



# CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

June 2011

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## Summer Splash 2011

### New Opportunities for Summer

Summer is the perfect time to try something new! How about a Geist group? Summer Splash 2011 is an opportunity to have a small group experience without a long term commitment. Each group will be offered as a weekly meeting for three consecutive weeks and each class has a both a Sunday option and a Wednesday option. Groups begin on Sunday, July 17 and Wednesday, July 20. Childcare is available for all meetings.



Group offerings include:

**Faith in Film:** This group will explore our faith in relationship to movies. Film clips will be used and conversation will center on discovering how movies connect with our faith.

- Sundays, July 17, 24 & 31, 6:30 - 8 pm South Campus
- Wednesdays, July 20, 27 & August 3, 6:30 - 8 pm North Campus

**Practicing our Faith:** This group will focus on practical ways to live a life connected to God every day.

- Sundays, July 17, 24 & 31, 6:30 - 8 pm South Campus
- Wednesdays, July 20, 27 & August 3, 6:30 - 8 pm North Campus

**The Book of Philippians:** Interested in doing some Bible study? The book of Philippians is a good place to begin.

- Sundays, July 17, 24 & 31, 9 - 10:15 am South Campus
- Wednesdays, July 20, 27 & August 3, 6:30 - 8 pm North Campus

For more information, contact Carolyn Reed 842.3594 ext 513 or [carolynr@geistchristian.org](mailto:carolynr@geistchristian.org) by July 6. Dive in! It's going to be a great summer.

## Golf Outing Sunday, June 12

Register now for the Annual Geist Christian Church Golf Outing to be held at River Glen Country Club in Fishers on Sunday, June 12. Registration is \$70 per person. Fees include golf, cart, prizes, contests and dinner. The outing begins at 2:00 pm with a 2:30 pm tee-off. Register at either campus or online [www.geistchristian.org](http://www.geistchristian.org).





Randy Spleth

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## RANDY REFLECTS

Summertime. Leaving on vacation. Check list.

The day after this article goes to press, I leave again, the second trip in two weeks to support our son. I'm going to his conference baseball tournament. While it's not a summertime family vacation, there is a check list. All day long, I make the list.

I'm generally a mental list maker. But my assistant, Lori, has one written. For nearly fifteen years, she's been helping me with my lists. On this list is the *Randy Reflects* article.

One of the items on my list: your list. Have you made it?

Vacations and summertime travel begin after Mother's Day and continue well past Labor Day. Attendance drops, first by ten percent, then in June, twenty. By July, some weekends see a forty percent drop. You are gone. When you make your list, does your faith community show up?

Stop the paper; get someone to water the plants. Tell the church we are gone. I like this. Two weekends ago, a new family in our community shared with me that they travel during the summer. "We will be gone until September. Don't worry about us." I was grateful. "Send me a note" I said.

Another stopped me this past week. "We are traveling next month but we'll be in church. We are going home." I liked knowing that too, knowing that their spiritual discipline is on the list. How will you worship, how will you praise God this summer? Is it on the list?

Still a third offered that they too will be at the lake cabin for the next three months. But they quickly offered, "We've signed up for online giving. The mortgage is paid; the water bill and power. Pledge too."

What's on your list? Wherever you go, what do you put on your list? It says something about what is important in your life.

Each summer, my concern is the consistency of your spiritual discipline. I worry about you. I worry about your faith and your spiritual health. So find a way to stay connected - with me, with this community, with God. Otherwise, you might end up on another list. MIA. Missing.

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## Shahbazi Joins Children's Ministries Staff

Kathy Shahbazi will be joining the staff of Geist Christian Church as Associate Director for Children's Ministry at the North Campus. She replaces Julie Rhoad who is stepping aside from the position but who will continue to be intimately involved as a volunteer, including leading Vacation Bible School at the North Campus in July. Following Kathy's acceptance of the position, Senior Associate Ryan Hazen said, "Kathy will be a great asset to the ministry. She brings wonderful gifts to the position and has an eager excitement to get started." Kathy is married to Dan and they have two sons, Jacob and Nicholas. Please thank Julie for her ministry and welcome Kathy to her new position.

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## Opportunities to Connect

### Join the GCC Christian Music Caravan

Want to learn more about and experience contemporary Christian music? Join the GCC Christian Music Caravan (CMC). The CMC connects all ages of music lovers with upcoming concert opportunities, points you to Christian stations, and provides a forum where you can learn more about the contemporary Christian music that is a part of North Campus weekly worship. Check out this upcoming event and contact the CMC leaders below to join the caravan.

#### Monday, June 20: Hillsong United

This world-renowned group of Christian artists will be making a rare stop at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis as part of their United Tour. This concert is perfect for the whole family. Buy tickets at [www.iTickets.com](http://www.iTickets.com). The concert begins at 7:30 pm. The CMC will meet at the North Campus at 5:30 pm to share in this evening together.

Contact either Stacey Oldham at [sjoiuba87@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjoiuba87@sbcglobal.net), 578-2384 or Tom Murray at [tmurray@eadsmurraypugh.com](mailto:tmurray@eadsmurraypugh.com) to join the caravan.

### Bread for the World Meeting – June 5

Join the Jubilate class for an information session led by Les and Marge Galbraith on the *Bread for the World* ministry and eliminating hunger in the US and around the world. Sunday, June 5, 10:15 am, South Campus.

### Women of Faith Conference Coming to Indianapolis

God is bigger than you think...loves you more than you ever dreamed... and is ready and able to go beyond your expectations. What does this mean for YOU? Find out at the Women of Faith conference, August 19-20 at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Geist Christian Church has reserved a limited number of seats for the conference. Reserve your spot today for only \$89 (cost includes all sessions and a box lunch each day). For more information contact Sarah Reitmeier: [sarahreitmeier@att.net](mailto:sarahreitmeier@att.net), 474-1750.

### New! Small Group 'Sewing Sisters'

A new group, "Sewing Sisters," is forming for women interested in sewing. The group will be sewing blankets for children hospitalized at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital and Riley Hospital, as well as have fellowship with one another. This group will meet once a month at the South Campus. To express your interest in this group or to ask further questions, please contact Carolyn Reed ([carolynr@geistchristian.org](mailto:carolynr@geistchristian.org)/842.3594 ext. 513) or Myrna Dowell ([myrnad59@hotmail.com](mailto:myrnad59@hotmail.com)/ 823.2181).

### Pager Turners Book Club

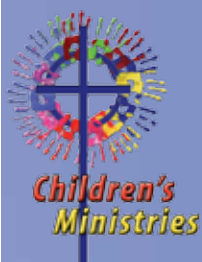
Join the Geist Christian Church book club July 27, 6:30 pm, South Campus for a discussion of *Katie Up and Down the Hall* – author Glen Plaskin.

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

Contact Elena Derbique, [elenad@geistchristian.org](mailto:elenad@geistchristian.org), 863-6484 for more information.

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## Opportunities for Children

### VBS 2011 -REGISTER NOW!

Children ages 4 through entering grade 5 in the fall can register for one or two fun-filled weeks of fellowship and energy-packed activities. Register children and volunteer online at [www.geistchristian.org](http://www.geistchristian.org) or pick up a registration form at either campus. Register early for savings!

**Register by June 1 and pay \$20 per child per session (\$50.00 maximum per immediate family.**

**Register after June 1 and pay \$25 per child per session (\$60 maximum per immediate family.)**

#### **JUNE- SOUTH CAMPUS (86th & Mud Creek Rd.)**

*Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street*



- Morning session: June 13 - June 17, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- Evening session: June 13 - June 16, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm.
- VBS Family Program: Friday evening at 7:00 pm.

#### **JULY – NORTH CAMPUS (126th & Promise Rd.)**

*Son Surf Beach Bash*

- Morning session: July 18 - July 22, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- VBS Family Program: Friday evening at 7:00 pm.

### **Commit to serve! VBS volunteers are needed.**

We are in special need of volunteers to serve as crew leaders during the VBS morning session, June 13 - June 17. Contact: Holly Blunk, [hollyb@geistchristian.org](mailto:hollyb@geistchristian.org), 842-3594 ext. 483. To volunteer at the North Campus, July 18-22 contact Julie Rhoad, [julier@geistchristian.org](mailto:julier@geistchristian.org), 842-3594 ext. 511.



### **VBS Needs Cookie Makers**

Like to bake? VBS is looking for volunteers to make heart-shaped sugar cookies for snacks during the June VBS. Bake them ahead of time and freeze them. Contact Holly Blunk, [hollyb@geistchristian.org](mailto:hollyb@geistchristian.org), 842-3594 ext. 483.

### **Promotion Weekend June 4th & 5th**

Each year at the beginning of June, there is a special "promotion" weekend for children entering Kindergarten through grade 5 for the next school year. The children participate in a special bridge ceremony that symbolizes their journey to the next year. This is a special tradition at Geist and welcomes the children to their next grade in FaithQuest. Children starting Kindergarten in the fall are welcome to participate in this ceremony and "promote" to FaithQuest.

### **FaithQuest**

Summer Unit 1 – June 12 – July 18- Noah and The Rainbow Promise

The people of Noah's time broke God's heart with their evil ways. In Noah God found a man who respected Him and lived a righteous life. As painful as it was for God to destroy creation, God's heart still had hope because of Noah. Children learn that sin separates us from God and God grieves. Thankfully, God always desires reunion with us and provides us a path to a fresh start.



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## Youth Ministries

### HIGHLIGHTS from the past month



#### ← 1 by Youth

GCC youth participated in the nationwide event which unites youth groups from churches to serve people in need and transform entire neighborhoods in ONE DAY.

### Blue Bird House Project

GCC youth partnered with the Environmental Stewards to build bird houses for the North Campus.

### Thank you for your support!

Your support of the Easter Sunrise Breakfast, Mother's Day Pie Auction and other events have made it possible for the youth to continue their mission of service to others. This summer we will be serving communities in Detroit, Michigan, Nashville, Tennessee and Central Indiana. Thank you for your generosity and spirit of giving!

### UPCOMING events:

#### Youth Car Wash!

Come to worship at either campus on Sunday, June 5 and leave with a sparkling clean car! Support the GCC Youth Mission Fund and disaster relief in Alabama.

#### Trip to Kings Island – June 7

Join GCC Youth as we travel to Kings Island for a one-day trip full of fun, fellowship and thrill rides! Cost \$45. Space is limited. Contact Julianne Hess, julianneh@geistchristian.org, 842-3594 ext. 503.

#### Dinner at Dayspring

GCC Youth serve dinner at Dayspring the first Tuesday of every month. E-mail julianneh@geistchristian.org to sign up to reserve a spot for you and your family. Upcoming Dates: June 7, July 5 & August 2.

#### 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 (Registration closed.)
- CYF – Nashville, Tennessee: July 11-16 (Registration deadline June 26)

Registration information available online at [www.geistchristian.org/ministries/youth](http://www.geistchristian.org/ministries/youth).

#### Youth Worship in TWO locations!

GCC offers two weekly youth services on Sunday mornings. 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! Special Summer Events

Regular Sunday youth group will start up again in the fall. Stay tuned for exciting summer special events to keep us connected and energized for the year ahead!

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Geist Christian Youth



@geistyouth

Get connected to GCC Youth!

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



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## Butterfly Garden Coming to North Campus

The Environmental Stewards Committee has received a grant from the Letha Outdoor Fund, a branch of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildlife Society. The Letha Fund was established as a memorial to Letha Queissner, to honor her passion for introducing children to nature. The grant will be used to prepare and plant a butterfly garden on the North Campus outside of the kindergarten classroom and overlooking the prairie and for books to help children identify butterflies and birds. The kindergartners have already planted seeds, coneflower, black-eyed Susans and sunflower that they will soon transfer to the bed.

In future years, children will help to weed, water, do additional planting, and of course, enjoy the butterfly and bird visitors. Planting will come in the next few weeks and the group would welcome any contributions of native plants and volunteers with interest in helping to establish and maintain this garden. Stop by this summer to view the Buckeye, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Monarch, and Painted Lady butterflies. For information contact, Pam Burt, 845-9246, psburt44@aol.com.

## From the Elders - Book Review

*Love Wins: A Book about Heaven and Hell and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived* by Rob Bell

Sometimes it takes me a while to "get into" a book. Not this one. Chapter 1, first page had me. I cannot begin to describe it so I will just quote it...

"Several years ago, we had an art show at our church. We invited artists to display their paintings, poems, and sculpture that reflected their understanding of what it means to be a peacemaker. One woman included in her work a quote from Mahatma Gandhi, which a number of people found quite compelling.

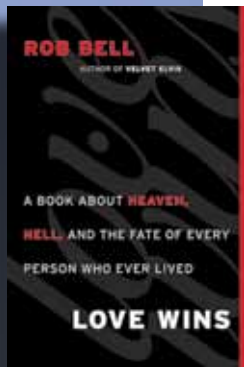
But not everyone. Someone attached a piece of paper to it. On the piece of paper was written: 'Reality check: He's in hell.'

Really? Gandhi's in hell? He is? We have confirmation of this? Somebody knows this?

Without a doubt? And that somebody decided to take on the responsibility of letting the rest of us know?"

Throughout the book, Bell reminds us that Jesus did not come to start a new religion. God is bigger than any of us can imagine. He is a God of love... and loves every one of us because He made each of us....not just Christians. Rob Bell helped put into words potential answers to nagging questions I have had in my faith journey about Heaven and Hell. He shares his insights, based on scripture, about our God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who wants all of His children be with Him eternally....not just "Christians".

This book is seen by some as controversial. It actually is not being sold in some Christian book stores. Yet I bought my copy at our book store. It was a reminder to me of what I love about our church...that being in this place helps me see God bigger than I can imagine; a God that loves everyone; a God that is inclusive of all. – Cathy Kennedy



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# ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## Church Transitions

### New Members

Nicholas Shahbazi  
Alesia Hicks, Garrett, Landon & Jackson  
Arlene Hughes  
Sally Hughes  
Mike & Patti McMillan  
Jordan & Rachael Reed

### Births

Scott & Amanda Thomas, son Graeme Michael, 5/2

### In Sympathy

Karyn Sinn, stepfather  
Dan Oliver, father  
Staci Pfungsten, aunt  
Jason Grumbacher, grandfather  
Anne Miller, husband

## April/May Attendance

WORSHIP	Apr 30/May1	May 7/8	May 14/15	May 21/22
5:30 PM NC	137	149	109	159
9:00 AM SC	153	218	152	157
10:00 AM NC	284	364	293	298
Youth North	17	25	20	33
10:30 AM SC	217	289	223	271
Youth South	61	115	113	76
<b>Totals</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>994</b>

## Baptisms Scheduled

Baptisms and confirmations of Pastors Class students are scheduled for:

- Sunday, June 5, 8:00 am
- Saturday, June 11, 7:00 pm
- Sunday, June 12, 8:00 am

All services take place at the South Campus in the Great Hall.

## Moving?

Keep the church office informed of any address, e-mail or phone number changes. Contact the church office, office@geistchristian.org or 842-3594 ext. 489.

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## Hygiene Kits – From Near and Far

Our prayers for healing and relief are with the people in communities affected by recent natural disasters.

Geist Christian Church has received several thousand dollars for Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee and development fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and nearly 600 emergency hygiene kits.

Half of the emergency kits received have come from elementary school students. GCC members Tally Shanley and Jane Ann Giles (Oaklandon Elementary, Lawrence Township) and Lori Cushman (Geist Elementary, Fishers) encouraged their schools to bring supplies and then classes assembled nearly 150 kits per school. In addition, Mrs. Stone's 4th grade class at Rymfire Elementary in Palm Coast, Florida, somehow found about GCC's efforts and sent their kits to us, so that they would be counted among those who are doing something to help.



↑ Courtney Richards reads letters packed with the hygiene kits from 4th graders in Palm Coast, FL.

Early in June, a small team will transport these relief kits to New Windsor MD, and work at the distribution end of the relief effort. Later, we will have information about opportunities for 'teachable and willing' volunteers to follow up the work currently being done by specialized and skilled emergency relief workers. In the meantime:

- pray for those affected, and for all who strive to help them.
- visit the Geist Christian Church > online payments page to make a donation to Week of Compassion
- pack hygiene kits and bring them to either campus
- stay in touch by going to the Week of Compassion page and finding updates (You can sign up for weekly email as well.)

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