

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENESEO

Planting Seeds For Eternity

"Anyone can count the number of seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed."

(Rev. Dr. Thomas K. Tewell)

This coming year, as in the past years, the Leadership Council and I are inviting you to plant seeds of faith with us as we seek to live for Christ.

The Bible shares with us many examples of seeds and faith. The story of the mustard seed stands out for me. In this story, Christ tells His disciples that if they had the faith as the size of a mustard seed grain, a very small seed, then they could work together to literally move a mountain.

God is inviting each of us to plant the seeds of faith and He will cause our seeds to grow and produce. (John 15)

Planting seeds for eternity is all about doing and sharing your resources with God. The seeds that will last for eternity are the things we do in the world for Christ. The work of reaching, discipling and sending workers forth into the community to heal the broken, give shelter to the homeless and to feed those who are hungry is the highest work that will gain the greatest reward from our Lord.

Join us as we seek to live for Christ in our everyday walk with God, in order to see God produce fruit from the seeds we plant in the hearts of our com-

munity. (Matthew 13:31; II Corinthians 9:6-15)



Senior Ministry Begins Strong

First United Methodist Church of Geneseo ministry for senior members (50+) and friends meets the fourth Wednesday of selected months for Christian fellowship, music, devotions and a variety of events. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the

2006 schedule is shortened, but we hope to return to monthly meetings in 2007. Watch your bulletins and the newsletter for the latest information on our events.

Events usually feature a

luncheon or dinner with a program. The cost for each event varies with the expense of the event, so be sure to check the latest information. Please come and join us for fun, food and fellowship!

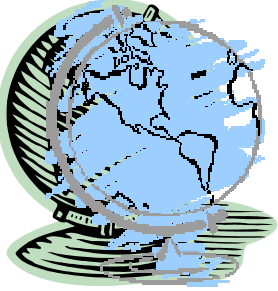
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- We stand ready to help—L.E.A.F. Fund

Leadership Council



“The world is my parish.”

John Wesley

The Leadership Council is the central management and coordinating committee of the church. Each committee is represented by a member of the staff or the Coordinator of Council on Ministries. The Leadership Council has approval authority over all the other committees. By having all the committees represented, the Leadership Council also adds coordination and syn-

ergy across the committees. The Leadership Council has “members at large” to add other voices representing the congregation of the church.

Many of the committees of the church are recommended in the United Methodist Discipline, as is the basic structure of the church. Most are long-standing committees with ongoing functions. The Lead-

ership Council may also create special committees for specific tasks, such as a building committee.

Part of the Leadership Council’s responsibility is to facilitate decision-making and support implementation of those decisions. This may involve holding all-church meetings and generating special communications as unique events occur.

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Directing Pastor’s Thoughts

“ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ”

Deuteronomy 6:5

This past year has been one of blessings in which we achieved goals with the help of our Lord. We finished the year financially in the black and reached a goal of fifteen percent growth in all areas of the ministry. We simply thought HUGE, being challenged by our Council Chair, Joe Witter, and you as a church reached huge growths

in membership, goals, and in your giving to support the work of Christ through First Methodist Church of Geneseo.

We experienced fantastic worship services led by our music program. We were inspired by guest speakers like Lisa Whelchel, Jahn Moskowitz, Rev. Raleigh Washington and Rachel Washing-

ton.

People from across the

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Rev. Robert K. Freeman
2004—Present

Congregational Care and Church Growth



Plan in your schedule a small group experience!

As Director of Congregational Care Ministries, I am responsible for helping people discover and deploy their spiritual gifts so they may serve as an expression of God’s love to advance Christ’s Kingdom and the ministries of First United Methodist Church. We exist to build a sense

of community in the church through encouraging fellowship among the members, nurturing members and visitors, and reaching others to minister to special needs.

Some of the opportunities that we were able to provide this past year include the

new Young Adult Ministry, which was funded by a \$1,900.00 transformational grant we received; we have provided interpretation for the deaf at special services; the new “Young at Heart” Senior Ministry started; leadership

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Congregational Care ... *continued*

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training seminar on counseling skills and crisis situations was offered to small group leaders; Vacation Bible School; summer 2005 Unity Sunday in the Park church service with potluck and day of family-oriented events and games; Faith Factor after-school program for children; Beginnings, an eight-week class for new members; Prayer Summit Con-

ference; Women's Prayer Team; "One Hour of Prayer" on Wednesday to seek God for revival and restoration in the Church; and Disciple I Bible study, a 34-week intensive Bible study for persons of all ages. The top four goals for Congregational Care in 2006 are to increase participation in small groups by 25%; develop and implement Soul Care Ministry spiritual care; begin "Safety First" program

(background investigation reports on all volunteers who work with children / youth); and update / revise the service sheets for ministry. The long term goal is to develop service sheets into a booklet of service/ministry complete with descriptions of ministry areas.

Chris Sullivan
Director of Congregational Care

*"Let Your light
so shine
before the
world that
they may
know that God
is our
Lord and you
are His child."*

Pastor Bob



Education and Youth

The Youth Ministry of Geneseo First United Methodist seeks to win students to Christ and mold them into world-changers. We seek to do this by presenting salvation for all youth, discipleship for all believers, and equipping youth for life beyond our program. Throughout 2005, God moved and worked in new and amazing ways. We saw several students make commitments to Jesus Christ. "The Rock" youth service saw a doubling in attendance. And each Wednesday night new students were venturing through the

Lighthouse doors to see what God was doing.

With the incredible help of so many adult volunteers the youth were able to spread the love of God in Mexico and to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. They attended many special ministry conferences, both locally and around the country.

Overall, this year held radical change for many individuals. And we pray, as we look to the rest of 2006, that through more leadership training, specialized curriculums, mission opportunities, discipleship

groups and prayer ministries, that we continue to impact students with the life-changing love of God.

This new year holds many opportunities to equip students in their faith. My prayer is that we might seek out how to reach each student where they are on their journey, and provide them with opportunities for growth and movement in their faith. We will aim to do this through focused attention on Biblical study and personal discipleship. We want to raise up a generation of students that can invest in other

youth, and prepare them for life as young adult believers.

The Education Ministry of First United Methodist Church seeks to proclaim the Gospel to the world, to grow people in their faith, and send disciples to serve the community. We have done this through the use of solid Biblically based curriculum, discipleship-centered spe-

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Planting seeds by reaching out into the community.

"Go therefore, and make disciples baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.."

Matthew 28:19



Planting seeds in the community for the Lord.

Outreach

Reaching the family of faith, our community, and the world with the Gospel of Christ Jesus and the ministry of First United Methodist Church of Geneseo is the mission of the Outreach Committee. From communications to technology, programs to special events, calendar year 2005 will long be remembered as a Kingdom year!

Holiday Hunger Food Drives at Easter and Christmas addressed 100% of the need for

the immediate and surrounding community. The *Sharing the Word* Scripture outreach distributed 600 copies of the Holy Bible to the Children of God. *Hallelujah House* and *Journey To Bethlehem* events set new attendance and participation records. *First Look* weekly e-newsletter made its debut to over 100 families providing up-to-date information on church activities, programs, news and so much more. Expansion of the church website to

include rich multimedia content and a new user-friendly interface enabled viewers from around the world to hear the Gospel message. Our Missions program continues to reach souls for Christ through a broad array of projects and support initiatives.

We wait in joyful expectation for how God will use us in 2006. Come join us!

Mark Nowakowski
Director of Outreach

Missions Giving

In 2005, the congregation of Geneseo First gave almost \$30,000.00 in missions funds. That is phenomenal!

Funds were disbursed to Human Relations Day, Heifer Project, Golden Cross Agencies (The Baby Fold, Chaddock Home, Methodist Medical Center of Peoria, Wesley Village of Macomb, Evenglow Lodge of Pontiac, and Sunset Home of Quincy), UMCOR Relief Agency, United Methodist Student Day of the

Central Illinois Conference, World Communion, One Great Hour of Sharing, Geneseo Food Pantry, Mexico Missions, Crisis Pregnancy Center, DeLaCerde House, Henry County Right To Life, Henry County Safe House, Henry County Children's Advocacy Center, Quad Cities Victory Riders #421, GCFA (missionary support), Lutheran Braille Evangelism Ministry, Christian Freedom International, Intervarsity, Road To Jerusalem, Youth For Christ—Geneseo, Gene-

seo Young Life, Congregation Beth Emeth, Southeast Asia Tsunami Relief and Hurricane Katrina Relief.

In addition to cash donations, we also sent many needed items to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for distribution to hurricane victims, and sent monthly barrels of food to the Geneseo Food Pantry.

You are to be commended on your giving. Thank you for your generous support of these missions!

Directing Pastor's Thoughts ... *continued*

(Continued from page 2)

world have been keeping our ministry in their prayers and support in large part due to our web site and the communications teams. When the chair of the Leadership Council asked us to think HUGE, the excitement carried us throughout the year. We were able to

purchase and pay for a new parsonage in the Richmond Hill community for the Directing Pastor, we were able to pay off our new grand piano as a gift for the Lord, and we were able to make an additional on the principal payment of over \$26,000.00 towards the debt of the New Building Loan.

Thank you to each person who played a part in making the various ministries work and bringing glory to our Lord, Jesus Christ. May we continue to work for Christ in the coming years.

Bob Freeman
Directing Pastor

Financial Overview



Planting seeds by reaching out through tithing and gifts.

	2004	2005
Current Account		
Income	\$472,809.36	\$520,970.36
Expense	\$472,606.45	\$521,047.24
Ending Balance	\$203.31	\$126.45
Reserve Account		
Income	\$250,704.30	\$472,021.47
Expense	\$238,506.74	\$501,674.71
Ending Balance	\$127,974.61	\$98,094.37
Investment Account (for parsonage)		
Income	\$30,209.93	\$3,825.00
Expense	\$2,766.49	\$173,974.06
Ending Balance	\$170,149.06	\$0.00

	2004	2005
Memorial Camp Scholarship		
Income	\$1,077.86	\$837.16
Expense	\$154.91	\$679.58
Ending Balance	\$8,505.00	\$8,662.58
New Building Fund		
Income	\$66,894.27	\$53,725.20
Expense	\$72,459.40	\$56,119.82
Ending Balance	\$14,494.62	\$12,100.00
Parsonage Fund		
Income	\$0.00	\$231,683.93
Expense	\$0.00	\$231,683.93
Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00

Property and Other Assets	
Market Value of Church Buildings	\$3,688,000.00
Market Value of Parsonage and contents of church buildings	\$294,000.00
Market Value of Other Assets	\$106,833.00
Indebtedness	\$265,500.00

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength”

Mark 12:30

Conference Claims

The amounts listed below are assessed by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Geneseo First has always paid their claims and advances in full and on time..

	2003	2004	2005
Clergy Pension / Health Benefits	\$21,540.00	\$21,682.00	\$26,556.00
Clergy Support / Administration	\$19,104.00	\$18,674.00	\$22,872.00
Connectional Ministries	\$2,940.00	\$2,762.00	\$3,384.00
World Service / Benevolence	\$13,608.00	\$14,074.00	\$17,244.00



Planting seeds by sacrificial giving.

L.E.A.F. Fund

Income	\$16,372.18
Expense	\$15,807.75
Balance	\$564.43

Little Green Apple Preschool

Income (includes donations)	\$29,521.35
Expense	\$27,600.83
Balance	\$7,690.37

Lighthouse

Income	\$4,830.43
Expense	\$5,650.57
Balance	\$2,525.54

United Methodist Women

Income	\$6,252.36
Expense	\$6,620.47
Balance	\$6,910.32

All financial information is based on the audit performed for the calendar year 01/01/05—12/31/05.

"Seeking To Live For Christ!"

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENESEO

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While the Leadership Council is made up of a cross section of the membership of the church, it also sponsors several events itself. These include:

Annual Planning Day where the committees schedule the next year's events on the church calendar. This is usually held in late August or early September for the next year.

Publish the Annual Report and hold an Annual Charge Conference. Copies of the Annual Report may be found on table outside the sanctuary or in the Narthex all year round.

Joe Witter, Leadership Council Chair

**We are on the web!
GeneseoFirstUMC.org**

Education and Youth ... *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

cial events and local community service projects.

2005 proved to be a great year in the life of the Education ministry. The children have a solid Sunday morning program, which through the help of wonderful volunteers, has put in place a Biblically centered curriculum, and a special time of music and singing. We saw many special events happen successfully that impacted the life of so many, including Vacation Bible School, Easter Children's



Church and Faith Factor. We have seen many new faces, and continue to welcome new visitors. The focus for 2005, for children and adults, was discipleship. This same focus will be carried as we continue through 2006.

Our goals for 2006 are to increase Sunday School attendance, make a special effort to welcome and include visiting students, provide more assistance to our current volunteers,

and make the education ministry a relevant and meaningful ministry to all involved. Our job is to present everyone in our ministry with the message of Jesus Christ, and raise them up to be solid Christ-centered adults in the church.

God has already done so many good things, and we look forward to His continued faithfulness!

**Sarah Wanck
Minister of Education
and Youth**