



CrossWords

news of Geist Christian Church

March 2011

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"Living Questions" – Our Journey to Easter

"Ask. . . seek . . . knock, and the door will be opened for you." (Matthew 7:7)

Lent is a journey with Jesus. It begins in the wilderness and ends on the cross. Along the way, there are questions, questions about the journey and questions from people on the journey. Why is Jesus tempted? How can I be born again? Where is living waters? What must I do to receive eternal life? Why must Jesus die? Who is this king?

We have questions too. How can I talk to God? Why do I exist? Will God answer my prayers? Why do bad things happen to good people? What is the purpose of my life? Why was God so evident in the Bible but seems so distant to us now? Does my life really matter? Why do I have to go to church? How do I find peace?

Living Questions will explore our own personal questions in relation to the questions about Jesus and to Jesus. Spiritual growth involves asking and seeking; discovery comes in opening doors through dialogue and discussion. We go deeper by living the questions. *"For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who seeks finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."* (Matthew 7:8).



Season of Giving – Easter Outreach



Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 23. This is the day Geist Christian Church will distribute food and Easter baskets to those in need. Approximately 150 families will be cared for in this season of giving. This translates to 150 hams, 150 food baskets, about 50 bags of food for larger families to add to their food basket, and the contents of Easter baskets for about

300 children. Also needed are people to sort and assemble the Easter baskets and to help with the deliveries.

Beginning March 12/13, look for the Easter outreach display and sign-up sheets at each campus. Food lists and contents of the Easter baskets will be available at the display or online at the Geist Christian Church website. For further information, please contact Judy Apple-VanAlstine at japplevanalstine@aol.com or 317.626.8540.



Randy Spleth

RANDY REFLECTS

"I have more questions than answers," he said. "By now, shouldn't it be the other way around?" Good question.

Spiritual questioning is what we do as human beings. To wonder and to ask is a gift given by the Creator; it demonstrates our ability to reason. Seeking answers to our questions is a desire to understand our relationship with God. The first human story in the Bible is a story about questioning and knowing God. From that point on, scripture depicts men and woman asking questions. Sometimes there are answers; most times, there are more questions.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenges us to ask questions. *"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you"* (Matthew 7:7). He doesn't offer that there will be answers. Rather, he suggests that doors will be opened. By the very nature of opening a door, you arrive at a new place with its own set of questions.

Over the next seven weeks of Lent, we will do just that. Together we will ask, seek, and knock, in order that doors will be opened to us, to gain new insight and with it, new questions. The best questioning occurs in the midst of spiritual practice and dialog, in worship, Bible study and prayer. I hope you'll join me in "Living Questions." Together, we'll ask, seek and knock. At the end of our Lenten journey, we'll celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Don't be surprised that when we get there, we'll have more questions than answers.

Pre-school and Elementary Summer Programs Registering

KidsKamp and CampQuest are the summer children's programs at Geist Christian Church. KidsKamp is for children 3-6 years old while CampQuest is for those in Kindergarten through 5th grades. More information including registration forms are available online at www.geistchristian.org under the CONNECT tab.

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Opportunities for Adults

Exploration Bible Study

Looking for a Bible study to dig deeper into scripture? Exploration Bible Study is led by Senior Associate Minister Ryan Hazen and meets every other Friday evening from 6:30-7:30 pm at the South Campus. Upcoming dates are March 11 and 25.

Page Turners Book Club

Upcoming gatherings of the Geist Christian Church book club, Page Turners are:

March 23 – *The Reliable Wife* – author Robert Goolrich

May 25 – *Girl in Translation* – author Jean Kwok

July 27– *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.

Books+Symphony=New Opportunity

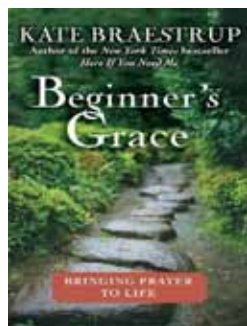
Good books and good music go together.

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra has begun a program with book clubs. The clubs read a book about a musician, discuss it and then go to hear a performance by the I.S.O. of the musician's work.

The first book discussion will be Beethoven's Hair by Russell Martin. Join the pre-concert talk about the book and then attend the performance of Beethoven's Eighth and Ninth Symphonies on June 17 or June 18. (Discounted tickets are available for the concert.) Please contact Elena Derbique at elenad@geistchristian.org or at 863-6484 for more information.

A Book Review – from the Elders

Beginner's Grace – Bringing Prayer to Life by Kate Braestrup



Kate Braestrup, a chaplain to the Maine Warden Service, has written a thoughtful and compelling book on prayer. Her writing combines details about her family and work while weaving in prayers that she uses at any given time that calls for prayer. Braestrup is a wonderful storyteller using the mundane, ordinary and also the most difficult crisis situations as her narrative. Her prayers might be as simple as "thank you" or a beautifully composed adaptation of a Psalm. She explains what prayer is and cites her own experience in learning to pray.

Braestrup's book reminds us to make the practice of offering prayer a part of everyday life and work - a time to be grateful, mindful and loving and in conversation with God. –Myrna Mullins

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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 – 11:00am. Join us for 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! An Easter egg hunt will be at the end of the event.

Donations of candy- filled plastic eggs for the Easter egg hunt can be dropped off starting March 11. Please drop the donated eggs off at either location in the tubs located at the Children's Ministries' bulletin boards. Donations of donuts, muffins or fruit are needed for the breakfast. If you are interested in helping at this event, please contact Julie Rhoad, julier@geistchristian.org.

VBS – Save the dates!

This summer Geist Christian Church will again provide two weeks of VBS! Two different weeks, two different themes, twice the FUN!!

South Campus - June 13-17 Come join us on Main Street for morning and evening sessions.

North Campus - July 18-22 Join us at Son Surf Beach for a morning session.

Children ages 4 through those entering 5th grade are invited to experience a fun week of songs, games, crafts, mission projects, and much more. Registrations will begin in May. Directors and volunteers NEEDED! Please contact Holly Blunk, hollyb@geistchristian.org or Julie Rhoad, julier@geistchristian.org to find out how YOU can be a part of preparing or participating in Vacation Bible School.

Geist Kids (Kindergarten – 2nd grade)

March 20– 4 - 5:30 pm - Watch Children's Ministry updates for location.

JYF (3rd- 5th grade)

- March 6 – 11:45 am – 1:45 pm, South Campus- Please RSVP for this event. Drivers needed! After a quick lunch, we will be traveling to the Lawrence Caring Center to deliver the FaithQuest collections of underwear, socks and diapers. The children will get a tour of the facility and help sort our donations.
- March 20 – 4 - 5:30 pm

FaithQuest- (Kindergarten - 5th grade)

Esther collection- You may still donate new underwear, socks (toddler – teen) and diapers (sizes 4, 5, &6) until March 6. Please help our neighbors in Lawrence Township by providing these necessary items.

The Lenten unit will begin on March 11. What does Easter mean to me? Is it chocolate bunnies and colored eggs soon eaten and forgotten? 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.

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GCC Youth are Getting Christ Centered!

HIGHLIGHTS from past month:

SouperBowl of Caring! – The SouperBowl of Caring is the nation’s largest youth-led movement and GCC was a part of the action collecting \$810 and more than 450 canned goods to support two local food pantries.

Day of Service at Wheeler Mission – CYF students and sponsors traveled to the Wheeler Mission Lighthouse Center on February 15th to serve 180 meals!



↑ Jeff Dodge, Trystan Fugate, Daniel Percy, Megan Dodge, Julianne Hess and Drew Furry serve at the Wheeler Mission.

UPCOMING events:

Annual Pancake Supper – On Tuesday, March 8 GCC youth will host the annual Pancake Supper. Tickets are available for purchase before and after worship services as well as online at www.geistchristian.org. All proceeds benefit the youth mission fund.

Location: South Campus

Time: Tuesday, March 8, 6:00-7:30 pm

GCC Youth Battle of the Bands! – Join us on Friday, March 18 for a night of music and FUN! Bands representing local high schools will compete for prizes as they play music on the big stage! Interested bands should contact Julianne Hess for more information, JulianneH@geistchristian.org, 842-3594, ext. 503.

Location: North Campus

Time: Friday, March 18, 7:30pm-9:30pm

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, 10:00am (North) and 10:30am (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



Students enjoy games and crafts at a recent youth group.

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

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Fitness Opportunities

Shape UP!

- **BOOTCAMP** - By popular demand, Ultimate Bootcamp is going to 3 days a week! You can choose one, two, or three days a week of a personal trainer workout without the personal trainer price. The next session runs March 7-31; Monday Tuesday and/or Thursdays – 5:30 am – 6:30 am at the North Campus. Sign up online www.geistchristian.org under the CONNECT/Sports and Fitness tab.
- **ZUMBA** - Offered on Mondays and Tuesdays at the North Campus from 9:45-10:45 am. Contact Dana Newbrough, dana.newbrough@gmail.com Childcare available.

Weekday Ministries

WDM REGISTRATION - Weekday Ministries' school registration is in full swing. We serve over four hundred families between the two campuses from ages 18 months to 6 years old. Child's Day Out and Preschool classes run on a part time schedule which consists of 2 to 4 day options depending on age group, with all classes meeting from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. The Kindergarten program is a full day schedule which meets Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Weekday Ministries kindergarten offers a unique environment. What makes us different? We provide low student to teacher ratio with individualized instruction, curriculum standards that exceed the state and national standards, fine arts and much more, all set in a loving, Christian environment. Currently, we have limited openings available for incoming families for the 2011-2012 school year. Find more information on the Geist Christian Church website at www.geistchristian.org or call the school at 578-4591.

PARENTING CLASS - Geist Christian Church will once again offer the Conscious Discipline for Parents class this spring. Many parents in the GCC community have taken this class over the last couple of years and praised the program. Participants will learn the 7 powers of self-control and 7 skills of Conscious Discipline. Conscious Discipline utilizes the unique approach of increasing social-emotional skills of adults first. The adults then feel empowered to use everyday conflicts to teach children life skills. No matter the age of children, this 10-week class can be life changing. The class is open to the community so invite neighbors, friends and co-workers to check it out. The class will be held on Monday evenings, March 7-May 9 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the south campus. Register online at the Geist Christian Church website. Contact Vicki Ruppert, vickir@geistchristian.org, 842-3594, ext. 504.

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ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Church Transitions

New Members

Dan & Dede Bollman, Cole
Myrna Dowell
Bruce & Carolyn Laughlin, Caitlin, Madison & John
Dennis & Melanie Lowe, Camden, Delanie & Grady
Josh & Lori Karwowski, Joseph, Jacob & Alyssa
Nicole Kuruda, Madeline & Kady
Stephanie Sheaves

In Sympathy

Stephanie Wainscott, grandmother
Betty Sterrett, cousin
Anna Hall, nephew
Doc Pratt, mother
Chris Burns, cousin
Kevin Robbins, grandmother
Jayne Hults, father
David Donaldson, brother

January/February Attendance

| WORSHIP | Jan 15/16 | Jan 22/23 | Jan 29/30 | Feb 5/6 | Feb 12/13 | Feb 19/20 |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 5:30 PM NC | 160 | 148 | 187 | 150 | 153 | 166 |
| 9:00 AM SC | 133 | 140 | 135 | 113 | 153 | 140 |
| 10:00 AM NC | 338 | 283 | 300 | 274 | 325 | 275 |
| 10:30 AM SC | 263 | 307 | 245 | 239 | 286 | 309 |
| Youth South | 67 | 77 | 80 | 91 | 60 | 44 |
| Youth North | 33 | 29 | 25 | 25 | 28 | 28 |
| Totals | 994 | 984 | 972 | 892 | 1005 | 962 |

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Annual Pancake Supper – Tuesday, March 8 – South Campus

6:00 – 7:30 pm is the time for the annual Pancake Supper. Tickets are available for purchase before and after worship services as well as online at www.geistchristian.org. Adults \$5, children age 6 & under \$3. All proceeds benefit the youth mission fund.

Grounds Work Days Resume

Again this year, there will be a monthly work day to care for the grounds and landscape at each campus. Beginning in March, 1st Wednesday of the month (2nd) at the North Campus – 2nd Wednesday (9th) at the South Campus – beginning at 5:30 pm but come anytime.

BRAINfood Luncheon

On Wednesday, March 16, Caroline Cinamon & furry friend, from the nonprofit "Prison Greyhounds" will be our guest speaker. Their organization looks to place former racing greyhounds trained by inmates in permanent loving homes. Plan to join us at noon for lunch, cost \$7.50 per person. Contact Lori Kline at 842-3594, ext 489, lorik@geistchristian.org.

APRIL BRAINfood - Wednesday, April 20, noon. Join us for guest speaker Ruth Ann Ingram, author of *Swimming with Frogs*.

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