

## Vital Signs: Genesis Vision Statement

*"By God's grace, we will be a transforming presence in the world, journeying toward spiritual maturity."*

This is our first crack at a new vision statement for Genesis. It isn't flashy. There aren't bells and whistles. It's compelling in a subtle way, like experiencing the deep satisfaction of hard physical labor with sweat pouring down the small of your back and dirt deep under your fingernails.

If you dig potatoes out of the ground, you know where your food comes from. A pan of home-grown roasted red skins, rosemary, garlic and olive oil tastes better. The ache in your shoulders makes you smile. The effort means something. It's made a tangible difference to your taste buds. You can taste it. See it. And smell it.

The key here is tangible difference. When we think about the role of church in our lives, our sights are set on positive impact. Is Genesis making every effort to equip us for producing a tangible difference in our work life and our home life? Can we point to our jobs or our schools or our own backyards and talk about how God is working through us to make a positive difference in the lives of the people around us? This is the reality the visioning team had in mind when we chose the phrase "transforming presence." We believe it is absolutely essential to what God expects of us and who God calls us to be.

At Genesis we know where our food comes from—prayer, the study of scripture, fasting, theological reflection, worship, solitude, and service. We believe our effort means something. Who we are and what we do makes a tangible difference. It is easy to see. That's the vision we're after and the shape of our future we invite the Genesis family to embrace.

*Pastor Sue*

## Youth Matters

Truth Trek, our **very first Vacation Bible School** starts July 20. Grab flyers for your neighbor's mailboxes. This is a great opportunity to reach out to new families! [More >](#)

### EDGE!

**Canoe Trip:** July 15 (9:00 am to 5:00 pm)  
A full day of canoeing in Baldwin on the gorgeous Pere Marquette River. [More >](#)

**Ropes Course Adventure:** August 12  
Grades 6-8 only. A challenging and fun combination of low ropes, zipline, and high ropes at beautiful Camp Rogers! [More >](#)

**Movie Night:** August 29-30  
Boating, fishing, video games, group games, movies, junk food at Wsocki's cottage. [More >](#)

**COMING this fall:** Confirmation program for all junior and senior high schoolers.

All events require **NEW**, updated [parent consent forms](#) available on our Web site. Contact: [Martha York](#) to register for each event.

### JAM & KidZone

**Kids Summer Enrichment** (ages 3-12)  
We begin in worship for songs and kids' message, then head out for fun activities. [More >](#)

**NEW this fall! CLUB 56:** 5th and 6th graders.  
Your own space, your own fun stuff to do, and more. The suspense is KILLING me as I wait to announce this exciting new group!

### Bridges

Summer has left us with minimal volunteers to care for our special needs children. Please consider getting involved! Contact: [Martha York](#) or Lynn Peden

## Bulletin Board

### Genesis Family Updates

Baptism: Maria Ford (June 14, 2009)

In Memory Of: Bud Cooper (June 17, 2009)

### Thanks from Pastor Joe . . .

I want to thank you, the people of Genesis, for the wonderful way in which you honored me on my last Sunday as one of your pastors. The contribution of \$1500 to the Allendale new church plant (which my son Matt will be starting July 1) was the most significant thing that you could have done on my behalf. I will always cherish that investment of yourselves in the faith development of others as a sign of your true spiritual maturity. It was and will be the best gift that could have been given. Bless you for that.

Joe Bistayi

### Volunteers Needed

A fabulous team of dedicated, animal loving volunteers is needed to help with our Blessing of the Animals service on **August 9**. Duties include tent rental, tent set up / take down, water dish patrol, photographer, securing extra folding chairs and blankets for guests, managing donations, flyer distribution to local vet offices and pet stores. Contact: Diane Herzog

### GLEAN

Healthy food for hungry people. Food basket at Ada Farmers Market, Tuesdays from 2:00 to 7:00 pm. [Download flyer >](#)

### Get Involved in Worship

Still looking for your niche in ministry? Consider being a communion server or reading scripture in worship. Sign-up sheets at information desk.

Need a little encouragement? Contact [Pastor Sue](#) to attend training July 8 at 7:00 pm.

### Special Worship Opportunities

- **August 9:** Blessing of the Animals. Bring your lawn chair, water dish, pooper scooper, and blanket. Donations will be taken for Vicky's Pet Connection, a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing, caring for and placing homeless and abandoned pets in our community. [Learn more about VPC \(video\) >](#)
- **August 23:** Scott Russo reflects on "What I Learned From an Illness"
- **Evening Worship:** Music, scripture, prayer. Third Thursdays in July and August. [More >](#)

### Coverage for Pastor Sue

Pastor Sue will be on vacation July 15-29. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Jennie Browne at 451.2879 (July 15-24) or Pastor Greg Martin at 363.3446 (July 25-29).

### Bridges

Missed out on the New Orleans mission trip? We have a summer mission project right here at home. Painters and donations of materials are needed for some redecorating to brighten up the Bridges classroom. Contact: [Martha York](#) or Lynn Peden