



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

April 2011

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WEB SITE

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Holy Week & Easter Services

The *Living Questions* series continues with the following services:

Palm Weekend, April 16 & 17 <i>(Palm Parade at all services)</i>	Saturday, 5:30 pm, North Campus Sunday, 10:00 am, North Campus Sunday, 9:00 & 10:30 am, South Campus
Maundy Thursday, April 21	7:30 pm, South Campus
24 Hour Prayer Vigil	Begins 9 pm, South Campus
Good Friday, April 22	Noon - 3 pm, South Campus <i>(six 30-minute services)</i>
Good Friday, April 22	6:00 pm, South Campus New Service! 7:00 pm North Campus
Easter Weekend, April 23 & 24	Saturday, 5:30 pm, North Campus Sunday, 9:30 & 11:00 am, North Campus Sunday, 9:00, 10:00 & 11:15 am, South Campus

Sunrise Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 24

7:30 - 9:00 am, South Campus

Menu: Breakfast casserole, pastries, fruit, oj, coffee

Cost: \$5 per person. Children age 5 and under, free.

All proceeds benefit the youth mission fund.

Season of Giving – Easter Outreach



Geist Christian Church will collect and distribute Easter food baskets and children's Easter baskets to 150 families – nearly 500 people including 300 children!

• Pick up a food basket at either campus, with a list attached and/or donate a ham by Wednesday, April 20. **70 hams still needed.**

- Children's Easter basket items and lists are at both campuses, and online. Items are needed by Sunday, April 17.
- Deliver food and gifts on Saturday, April 23. Pick up at the South Campus, 8 am to 11:30 am.
- Help sort, arrange, and ready baskets for delivery during the week of April 17.
- No time to shop? Donate online www.geistchristian.org.

To volunteer, contact Judy Apple-VanAlstine. (626-8540, japplevanalstine@aol.com.)



Randy Spleth

RANDY REFLECTS

These are anxious, global times. The war with Iraq is winding down; the war in Afghanistan seems stalled. An internet revolution started in Egypt swept across North Africa and the Middle East; now there is fighting in Libya. Political turmoil is taking human lives.

Add to that, an earthquake and tsunami hits Japan just three weeks after the New Zealand quake rocked Christchurch. Global flooding is displacing even more lives in Australia, Brazil, the Philippines and Indonesia. The loss of life is great in these floods. Haiti, still trying to recover from its own quake is now struggling with a cholera epidemic.

Add to these concerns of war and natural disaster, a growing global food crisis predicted for this year due to last year's drought and increased cost of oil. Every year, 6 million children die due to hunger. This number is predicted to grow much higher.

The ark that we live on, our planet floating in vast universe is fragile. Whether the disasters are natural or caused by human hands, we realize how connected and dependent our world-wide community is.

These concerns lay heavy on our hearts. I know it because I hear it, in your prayer petitions each week and in your prayer forms offered during Lent. We worry, not just about the world around us but the challenges our country faces.

Researchers who study the human spirit know that continued stress and anxiety negatively effects physical health. It can be as lethal as a heart attack or a stroke. Chronic anxiety effects sleep, digestion, and blood pressure. Anxiety among children is even more damaging.

In the midst of this anxious time, I remind you God gives us the resources to stay spiritually strong and healthy, to put anxiety aside. We have the gift of prayer, which allows us to offer up to God all our concerns, whether personal or global. We have resources to share through our mission offerings and disaster ministry through Week of Compassion. And we have the gift of hope.

We are people of hope. God took the darkest time of humanity and turned it into Easter. God sent the light into the darkness of the world that we might be people of hope. If God can take the terror of the cross and turn it into the promise of the faithful, surely God can take the challenges we face as human beings and use us to help make our world the garden it was meant to be.

Pray with me; serve with me and have hope with me, in our ability to make a difference and give testimony to the Good News of Easter.

Register Now for Summer Children's Camps

- Camp Quest for children 6-11 years old
- KidsKamp for children 3-6 years old

For more details, go to www.geistchristian.org or contact Vicki Ruppert, vicki@geistchristian.org, 842-3594, ext. 504.



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Japan: An Opportunity to Help

Following the March 11th earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan, the island nation is facing multiple crises, including the increased threat of radiation exposure from several nuclear power plants. The official toll of those dead or missing is well into the thousands and is only expected to increase.

Week of Compassion's primary partner in Japan is the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ). UCCJ has established a relief committee which is responding. Your gifts to Week of Compassion have already gone to support the UCCJ efforts to care for the communities damaged or destroyed.

Gifts through Geist Christian Church to Week of Compassion is the best way to make an immediate response to help the people of Japan most in need. Contributions can be made online or by check payable to Geist Christian Church.

ALL NEW PROGRAMS & OPPORTUNITIES

The following are new programs or opportunities at Geist Christian Church. Connect here to be in on the ground floor of a new endeavor.

Adult Mission Trip Announced

This summer Geist Christian will offer an adult mission trip to Detroit, Michigan from June 5 – 11. Those participating in the trip will be working with an organization called "Rippling Hope" and Northwestern Christian Church, doing light repair work on the homes in the neighborhood and reaching out to those in need. Meals and lodging will be at Northwestern Christian. Cost of \$250.00 per person includes meals, housing, insurance, building materials and some evening activities. This is a great opportunity to put faith into action and extend a helping hand. Associate Minister Tod Iseminger will lead the group. For more information contact Tod Iseminger at: todi@geistchristian.org.

Dealing with Today's Teens: a small group study for parents of teenagers

What's changed in parenting? Why do teens act the way they do? How do we encourage behavior without strangling growth? What can we do to build maturity into our kids and prepare them to be adults?

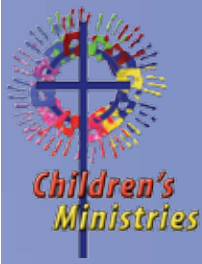
Join other GCC parents for a 9-session study, "Dealing with Today's Teens." This video series, by Mark Gregston of Heartlight Ministries, is designed to get parents together, thinking, talking and praying about being faithful and meaningful parents.

This group will meet during evening youth groups, Sundays April 10 – June 5, 6:00 – 7:30 pm. (Note, two sessions will be on Thursdays, to leave Easter and Memorial Day Sundays free.) Drop your Chi Rho and CYF youth at the North Campus gym at 5:30 pm, grab a treat from Promise Road Coffee, and spend some time engaging with other parents. One workbook per family (\$10) is available with an RSVP. Contact Lisa Noble, lisanoble@gotown.net, 284-4048.

Taking Flight Ministries

Join "Taking Flight Ministries", a new ministry targeting our college students. This ministry will support students with prayers, correspondence, survival kits, and welcome home gatherings. Contact Lisa Percy, lisatheot@comcast.net or 652-9009 if you have a student that would benefit from this ministry and/or if you have an interest in caring for our college kids and extending Christ's love to them while they are away from home.

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Children's Ministries

Easter Eggstravaganza – The annual Easter Eggstravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 16 at the North Campus from 9:30 – 11:15 am with the Easter Egg hunt beginning at 11:00 am. There will be games, crafts, storytelling by Pastor Oscar, and a light breakfast. Children of all ages are invited to enjoy the morning and be on the lookout for a visit from the Easter Bunny!

Donations of donuts, muffins, fruit and egg casseroles are needed. Children's Ministries is also asking for donations of filled plastic eggs for the Easter Egg hunt. Drop the donated eggs off at either location in the tubs located at the Children's Ministries' bulletin boards. If you would like to help at this event for a half hour shift or with set up/clean up, please contact Julie Rhoad, julier@geistchristian.org, 842-3594 ext. 511.



VBS – Save the dates! – Three Sessions of Geist Christian Church Vacation Bible School are coming this summer. Children ages 4 through those entering 5th grade are invited to experience a fun week of songs, games, crafts, mission projects, and much more.

- June 13-17 Join us on Main Street at the South Campus with both morning and evening sessions.
- July 18-22 Join us at Son Surf Beach at the North Campus with a morning session only.

Directors and volunteers NEEDED! Planning and prep work are underway. For VBS to be successful and available to all children at minimal cost, many volunteers are needed before and during the events. Please contact Holly Blunk, hollyb@geistchristian.org, 842-3594 ext. 483 or Julie Rhoad, 842-3594 ext. 511, julier@geistchristian.org to find out how YOU can be a part of preparing or participating in Vacation Bible School. Registrations will begin in May.

Thank you! - We appreciate everyone who brought in donations for our collection during our Esther unit. 10 students and 5 adults took the donations to the Lawrence Caring Center. We spent our time there sorting and bagging the donations so that they would be ready to hand out to the families that come to the center for help.

Geist Kids and JYF – The next meeting will be April 17: 4-5:30 pm at the North Campus. Please bring \$3 for dinner.

FaithQuest- Easter Unit

What does Easter mean to me? What is so powerful about the Easter story that it can transform my life forever? These are questions to which children will discover the answers. Children learn that the Jesus' Resurrection story gives them Faith, Hope, and Love.

With the addition of extra services, volunteers are needed for Easter morning for 3 year olds – 4th grade. Please contact Holly Blunk or Julie Rhoad.

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GCC Youth are Getting Christ Centered!

UPCOMING events:

Serving Dinner at Dayspring – First Tuesday of every month!

Beginning April 5, GCC Youth will serve dinner at Dayspring Center on a monthly basis. The opportunity is open to youth and families. Eight to ten volunteers are needed each month. If you are interested in signing up for a position, email julianneh@geistchristian.org.

Get REAL Bible Study – Pastor Oscar Banks leads a Bible study at the South Campus on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm for teens. Go Deeper in your faith through the study of God's Word. For more information, contact Oscar, 842-3594 ext 496, oscarb@geistchristian.org.

1-by-Youth, Day of Service – On Saturday, May 7 youth will gather together to serve our very own community. You can sign up to participate in this 1-day of service for only \$29/person. Youth and Adult volunteers needed. You will receive a t-shirt, lunch and memories to last a lifetime. Register for this event by contacting Julianne Hess. (julianneh@geistchristian.org, 842-3594 ext 503)

Mother's Day Pie Auction – Join us for the annual Pie Auction after services on Mother's Day weekend (May 7-8)! Live auctions will take place at both campus locations. We'll be seeking donations of baked goods to award to the highest bidder! This is a "can't miss" GCC Youth event! All proceeds benefit the youth mission fund.

Spring "Lock-In" at the North Campus! – All youth grades 6-12 are invited to celebrate the END of the school year on Friday, May 27! Music, food, and fun will be a part of this unforgettable night!

Location: North Campus

Time: Friday, May 27 (8:00 pm) through Saturday, May 28 (7:00 am)

2011 Mission Trips! – The summer will be exciting and meaningful as youth from GCC travel to serve others!

Chi Rho – Detroit, Michigan: June 11-15

CYF – Nashville, Tennessee: July 11-16

Registration information available online at www.geistchristian.org/ministries/youth.

Youth Worship in TWO locations!

GCC offers two weekly youth services on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am (north) and 10:30 am (south). Students are Getting Christ Centered through worship!

Location: enliven! (North) ALTARed worship center (South)

Time: Every Sunday, 10:00 am (North) and 10:30 am (South)



Youth Group!

Join us every Sunday at GCC North Campus for Youth Group!

Location: North Campus

Time: Every Sunday, 5:30 -7:30 pm

↔ Youth group ends with a prayer with Youth Minister Oscar Banks



Katie Jackson flips pancakes at the annual youth pancake supper which served more than 300 people and raised over \$1700 for the youth mission fund.

Get connected to GCC Youth!

Become a fan on facebook at "Geist Christian Youth" and follow us on Twitter at "Geist Youth"



Geist Christian Youth



@geistyouth

Opportunities for Adults

Pager Turners - Upcoming gatherings of the Geist Christian Church book club are:

- May 25th – *Girl in Translation* – author Jean Kwok
- July 27th – *Katie Up and Down the Hall* – author Glen Plaskin

Page Turners meets at the South Campus at 6:30 pm. Contact Elena Derbique, elenad@geistchristian.org, 863-6484 for more information.

A reminder that the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's book program for June is Beethoven's Hair by Russell Martin. The discussion will be held on both June 18th and June 19th at the symphony downtown. Discount tickets are available for the performances after the discussions. Contact Elena for more information.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study – Join other women from Geist Christian Church weekly on Tuesdays, 11:30 am, North Campus. A new study, *You Were Made for More: The Life You Have, the Life God Wants You to Have* by Jim Cymbala begins April 12. Make new friends and prayer partners and learn more about living the life God has in store for you. Contact Jodi Burtner, jodiburt@aol.com for more information.

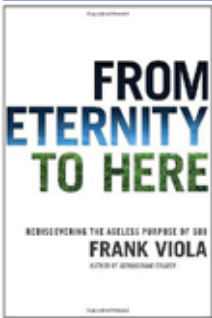
Miracle Stories of the New Testament Bible Study – Join associate minister Tod Iseminger on a journey through the New Testament learning about miracles. Wednesdays, 7 pm at the North Campus through April 27. Contact Tod Iseminger. (todi@geistchristian.org) to sign up.

From the Elders - Book Review

From Eternity to Here-Rediscovering the Ageless Purpose of God by Frank Viola

Frank Viola, an author of numerous books on Christian life, has written a narrative of how he himself found his own purpose through discovering the ageless purpose of God. His narratives are woven together and grounded in scripture from Genesis to Revelation. This book helps us understand that living a Christian life is not about what we as individuals do or should do, but about our God and His ultimate purpose.

This book is a great source for new Christians who seek an overview of the Bible. Likewise, for the seasoned Christian, this book helps to shed light on what really matters in our lives. -- Mike Burt



Fitness Opportunities

Shape UP!

Ultimate Bootcamp is expanding again! Afternoon Bootcamp is at the North Campus Tuesday and Thursdays 2:00 to 3:00 or choose the morning sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:30-6:30 a.m. You can choose one, two, or three days a week of a personal trainer workout without the personal trainer price. The next session runs April 11- May 5. Register and pay online www.geistchristian.org.

Zumba – Ditch the routine, join the party. Offered on Mondays and Tuesdays at the North Campus from 9:45-10:45 am. Childcare available. More information is available on the Geist Christian Church website contact instructor, Dana Newbrough, dana.newbrough@gmail.com.

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ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Church Transitions

New Members

Peggy Drenth, Samantha & Danielle
Dave & Julia Lindenschmidt, Jack
Joe & Kim Rauch
Mike & Mitzi Riekhof, Peyton, Jessy, Grayson & Landon
Christine Simon, Tyler
Nathan & Meghan Stallings, Parker, Tyler & Finn

In Sympathy

Keith Krimmel, mother
Cindy Hall, mother
Mary Ann Sprague, mother
Alan Cox, grandmother
Carol Howard, uncle
Stan Jackson, uncle
Jayne Hults, cousin

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Garth Dickey by Chris and Jill Burns

March Attendance

WORSHIP	Feb 27/28	Mar 5/6	Mar 12/13	Mar 19/20
5:30 PM NC	240	189	184	187
9:00 AM SC	154	153	96	171
10:00 AM NC	265	382	299	321
Youth North	30	31	30	28
10:30 AM SC	342	295	277	316
Youth South	57	66	55	67
Baptism			25	
Totals	1088	1116	966	1090

Weekday Ministries Flower Sale

The annual Weekday Ministries flower sale is going on NOW! Order your Mother's Day pots or get a head start on your spring planting. There is a variety of flowers and herbs. Delivery of flowers is May 3 for the South Campus and May 4 for the North Campus. Order forms available at both North and South Campuses and online www.geistchristian.org.

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Mulch Day – South Campus, Saturday, April 9

Help with Spring cleanup around the South Campus at 9 am on Saturday, April 9. Rakes, wheelbarrows, gloves helpful – mulch provided!

BRAINfood Luncheon – April 20

In celebration of Earth Day, Ruth Ann Ingraham, author of the book *Swimming with Frogs: Life in the Brown County Hills* will be the guest speaker. She will be speaking about her book as well as native Indiana plants. Plan to join us at the South Campus at noon. Cost is \$7.50 per person. Contact Lori Kline. (842-3594, ext. 489, lorik@geistchristian.org.)

Golf Outing Announced – June 12

Registration is open for the Annual Geist Christian Church Golf Outing to be held at River Glen Country Club in Fishers on Sunday, June 12. Early bird registration is \$60 per person and will continue until May 15. After May 15, registration is \$70 per person. Fees include golf, cart, prizes, contests and dinner. The outing will begin at 2:00 pm with a 2:30 pm tee-off. Register at either campus beginning April 16/17 or register online at the Geist Christian Church website – www.geistchristian.org.

Sponsor a Hole! This year's outing provides you with an opportunity to promote your business and further help the GCC ministry. Hole sponsorships are \$150 per hole and include a tee box sign with your business and your name listed as well as recognition during the dinner and awards presentation. Please contact Larry Pugh at LPugh@eadsmurraypugh.com to sponsor a hole.