each week during Lent. We will kick the season off with three worship opportunities on Ash Wednesday, March 9th. Traditional services will be held at 7:00A and noon and a contemporary Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:00P, all in our church sanctuary. My Sunday morning worship themes will run parallel to the themes in Chan's book, starting March 13th.

Finally, let's approach this season by seeking the Lord together as a church family. Join me in daily prayer that we would be crazy-in-love with Heavenly Father, who loved us so recklessly as to give His only Son for us.

Pastor Chris

Church Announcements

Just Girls Women's Ministry
The Just Girls monthly ministry for women will hold their first event on **Tuesday, March 1** at the South Campus in the Main Room at 7:00P. These events will continue on the first Tuesday of every month. Members of the ministry staff are Michelle Gramling, Debbie Ivey, Kay Keller, Tammie Konvicka, Diane McCall, Christine Sullivan, and Colleen Greene. Childcare will not be provided so that those workers will also be able to participate.

The theme for March is "You are treasured," and Tammie Konvicka will share her testimony. Refreshments will be provided and the evening will be filled with a fun, creative variety of ways that will illustrate to the attendees that they are all truly treasured by God.

This women's ministry intends to thoughtfully reach out to women within FUMC as well as those outside the church. Everyone is encouraged to invite friends, sisters, neighbors, and co-workers to Just Girls. In planning these events, the staff discussed being able to address some of the challenges and concerns that women of all ages are facing today from dealing with self image to over whelming demands placed on them.

Red Cross Blood Drive
The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive on **Thursday, March 3rd** from 12:00P-6:00Pat the South Campus building. You are eligible if you last donated on or before January 6, 2011. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

"First Thursday" Prayer Service
Come join us as we lift our concerns and praises to God. The service will be held **Thursday, March 3rd** at 7:00P in the Sanctuary. Children's Ministry Prayer Time: 6:00 to 6:45P in the Prayer Chapel for all adults involved in any of our children's ministries.

World Day Of Prayer
The 2011 World Day Of Prayer service will be held at St. Malachy's Catholic Church on **Friday, March 4th** beginning at 9:00A. The morning will begin with a fellowship time followed by a worship service. All are invited to attend.

BEGINNINGS CLASS

The Beginnings Workshop is the next step for those interested in membership at First United Methodist Church. This two-session workshop is designed to assist you in understanding the life and doctrine of the United Methodist Church as a whole and this local church in particular - its faith statements, how the church "works", expectations of membership, etc. The Beginnings Workshop, taught by Dave Joyce, is offered six times per year on two Saturdays from 9:00A to 12:00P.

The next Beginnings Workshop will be held on **Saturday, March 5th** (Room 201) and **Saturday, March 19th** (Parlor). To register please contact Christine or Yvette:
c.sullivan@peopleneedjesus.org
y.biddle@peopleneedjesus.org

Men's Fellowship Dinner
All men are invited to the March Men's Fellowship Dinner to be held on **Tuesday, March 8th** at 6:00P at the South Campus. Contact Mark Bunce at (309) 502-9034 for more information or to get on the Men's Ministry Events email list.

Safe Sanctuaries
Safe Sanctuary training events will be held this March for those who have never taken the course and for those who need to do the required renewal. All adults and youth who work with children and youth must complete the initial training or the renewal each year. This also includes a background check. The training is required by the United Methodist Church. The Initial Training Event, for those who have not taken training before, will be **Saturday, March 19th** from 9:00A–12:00P at South Cam-

(Continued on page 3)

Church Announcements Cont'd.

(Continued from page 2)

pus. The Safe Sanctuary Renewal will be **Saturday, March 5th** from 9:00–10:30A in the Sanctuary. Please be prompt in signing up for the appropriate event. If you are renewing your Safe Sanctuary status, please bring your binder to the meeting as we will add to it and make references to how the policies are being implemented.

United Methodist Women
The Spoon River District will hold a combined Spiritual Retreat/ Personal Growth Study at Kirkwood United Methodist Church at 9:00A on **Saturday, March 12th**. Featured speakers will be Mary Ann Harvery; Sally Smith, Conference UMW president; and Cookie Bannon, author of "Count Your Cookies, Not the Crumbs". Lunch reservations at $6.00 are due to Jan Corsaro by March 4 or to Janice Scott at 309-768-2216 by March 5. This promises to be an enjoyable day, so plan to attend.

Sewing Fellowship will be **March 21st**, from 9:00A-2:00P.

The **March 22nd**, 1:00P, meeting of the United Methodist Women being held in Fellowship Hall will feature the program, "Wind Turbines and Power" presented by Robert James. Devotions will be presented by Pat Yackley. Hostesses for the afternoon will be Elsie Little and Marian Rodgers.

UMW 2010 Sewing Fellowship Mission Report
In 2010 the sewing fellowship donated the following:

Food Pantry--nine twin size quilts, one queen size quilt and eight lap robes
Hammond Henry Hospital--14 lap robes
Veteran's Hospital, Iowa City--4 lap robes
Good Samaritan--six lap robes
To individuals--15 lap robes, and Cunningham Children's Home for their Quilt Show and Auction-- a twin quilt made by Marian Rodgers.

Sewing Fellowship

Matthew 25 Project
We will have the first quarterly offering of 2011 for our Matthew 25 Project (M25P) at all of our worship services on **Sunday, March 27th**. We will have this offering along with our regular offering and there will be special offering envelopes available in the pews for the M25P offering.

The M25P was developed to help people in our community with emergency needs. It is initially funded by our Christmas Eve offering and is supported by $25 gifts given quarterly by persons in our church who choose to give to this ministry. It's never too late to join the M25P if you haven't already participated.

Raise the Roof Event
Save the date for this wonderful musical event to help raise funds for a new roof for the Geneseo Food Pantry. Many local churches, including First UMC, will participate at the event hosted by St. Malachy's Catholic Church on **Sunday, April 10th** at 4:00P.

New Secured Offering Box
If you missed the offering plate or need to drop off an offering or any monies during the week, please drop it in the new *secured* offering box that was installed next to the church office. There are also envelopes there for your use. Thank you to Randy Haars and the Trustees for providing this beautiful new offering box.

Open House Planned
Wilma Pratt will be honored at an Open House in observance of her 80th Birthday. She was born March 18th, 1931 in Joslin, IL. Her Open House will be held March 19th, 2011 from 2 to 4:00 p.m. at Church of the Cross United Methodist Church, 22621 Illinois 2 and 92, Port Byron, IL.

Thank You Notes

Dear Church Members,

I would like to thank everyone who helped me raise money for the water filters for people in Zambia. With your help, $800 was raised, and our friends now have clean drinking water in Zambia.

God bless,
Kelcey Adams

I would like to thank my church family for the cards, flowers, and memorial gifts in honor of my mom, Betty Neuleib. A special thanks to The Rock Youth Group for the "Faith" statue. Most of all, thanks for keeping my family in your thoughts and prayers.

Your kindness, thoughtfulness, friendship, and love during this time of loss will always be remembered.

There are some things that will never leave us. A mother's love is one of them.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon yours. May His peace and joy surround you each day.

The family of Dave Neuleib

Thank You So Much!

Welcome New Members!

First UMC is pleased to welcome **the Swain family.** Jason, Christina and Jaedin recently moved to Geneseo.

Jason works for Exelon Nuclear in Cordova. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, golf, coaching baseball, hiking and snowshoeing.

Christina has worked as an elementary school teacher in the past, but now stays at home raising their two-year old son. In her spare time, Christina enjoys arts and crafts, shopping, hiking and snowshoeing.

Christina, Jaedin and Jason Swain

Erica and Matt Eastlick

Matt and Erica Eastlick joined the First UMC family a few months ago.

Matt works as a teacher for the Geneseo School District.

Erica works as a Registered Nurse at Hammond-Henry Hospital.

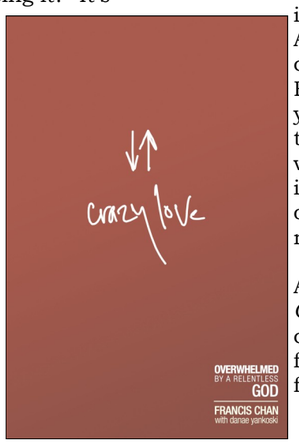
Matt and Erica enjoy spending time together, with their families, and with their two dogs, Rudy and Cooper.

"Crazy Love" Lenten Study To Begin

Let's be crazy...in love with God that is!

Church-wide Lenten Study – *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan. Six-week DVD-based study to start the week of **March 13th**.

God is love. Crazy, relentless, all-powerful love. 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 is wrong.



Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the 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. The answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's 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.

A limited number of *Crazy Love* books can be purchased for $8.00 at the Information Table.

Please consider joining a new or existing small group for this study. Study group registration lists will be available at the Information Table located in lobby near the office. If childcare is needed, be sure to indicate that when registering for a study group. Need help finding a group? Contact Christine or Yvette at 944-2793.

New study groups:

Sundays 6:00-7:30P in the church parlor (childcare available)

Mondays 6:00-7:30P in the upstairs classroom (no childcare)

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30P in the church parlor (childcare available)

A list of existing community groups is available at Information Table.

Church Conference Called

A Church Conference will be held on **Sunday, March 27th in the church sanctuary at 2:00P** to consider the question of electing a Building Committee. A Church Conference is a congregational business meeting chaired by the district superintendent in which every professing member of the church has vote.
The Church Conference was requested by our Church Council upon recommendation from a Study Committee that has been meeting since 2009 to analyze the needs of our building. Unanimously approved by Church Council, the Study Committee issued its final written report in January. Copies of the report are available at the Information Table in the church lobby and each church member is encouraged to pick up a copy and study it thoroughly.
There will be an informational meeting about the Study Committee Report on Sunday, March 6th at 2:00P in the sanctuary. Members of the Study Committee will be on hand to summarize their findings and answer questions.
If a Building Committee/Team is seated by action of the church conference, they would be charged with developing a preliminary plan for a facility expansion, along with a cost estimate. This information would be presented to a future church conference and, if approved, the building committee would continue work to develop detailed architectural and financial plans. A third church conference would be held to consider final approval for the project.
A second issue to be addressed at our March 27th church conference is a set of minor but necessary updates to our church endowment fund policy. A complete list of these updates along with a proposed building committee slate will be available on the Information Table of the church at least one week prior to our church conference.

Celebrations For The Month

3/1 Brady Piepenbrink
Jason Robinson
3/3 Madison Koustas
Pat Mitchell
3/4 Regina Kappleman
3/5 Joyce Rogers
Chris Stahl
Karen Wheeler
Cheryl Hursman
3/7 Andrew Ryner
Chris Bush
3/8 Scott Colter
Jerry Downing
Renee Moore
3/9 Connie Driessens
3/10 Marissa Ford
Sydney McDaniel
3/11 Daniel Fiedler
Paige Gramling
3/12 Hayley Neuleib
Jim Washburn
3/13 Ralph Smith
Justin Snodgrass
3/14 Matt Eastlick
3/16 Ken Martins
Dewey McCall
Linda Washburn
3/19 Martha Hatch
Rachel Ryner
3/20 Dan Diehl
Doug Kuriger
3/21 Tyler Chamberlain
Aaron Lewis
3/22 Vera Hursman
Dave Pemble
Martha Taube
3/23 Mallorie Ward
3/24 Bertha Hedges
Beau Johnson
Jerilyn Powell
3/25 Deb Ward
3/27 Dave Allen
Carter Stephenson
3/28 Chelsea Schwarzkopf
3/29 Addison Snodgrass
3/30 Tammy Clark
Maxine DeCrane
Barb Nelson
Al Petsche
Lexie Neuleib

3/9 Craig & Marsha Kuriger
3/10 Randy & Terry Haars
3/11 Dave & Cheri Jirele
3/14 Duane & Bev Dilenbeck
3/22 Mark & Debbie Burton
3/28 Kirk & Lisa Hodgson

Ash Wednesday / Men's Lenten Breakfasts

Ash Wednesday Services

March 9th

7:00A Traditional Service
(30-minute service)
12:00P Traditional Service
(30-minute service)
7:00P Contemporary Service

Men's Lenten Breakfast Series

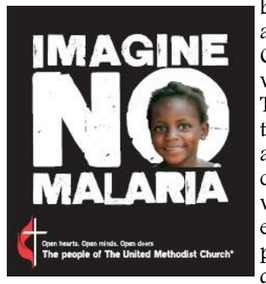
The Geneseo Ministerial Association will once again be hosting a weekly breakfast during lent for all men of the community. All breakfasts start at 7:00A on Saturday mornings. Locations and dates as follows:

March 12 – First Lutheran Church
March 19 – St. Malachy's Catholic Church
March 26 – First United Methodist Church
April 2 – Loraine United Methodist Church
April 9 – First Presbyterian Church
April 16 – Evangelical Free

Imagine No Malaria

Dear Church family,

Over the last few weeks, you have been exposed to quite a bit of information, data, and statistics about the terrible impacts of malaria upon the people of Africa. And, we have purposefully not mentioned too much about how or when you would be solicited to actually get involved. It is important for us to educate ourselves first, allow plenty of time for prayer and discernment, before making an appeal to you for resources to help with the project. You may find it inspiring, but not totally surprising, knowing our church body, that we have already had several families step up and make "Impact 100" gifts of $1000 or more, even *before* we have launched our campaign; such is the overwhelming generosity of our church family when called upon in a time of need.



Well, the time for us to act is upon us NOW. The INM Committee is planning a dinner for us to get together as a family of faith and make our "Impact 100" commitments to totally eradicate this disease by 2015. On Sunday evening, 20 March, we will gather together to break bread, and to share a portion of the resources God has lavished on us with the people of Africa. There are a variety of ways to make your gift, and they are all described on the commitment envelopes we will have available that evening. We will also be prepared to answer any questions you may have with regard to the project, and how you may make a three year gift. For sure, not every gift needs to be an "Impact 100" commitment ($1000 over three years), and there are many levels of giving that are recognized. The story of the widow's mite (from Mark 12: 41-44) is a powerful reminder that the size of the gift doesn't matter to God, rather it is the heart of the giver that God knows and desires.

Our Committee's vision is that while this program is intended to be a three year project, we want to come out strongly, and "get out of the gate" with a major commitment early. We believe that our goal of $48,000 (over the three years) will be "blown away" by our church family, and that we can assemble a strong base of pledges and commitments *RIGHT NOW.* Please reserve the evening of Sunday, 20 March, to come and join your church family as we together imagine the future of Africa without the menace of malaria. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have, or if you desire to make a pledge even before the 20th.

Mark R. Burton
Impact 100 Coordinator –
Imagine No Malaria Committee

Geneseo First UMC has embraced a new, life changing ministry called Imagine No Malaria.

Please join us for a

SUNDAY TO SAVE LIVES CELEBRATION EVENT AND DINNER

Sunday, March 20th
5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

There will be music, FOOD, speakers, FOOD, a chance to join with 11 million other United Methodists from around the globe in supporting this important ministry, and did we mention FOOD? As the adults of our congregation join together in the Sanctuary, the youth will be at the South campus to celebrate as well.

Your love can make a difference. Please join us as we gather in fellowship to learn more about Imagine No Malaria and celebrate the opportunities God has placed before us. Our love, through Imagine No Malaria, can save thousands of lives. "It is possible to give without loving," said John Wesley, "but it is impossible to love without giving." Imagine No Malaria is our opportunity to respond to this calling – with our generous gifts. This is our time to contribute. This is our time to commit. This is our time to end the deadliest plague that humanity has ever known. Whether your contribution is for the purchase of one net or a 3 year commitment as part of the Impact 100 project, you will make a difference in saving lives.

Please watch upcoming bulletins to see how our congregation can get involved with the Imagine No Malaria campaign and to RSVP for the Sunday to Save Lives Celebration Event and Dinner.

R U Phil? *by Colleen Greene*

As mentioned in our January newsletter, this month will launch our new series of Philippians 1:6 people, those in our church whose lives exemplify that Scripture, "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." This month I'm excited to introduce you to Tammie Konvicka.

Tammie, her husband Don and their children Katelyn, 14, and son Nathan, 12, have been with First UMC for four years. In addition to serving on the newly created Women's Ministry Team, Tammie is currently one of the youth leaders on Wednesday nights and is finding it very rewarding with that age group and showing them how much God loves them.

"It's a lot of fun. Recently I've seen they're more hungry for God and I've seen them get more serious." She added that she is finding that new level of spiritual maturity in the youth encouraging.

Tammie Konvicka

Tammie's own Christian walk began as a rather shy youth when she attended a revival at age 14. After listening to the young adult speakers who were traveling with their parents, she was moved by their real life stories of drug abuse and dramatic life change after accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Born in 1973 and raised in a Christian home in Windsor, IL Tammie attended church services every Sunday. Yet she discovered her own life taking on a dramatic change after attending that revival. Matthew 6:33 became her life's Scripture. "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you."

"From that point on, I always relied on that," she says and noted that even in choosing her life partner, she relied on that promise. At one point when she was seriously considering marrying one young man, she felt the clear prompting to wait. When she met her husband, Don Konvicka, and quoted Matthew 6:33, she knew she'd made the right decision and was thankful that she'd waited and listened for God's leading.

Another major turning point in her life occurred during and after the tragic loss of a loved one. When it was discovered that her father, Tom Flick, had a brain tumor, she watched the painful progression of her father's illness. After his death in March of 2006, Tammie felt that more could have been done to ease his suffering.

In experiencing the suffering involved in her father's illness, Tammie felt lead to pursue a career that would also serve as a life's ministry. In November of 2010, she earned her Associates in Applied Sciences at Black Hawk College in the field of Physical Therapy Assistant.

"In working with these people, I will have an opportunity to share God's love. Because it's a very hands on job, working with them to assist them in walking and in working with their range of motion, I'll have an opportunity to pray for them as I assist them. They won't know it, but I'll be praying for them."

R U Phil? Are you one of those Philippians 6:1 people? Do you know someone at First UMC whose life inspires you? Don't worry, these interviews aren't bragging, except for bragging on God! If you would be willing to share your experience or nominate a friend, please contact me, Colleen Greene at greeneonorange@yahoo.com so that we might all be inspired by the exciting ways God is completing His work through you.

Alpha Session II

10-week Course

Runs Sundays, April 3—June 12

5:30—7:30P

South Campus Building

Alpha is a 10-week practical introduction to the Christian faith that we hope to offer three times a year at First UMC. Our next course will run Sundays, April 3-June 12, from 5:30-7:30P. Alpha is a great way to meet other people and learn about the Christian faith in a non-intimidating environment. The Alpha course is held at our South Campus. Each Alpha evening includes a great meal, a presentation on some aspect of the Christian faith, and stimulating discussion over dessert and coffee. Child care is provided and the program is free.

A typical Alpha night looks like this:

5:30-6:00P: Dinner

6:00-6:15P: Welcome

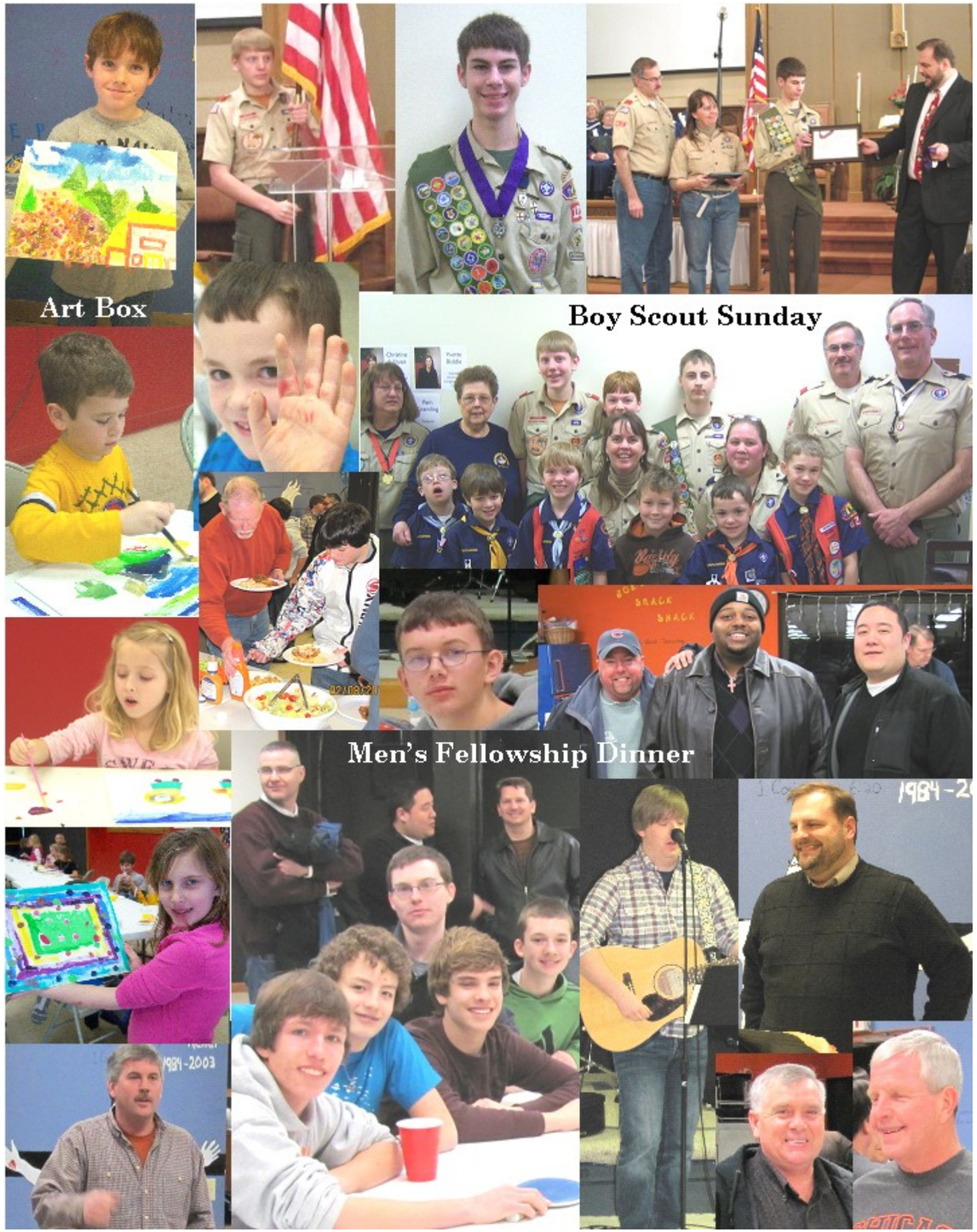
6:15-7:00P: DVD Talk

7:00-7:30P: Small Group

Celebration Supper

Interested in learning more about Alpha? Come to a celebration supper on Sunday evening, March 27 from 5:30-7:30 at South Campus. You'll enjoy a casual dinner and hear more about the Alpha course. Please RSVP for the celebration supper by Friday, March 25, by contacting Yvette Biddle at 944-2793 or y.biddle@peopleneedjesus.org.

For more information, or to register for the next course, contact Yvette Biddle at 944-2793 or email at y.biddle@peopleneedjesus.org. Space is limited...sign up today!


Art Box
Boy Scout Sunday
Men's Fellowship Dinner

IGNITE After School Fun
Small Group Testimonies by
Andrea Allen & Derrick Stropes
Shout to the Lord Children's Choir
Find Your People Party

302 North State Street
Geneseo IL 61254

Phone 309/944-2793
Email: info@PeopleNeedJesus.org
Web: www.PeopleNeedJesus.org

Non-Profit
Organization
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Geneseo, Illinois
Permit No. 93

Services of Worship

Sunday

8:00A, 9:00A
and 10:30A

Sunday School begins at 9:00A,
with additional adult
opportunities at 10:30A

God's Garden Nursery is open
and staffed during all services

Wednesday

Ignite Children's After-School
Program 3:30P

NexGen Middle
School Ministry 3:30P

The Rock
High School Ministry 6:30P

March 2011 Children's Ministries

It is time to think about Summer Camping. The Illinois Great Rivers Conference offers a wide variety of summer camping experiences for children and youth of all ages. There are specialty camps for horseback riding, archery etc. There are also camps that focus upon games with a Nickolodeon-like feel. Camping dates are throughout the summer months. Our church offers camping scholarships so please don't hesitate to sign your child up for a wonderful experience this summer. For more information, pick up the camping newspaper in the Lobby or contact Becky Ritter. Visit the IGRC website for more details at www.igrcamp.org.

.

SAFE Sanctuaries for Children and Youth
Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church

Every youth volunteer, children's ministry, or nursery volunteer must complete the SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING this year. If you did not complete the training last year you will need to sign up for the INITIAL TRAINING EVENT on March 19 from 9:00A - 12:00P at the Information Table in the Lobby.

If you completed the INITIAL TRAINING you will need to renew your SAFE SANCTUARY STATUS each year as defined by the church. This event is from 9:00-10:30A on March 5. Please sign up in the Lobby at the Information Table. Bring your folder with you as we will add to it and revisit policies.

Safe Sanctuary training is mandated by the United Methodist Church and is a church-wide policy for all workers involved with children and youth which includes those who help with VBS or Mega Sports Camp.

This training is to protect our workers and staff as well as our children and youth from harm.

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING EVENTS:

MARCH 5–RENEWAL
9:00-10:30

MARCH 19-INITIAL
9:00-12:00 NOON

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

Join the fight against malaria this month by using mini M&M's. This week during Adventure Bay Children's Church we began a series of why we should care about others and help them as Jesus helped those in need. We played the mosquito game where we realized how using a bed net properly can protect an entire family from malaria and thus saving their lives. Then each child received a tube of mini M&M's to eat and then fill with quarters to return for the purchase of a bed net. The tubes hold $10.00 in quarters which will purchase one bed net. We will then take one mosquito off our net when a full tube is returned, to help fight malaria. The student may then have another tube to fill to purchase another bed net. This fundraiser is not limited to Children's Church. Many of our youth took tubes to fill. If you would like to put your spare change to work see Miss Becky for a sweet treat that will save lives. You can see our net and progress in the Fellowship Hall. Children's Church is during the 10:30 worship service. We will also track net distribution on our own map like the one pictured here. Keep praying as we strive to serve others by sharing Jesus' love.

To Instill

God's WORD

In Their Hearts!

The Parables

TAKE AWAY

Game Based Bible Lessons

IGNITE

Wednesdays 3:30-5:30 K-5th

Mar. 2- Plant Seeds

Mar.9- Stop Thief

Mar. 23- Go Deep

Mar.30- Choked Out

Apr.6-Look Out

March 2011

The ROCK
HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

New Series: Building Wise Habits

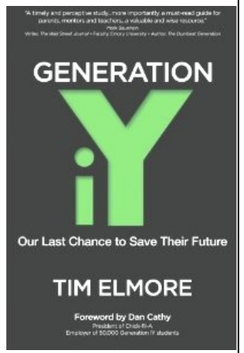
At the Rock we believe in putting a high priority on helping teenagers to become spiritually self-sufficient. Sure, we value creating fun environments to spend time with friends while growing in the Gospel. But we know from experience that those who follow Christ after they graduate from youth group are those who have learned to feed themselves spiritually.

That's why we believe in emphasizing HABITS, our acronym for six disciplines that can help students (and adults) grow spiritually on their own. These six are definitely not the *only* spiritual habits for a self-feeding faith, but they are enough to get one grounded:

Hang-time with God
Accountable friendships
Bible meditation and memorization
Involvement within the Body of Christ
Tithing, and

A brief review of "Generation iY by Dr. Tim Elmore"

I highly recommend all parents, youth workers and pastors to read this book. Generation iY generally are defined as those born after 1990. This generation more than any previous generation has been defined by technology. They grew up online. Theirs is a world of iPod, iPad, iPhone, iTunes, etc. Elmore says he writes this book for anyone in a position to lead iY because "...unless we wake up and make some adjustments in the way we interact with them, I predict rough waters ahead. We can already see several of the unintended consequences of this new world we've created for them—a world that allows for high speed, constant connection, sedentary lifestyles, pitiful relational skills, and a large dose of narcissism." My intention is not to give a full blown review with critique but get you to think about the dynamics of the iY world and get this book. Here is a couple of facts in the book that I will leave you with. "Generation iY live in a world all their own—shaped by their own choices but also the environment adults have created for them. Some aspects of that world make it harder for iYers to transition into adult reality." For instance, their world is:



Artificial: They spend much of their time in an online world, living an unreal life on Second Life, Facebook, MySpace, or Flickr. While such virtual living enhances some skills (such as multitasking), it can also hinder development of people skills, self-awareness, and ability to resolve conflict.

Homogeneous: iYers spend most of their days with other iYers—over 50 percent of their day with peers and only 15 percent with adults. Instead of learning from other generations, they get much of their guidance from the unprepared.

NEXGEN MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

New Series: The Bible

As followers of Jesus, we find comfort knowing that we don't have to navigate this life on our own! We are not alone; God lives in us and walks beside us. And God has given us the Bible to know him on a deeper level, to give us guidance in our daily lives, and to show us his unconditional love. The Bible is our love letter from God-it offers the truths we need to live a life according to his plan. It's an open invitation to meet with God daily and learn about his plans and purposes for us.

This three-week series will give your middle school students a chance to explore the Bible. This may be the first in-depth visit for some of your teenagers, while others may be quite familiar with the Bible already. Week 1 will provide lots of facts and information about the Bible — a foundation for exploring it. Week 2 focuses on practical steps for navigating the Bible. Week 3 offers helpful tools for memorizing Scripture.

Past, Present, and Future

In the month of February, we had youth leaders, Chris Seeley (and her husband Shane), Steve and Connie Gyenge, give lessons on love and sex from the Bible and their experiences. After their message, the students at both middle school and high school were given a time to ask honest questions of love and sex. There were a couple of immature questions but there were also honest questions that students asked: Questions like how do I know if he loves me, How is it to be married and have kids.

Sunday, March 13, 1:00 PM @ St. Malachy's Gym, both middle school and high school ministries are invited to play dodge ball against the different youth groups of Geneseo. Currently we are the reigning champs and desire a repeat championship win. If your student is interested in playing for us, a sign-up sheet is available at NexGen.

This summer we have two exciting events. First, July 18—22 will be our second time going to Know Sweat Mission Trip in St. Louis. The cost of the event is $289. We have ways of fund-raising your students support if you do not have that money. A $75.00 deposit is due before April 1 to reserve a spot on this highly anticipated event. Seats will fill up fast. Second, I am praying for our first annual Rock retreat. I am in the preliminary planning phases and will get details out ASAP.