

# Geneva

TODAY!

3rd Quarter  
2010

Let's fill the pews on Back to Church Sunday, like we did here last Christmas Eve.



## National Back to Church Sunday - September 12th!

*If you ask unchurched people to come with you to church, most likely they'll say yes!*

Research shows that 82% of unchurched people are open to attending church if invited by a friend, and yet only 2% of churchgoers invited someone to worship in the past year. National Back to Church Sunday provides the perfect opportunity for people

everywhere to rediscover church and for current church members to invite them.

The concept works. Churches that participated in last year's Back to Church Sunday event saw, on average, a 19% increase in attendance and some had larger attendance than their Christmas and Easter services!

Our services on September 12 will be specifically geared towards

those who used to go to church, but don't any more, and for first-time attendees. You have the whole summer to make your list of people you plan to invite!

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Join your Geneva family at the very kid-friendly Olympiad Park in Mission Viejo (on the corner of Alicia Parkway and Olympiad) for food, fun and fellowship **July 21st** and **August 18th** from **5:30 - 8:30 PM**. Please bring a dish to share, drinks for yourself, family or guests. We'll provide the burgers, plates, etc. No sign-ups needed. Just show up for a good time!

## Upcoming Sermon Topics

*The Good and Beautiful God*, by James Bryan Smith

The “Good and Beautiful God” Series continues. Books may still be purchased on Amazon.com or any book retailer.

July 4 - “Let Freedom Ring”  
Rom 8:1-2, 11-17

July 11 - “Don’t Try to Change” - Rom 6:1-11

July 18 - “Slow Down”  
Luke 10:38-42

July 25 - “Have You Found What You’re Seeking?” Matt 7:7-11

**September 12**  
Back to Church Sunday

Enjoy an engaging and realistic dialog about God and life, as we welcome many people who haven’t attended in a while - or ever!

## Rummage Sale Totals

The Geneva rummage sale brought in just over **\$12,000** for the Growing Forward fund. Thank you Gloria Newell and her team of over **150 volunteers** for all of your hard work and dedication!



Members Bobbie Johnson and Dorris Wendel are in good spirits as they help out with the jewelry at Geneva's Rummage Sale.

## Message from Pastor Tom

### God Turns Rummage into Treasure

Jesus once said, “With mortals, it is impossible, but for God, all things are possible.” He wasn’t thinking of rummage sales when he said it, but he could have been. On Saturday, June 26, Geneva’s light shone through the “June gloom” in a spectacular way as over 1,000 people from our community visited our campus and purchased clothing, furniture, books, jewelry, and more. Not only did they walk out with bargains of a lifetime, they also got a taste of Geneva’s hospitality and friendliness.

The event was much more than a rummage sale; it was an act of love from our congregation to the whole community. Volunteers from 9-year-olds to 90-year-olds worked for weeks leading up to the sale, pricing items and picking up furniture from people’s homes. And although it was great to save people tens of thousands

of dollars, we were blessed by feeling the wonderful side effects of working together, side-by-side, and having a blast doing it.

Special thanks to Gloria Newell, the mastermind of the event. When interviewing her for this article, she quickly turned the focus back onto God’s amazing provision and timing. One day when Gloria herself was in a jewelry store receiving pricing assistance from the owner, a man overheard her talking about the event. Without hesitation, he pulled out a 2-ounce Troy silver coin from his pocket and handed it to Gloria saying, “I want you to have this for your sale.” She also tells the story of how Geneva member Verabelle Stratford took it upon herself to order pizza for all the volunteers the day before the event. One story like this after another tumbles from Gloria’s lips, so watch out if you get her started!

Congratulation, Geneva, for a job well done. And well done, dear God, for helping us turn rummage into treasure.

## Noteworthy Events

July		August		September	
5	Office Closed Post 4th of July	2-6	Vacation Bible School	6	Labor Day (office closed)
14	Caravelle Mariners Meets - 11:15 AM	18	Summer Nights at the Park (see cover)	12	Back To Church Sunday!
21	Summer Nights at the Park (see cover)	29	Financial Peace University Preview	12	Financial Peace University Begins
27	Session & Deacons Meet - 6:30 PM	29	Family Ministry BBQ	15	Big Wednesday Begins!

### Caravelle Mariners

All seniors are encouraged to attend this special fellowship group. The Mariners meet in McLennan Lounge the second Wednesday of every month (except for August!) for a luncheon, followed by a special program focusing on education, inspiration or entertainment. To learn more, call Pat Chapman at 830-7374, or email [drpatchapman@aol.com](mailto:drpatchapman@aol.com).

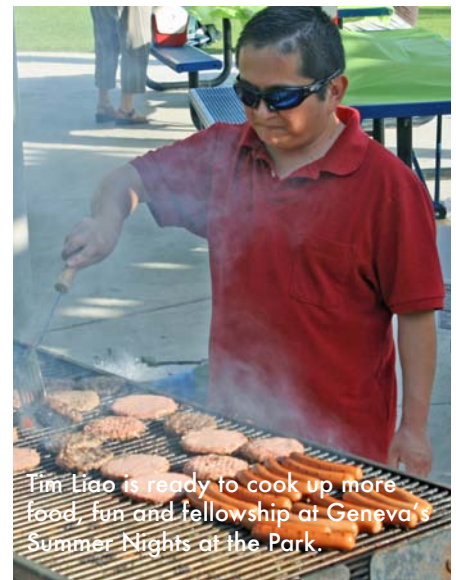
### Family Ministry BBQ

Families with children twelfth grade and under, mark your calendar for **Sunday, August 29th**. You are invited to our annual “Kick-Off” BBQ where we celebrate the end of summer, and tell you about the programs coming up in the fall for children

and youth. Safety training, program registration, volunteer sign-ups, curriculum overviews - all this and more is covered during our break-out sessions. This is a “must” if you have children.

### Big Wednesday

Big Wednesday is our midweek program for children 8th grade and under, and their parents. Kids participate in recreation, Worship Arts and Bible Study. Jr. High kids meet for fellowship and worship. Parents even get their own Bible Study time! Then we all come together for dinner. If you’re interested in either participating or volunteering, for this very fun program, call Edie Robertson at 837-4765, x207 or email her at [erobertson@genevapres.org](mailto:erobertson@genevapres.org). 837-4765, x207.



Tim Liao is ready to cook up more food, fun and fellowship at Geneva's Summer Nights at the Park.

### Sunday, August 29

#### Financial Peace University (FPU) Preview

Geneva members and non-members are invited to this hour-long preview of the FPU program and how it can change your financial life. More info on page 4.

## Educational Opportunities

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### Financial Peace University (FPU)

*August 29 - Preview*

*September 12 - First Class*

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Back by popular demand, Geneva is again hosting the life-changing *Financial Peace University* (FPU) program at the church this fall. FPU teaches you to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. More than 1 million families have attended FPU with amazing results. (On average, they pay off \$5,300 in debt and save \$2,700 in just 90 days!) Geneva members and non-members are invited to attend the program preview August 29 at the church at 11:00 AM. Child care is available. To register for the entire program, call the church at 837-2323.



Co-Leaders Anne Chapman, Susan Wegner-Hermann and Trisha Tedrow (Cindy Pieterse is below deck!) gear up for a pirate-themed Vacation Bible School August 2-6.



## Sign Up for Vacation Bible School

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**August 2nd through 6th**, kids age four through sixth grade will experience the deep, rolling waters of God's love as they set sail for Geneva's "High Seas Expedition!" Vacation Bible School! New this year, is a special treat for kids 1st - 6th grade who are going to be shipwrecked on Geneva island Thursday night and will wake up to a pancake breakfast Friday morning with their parents.

Registration forms are available in the church office or online at [www.genevapres.org](http://www.genevapres.org). Click on "Upcoming Events", then on the "High Seas" logo. Register online at [www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/cz/geneva](http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/cz/geneva).

## Caring Center Coming to Geneva

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We want to better care for our congregation and community. To this end, our Caring Ministry will soon be debuting a Caring & Resource Center on the church campus staffed by trained volunteers.

Our vision is for the Center to eventually provide services such as: emergency meals, transportation to worship and doctor appointments, hospital and home visitation, equipment (wheelchairs/walkers/etc.), and many more functions designed to provide the care our members need.

If you are interested in helping develop this exciting new program and/or want to be one of our specially trained volunteers, please contact elder Terry Cocking at [tmc3@cox.net](mailto:tmc3@cox.net), or call the church office at 837-2323.

## Prayer List

“Brethren, pray for us.”

2 Thessalonians 5:25

### Congregation & Friends:

Dotty Felten  
Joann Glosner  
Kim Golbuff  
William Jarjour  
Carol Joyce  
Rick Lange  
Loy LeFevre  
Maggie McCain

Jackie Overfield  
Jennifer Polanchak  
Betty Waller  
Robert Wendel

### Military:

Matthew Garrison  
Matthew Gomez  
Kyle Hansen  
Alex Hathaway

Mike Harvey  
Marissa La Court  
Ross La Court  
Eric Olivas  
Rudd Olmstead  
Woody Olmstead  
Michael Sahn  
Jason Temple  
David Weaver  
Carey Wheeler



When Roger Haines was asked to take three young ladies for a row on a lake at church picnic in 1939, he had no idea he'd be in the same boat with one of the passengers for a lifetime. Congratulations to Roger and Wilma Haines, who celebrated 70 wonderful years of marriage June 16th.

What is the secret of their success? After a thoughtful pause, Roger says, “We joined a Sunday school class together and learned to put Christ at the center of our marriage.” True to form, Roger and Wilma have been active church members in each community in which they've lived their entire married life, becoming members of Geneva in 1990.

Wilma and Roger have five children, eleven grandchildren and

fifteen great grandchildren. As Roger says, “God threw us together.” Looks like God definitely knew what he was doing!

### Men's Retreat

Seven Geneva men did just that recently as they joined over 400 others from churches and military bases around Southern California at the annual Men's Conference at Forest Home in April. The theme of the event was “Walk Worthy”, based on Col: 9-10. According to attendee Terry Cocking, great fellowship, food, speakers and weather helped to make it a weekend to remember. This is an annual event, and the group encourages other men from Geneva to join them in years to come.



Left to right, bottom row: Terry Cocking, Garry Nelson, Don Capelle, Howard Prol, Top row: Bill Klimek, Nick Nelson, Mark Reed.

### This n' That:

#### Double the Love!



Dev and Rob Stormes

with new big sister Sandy, recently introduced the newest members of the Geneva family. Twins Ross and Aelish were born June 4th, and weighed just a little over 5 lbs. each. Brother and sister are doing fine and we hear Sandy is already a huge help. Congratulations Stormes family. Get some sleep!

#### Howard Prol Attends General Assembly

“Once an Elder always an Elder” is a saying in the Presbyterian Church (USA). This rings true for Geneva Elder Howard Prol who has been elected by our Presbytery to serve as an “Elder Commissioner” to the 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota this summer. Please pray for Howard (see photo at left) as he meets with commissioners from all over the nation to discern the mind of Christ for our larger church. Blessings to you, Howard, as you seek God's will on the church's behalf!

# Geneva

## BLESSINGS

"...AND IN YOU  
ALL THE  
FAMILIES OF  
THE EARTH  
SHALL BE  
BLESSED."

GENESIS 12:3



Missionary Devir Perez shares a song with Amelia Jones as she travels "Around the World" on the courtyard learning about missions during Geneva's recent Mission Weekend Celebration.

## God's presence is felt during Mission Celebration Weekend!

Guests from Mexico, Africa and Indonesia helped bring the world to Geneva during May's Mission Celebration Weekend.

Saturday evening at the International Banquet, attendees were riveted by the stories of missionaries from Indonesia and Mexico. We learned about Mark Chapman, Geneva's Student

Ministry Director, and his team going to build a church in Peru and the recent Mexico house build by Geneva youth. The evening ended with our Kenyan visitors (many of whom are pictured below with their host families) leading us in song.

Our guests

worshipped with us Sunday and Geneva kids once again traveled the courtyard getting stamps in their passports as they participated in activities designed to teach them about mission work. Our

Kenyan visitors were busy sharing their stories in classrooms and special guest Bruce Bugbee inspired us from the pulpit.

Our thanks to the Mission Commission team for making the entire weekend a time of sharing, learning and worshipping together that will resonate for a long time to come.



## Thank You!

Over \$34,000 was raised during Mission Celebration Weekend to support world ministry.

## Kenyan School Visit

Nine-year-old Geneva member Kyle Robertson had the best “Show and Tell” ever at Oak Grove Elementary School in Aliso Viejo when his Kenyan house guests visited his third grade classroom in May.

The children in the class were mesmerized by the African gentlemen and peppered them with questions, “What do you eat in Africa”, “What are your schools like?”, “Do you have pets?” In fact, retired teacher David Kiwaura Njuguna, shown in the photo above with Kyle, was very impressed with the curiosity of the kids, saying “These children are not afraid to speak and they are so intelligent. There is much to learn from them.”

The Kenyans were so patient, loving and kind to the children, teaching them swahili words and singing with them. “I watched with tears in my eyes,” says Kyle’s mom, Edie Robertson, Children’s Ministry Director at Geneva, “You could just see hearts and eyes opening all around the room and feel God’s presence.”

At the end of the visit, kids stood in line to get a picture taken with their Kenyan guests, and many hugs were given all around. It truly was the best “Show and Tell” ever.



## Blessed by Talented Youth



The Geneva Video Team, part of the “Growing Forward” initiatives introduced in January, debuted it’s

first project at the recent International Banquet held as part of Mission Weekend. Geneva 8th-grader Bradd Schofield (below) took the lead editing the video which recapped the Mexico house-building trip many of our youth attended last March.

“One of the primary goals of the video initiative was involving youth more actively in the life and participation of the church,” explains elder Ed Sanchez, “I was impressed by the level of sophistication and technical knowledge Bradd brought to the team. The fact that he’s only 14 years old makes his expertise even more remarkable.”

The Video Team has big plans to use more video for outreach, community life and communications. If you have experience in videography, photography and/or video/TV production, or if you’re interested in learning, team members Mark Chapman, Josh Prichard and David Parker want you to join them in this new ministry. Youth are especially encouraged to get involved. If interested, contact Ed Sanchez at [leadfoot\\_ed@hotmail.com](mailto:leadfoot_ed@hotmail.com).

## Service Opportunities



Here are some ways you can contribute to ministry at Geneva.

### New Caring Center Trainees Needed

See article on page 4 to find out more about this exciting new expansion of our Caring Ministry. Contact elder Terry Cocking at [tmc3@cox.net](mailto:tmc3@cox.net) to get involved.

### Join the Worship Commission

If you have a passion for worship and ideas to share, then the Worship Commission needs you. Contact elder Gabe Burt at 949-290-9994 if you want to become part of this dynamic ministry where you can see and feel the results of your efforts on a weekly basis.

### Sunday Technology Assistant

We need someone to assist Jonathan Lorge on Sunday mornings with sound, slides and basically anything else needed in the way of technology to make the traditional service hum! No experience necessary, but it would be nice. The times are 7:45 -9:15 AM, and 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM. Volunteer for one shift or both! Contact the church at 837-2323.

## Back to Church Sunday Helpers

You can help bring people back to church by passing out invitations to family, friends and neighbors, placing doorknob hangers at every house on your street and hanging posters.

This is an ALL church event! To help, email Jane Kingston at:

[jkington@genevapres.org](mailto:jkington@genevapres.org).



## Pastors & Staff

Have information to share in *Geneva Today!*? Call Edie Robertson at 949-837-4765, x207 or email her at [erobertson@genevapres.org](mailto:erobertson@genevapres.org).



Jeff McCrory, Jr.  
Pastor, Head of Staff

Tom Cramer  
Pastor, Family Ministries and Mission

Carolyn McOwen  
Pastor, Care and Community Life

Michael Wenning  
Pastor Emeritus

Alvin Brightbill  
Director of Music

Mark Chapman  
Director, Student Ministries

Jane Kingston  
Director, Ministry Support

Gloria Newell  
Director of Finance

Edie Robertson  
Director, Children's Ministries



## ∞ In Remembrance ∞

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” *Matthew 5:4*  
We pray for the families of the following Geneva members and friends who have gone to be with the Lord. They will be greatly missed.

Jane Boyd	April 10
Florence Blaylock	May 13
Margie Cleman	March 30
Jean Dagert	June 30
Cal Huber	June 14

Ron Huber	May 8
Glen Joyce	June 10
Judy Portillo	April 11
Chislaine Wood	April 13

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Geneva**  
**TODAY**

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