

# CHRONICLER

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

www.evangelicalucc-cape.org

JANUARY 2010

## At Home in the Church

I was recently interviewed by the Southeast Missourian newspaper for their pastor profiles series. The newspaper sent me a list of questions and I sent in the following answers. I am presenting them here in case you missed them in the newspaper.

**Full Name:** Daniel Mebane Johnson

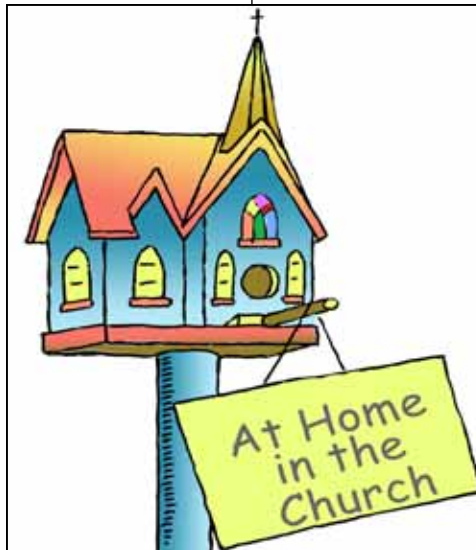
**What people normally call you:** People normally call me "Pastor Dan"

**Age:** I am 53 years old.

**Official title and church:** My official title is Licensed Minister at the Evangelical United Church of Christ, Cape Girardeau, MO.

**How long have you been involved with a church?** I have been involved in church all my life since I was baptized at Trinity Episcopal Church of Miami, Florida, on November 4, 1956. I was raised in the Episcopal Church and attended Christ Episcopal Church of Cape Girardeau during my high school and college years. I have also belonged to Unitarian and Presbyterian churches. As a child, I attended the ecumenical protestant Chautauqua, the Montegle Sunday School Assembly in Tennessee during summer vacations. We went to twilight prayers every night and had a protestant minister from a different denomination every week.

**How long have you been a member of the United Church of Christ faith?** I became a member of Evangelical United Church of Christ and the UCC faith on February 4, 2007.



**What drew you to serve the church in a leadership role?** In 1995, I was called by God to become a counselor and began my counselor education at Southeast Missouri State University. That education was interrupted for personal reasons, which led to my becoming an ordained deacon at First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis,

Missouri in 1999. During this period, I was the spouse of an Eden seminary student who became a Presbyterian pastor. I was also a lay preacher, filling in for my pastor and my wife. After my divorce, I resumed my counselor training. While I was working at Kent Library, God called me to explore seeking a seminary education. It was during this exploration that I contacted Evangelical UCC. Unexpectedly, this led me to become that congregation's pastor!

**What education/background/studies did you go through to become a pastor?** My most relevant formal training is a Masters Degree in Counseling. I am also a National Certified Counselor and an American Association of Pastoral Counselors Pastoral Care Specialist. I am continuing my theological education informally. Most recently, I completed an online course in Old Testament studies at Eden Seminary.

**How many years have you served as a pastor?** I have served as pastor since March 1, 2007.

**When did you become the pastor at Evangelical UCC?** The same date, March 1, 2007.

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**Where are you from and when/why did you move to Cape Girardeau?** I am a 1974 graduate of Jackson High School. My maternal grandfather was born on the family farm outside Jackson, where I currently live. I am an “Army Brat,” born in Columbus, Georgia and raised on Army bases, including several in Germany.

**Were you involved with Evangelical UCC before becoming the pastor?** I was visiting the congregation to see if they would sponsor me as a seminary student. Instead, I became their licensed minister!

**What do you think makes this church special?** The people make this church very special. This congregation was founded in 1894 as a German Evangelical congregation. The congregation has many wonderful traditions, including apple butter making and dumpling rolling. It is a loving, caring, multi-generational congregation. The congregation has encouraged and supported me tremendously. Our Pastor Emeritus, Ernie Jordan has been a great help to me and he remains an active member of the congregation.

**What’s your favorite verse and why?** Psalm 118:22-23 *“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.”*

Jesus was rejected, but he is the cornerstone on which the whole universe stands. I felt rejected many times during my life, but there have been times when I have been a rock that others have relied on. Like Peter, I have sinned and failed, but Jesus has forgiven me, and in my own small way, Jesus has called me to “feed his sheep” at Evangelical UCC.

**What programs have you done with EUCC that you are/were proud of and why?** EUCC is the host church of the ecumenical Jamaican Christian Medical Mission. This past Spring I was privileged to travel to Jamaica

and serve as a pharmacist assistant in our week-long free clinic. I also had the great honor to preach a sermon at Cedar Valley Church, St. Mary’s, Jamaica, a small rural church in the mountains of Jamaica. Jamaica has many needs and problems, but it is a land of beautiful hospitality and Jamaican Christians can teach us a lot about what it means to love God and follow Jesus!

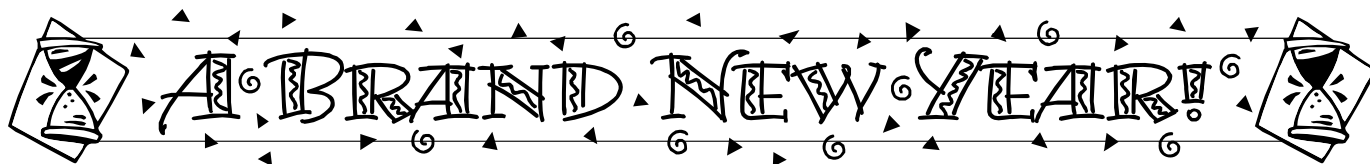
I am also happy that I have the opportunity to visit church members in the hospital and our “friends at home” who are confined to nursing homes or their residence. Some of the most remarkable people I have ever met are so-called “shut-ins.” As I became a pastor, I was surprised to see that some pastors avoid doing this crucial ministry. This work can sometimes be a challenge, but it is deeply rewarding.

We have also been an active participant in the Downtown Council of Churches, including the Good Friday Cross Walk, the Easter Sunrise Service, and the Community Thanksgiving Service. For small congregations, ecumenical ministry and mission programs are the future!

**What events or occasions does your church have coming up?** We have our Sunday School Christmas Pageant at 6:30 PM on Sunday December 20. Our candlelight Christmas Eve communion service is always beautiful.

**What’s your favorite day of the week and why?** Sunday. I love church! I have occasionally attended three services on a single Sunday. I enjoy hearing other preachers speak and I really enjoy sitting in the pews with my fiancée, Michelle Schrock.

**What’s your favorite part of being a pastor?** I am definitely a preaching pastor. I was taught public speaking at Jackson High School and Southeast Missouri State University—thanks Tom Harte—and I love the challenge of extemporaneous speaking. I present the devo-



## Continued from Page 2

tional reflection at St. Francis Medical Center chapel on Monday mornings without using any written notes. The cycle of reading the appointed scriptures, discussing them at the Monday noon lectionary group chaired by Father Bob Towner at the Southeast Missouri State University international center, reading commentaries throughout the week, and developing a sermon idea is the foundation of my week. To me, a large part of being a Christian means believing in the Bible as the authoritative word of God. Reading, studying, meditating, praying, talking about, and living out the Bible [Old and New Testament] is one good definition of a Christian.

**What hobbies do you have?**

I am a "computer geek." I build and upgrade computers and enjoy computer games with fancy graphics. I also collect computer games. I also enjoy watching movies, especially those with flashy special effects and listening to the commentary tracks on movie DVDs. Most recently, I went to see Avatar in digital 3-D on the second day of its release! I am always reading and love getting fantasy and science fiction novels at the dollar stores.

**What else do you do besides serve as pastor?** I am engaged to a wonderful woman, Michelle Schrock. We met on e-harmony and we are currently planning our wedding next year in her home town of Arthur, Illinois. Wedding date is October 19, with an all-church reception at EUCC soon afterwards.

I am a dedicated participant in Health-

point Plaza group fitness classes, especially the Body Pump weight training class. You can find me at Healthpoint 3 to 5 days a week. I especially enjoy breaking up my day with the noon classes.

**Do you have a prayer, psalm, or verse you would like to give our readers for the day?** During this Advent season, we all need to prepare for the coming of Jesus the Christ. Use this season to clear away all the fears, doubts, and shames that separate you from God. God has promised that Christ is coming, and he will come. Make ready, so you can feel the joy that Elizabeth, pregnant with John the Baptizer, felt, when the Christ child, still in Mary's womb, came into her home.

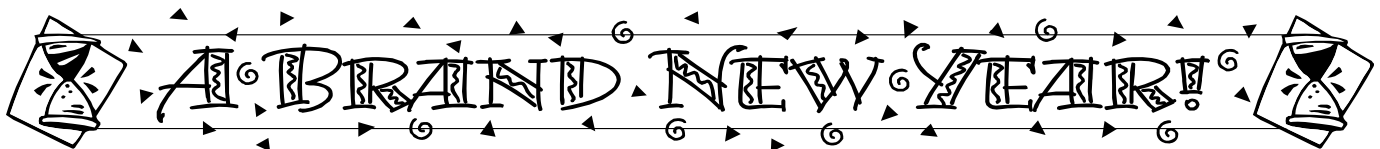
Luke 1:42-45

*In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"*

May a blessed Christmas Season [Epiphany is January 6] be a great start for your happy and Godly new year!

**Your Friend in Christ,  
Pastor Dan**

*Bible quotations from Today's New International Version (TNIV) © Copyright 2001, 2005 by Biblica*



### Christmas Cards and Messages

Evangelical UCC received Christmas cards from the Cave Organ Company, The Jansen Boys and Staff from Jaymac Equipment Corporation, Chaplain Greg Heinsman & Saint Francis Medical Center, The Salvation Army & Major Benjamin M. Stillwell-Thanking us for our donations., and Pastor Dan received a Christmas Card from Leo and Marilyn Amelunke with the following message: Thank you for your concern and prayers for our family, Leo and Josh. We have enjoyed your inspiring Wednesday evening Bible class. God's Blessings Leo and Marilyn Amelunke.

## Love INC

### Loving the Poor in His Name

When Liz first called Love INC, her children had been sleeping on the floor every night for over two years. She and her children were living in severe poverty. But through Love INC, four churches joined together to provide Liz's family with not only the beds she requested, but living room furniture, a dining room table and chairs, an area rug, cookware, and food. Caring church volunteers delivered the items to her home and encouraged her with the kindness and love of Christ. "This will be the best Christmas ever," Liz said. "For the first time in over two years, my children will be sleeping in their own beds, not on the floor. We feel so blessed! What a gift Love INC is to our community!"



Through Love In the Name of Christ, churches and Christian volunteers are reaching out to meet the needs of the poor and demonstrate the love of Christ

### Love In The Name of Christ-National Update

*Our mission is to mobilize the church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.*

**From the President:** The end of 2009 is fast approaching and Christmas is soon upon us. It is a time to gather with family and friends and rejoice for all that God has done, especially how He demonstrated His love for us in sending His Son. It is also a time to remember those who are alone, without family or friends to gather with, and those who do not have resources to provide their family's basic needs, let alone to celebrate the holidays. More than anything, it is a time to reach out to our neighbors in need, in the name of Christ, to show them His love at the season of His birth.

This is also a time when I stop and think about all that God has done in and through Love In the Name of Christ over the past year. And when I do, I am reminded of all those who have given generously to help advance the mission of Love INC. I would like to thank each of you for your contributions; you are truly helping us mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ. May God bless you.

#### Save the Date!

The Love INC National Conference will be held April 22 - 25, 2010, at the Hilton Hotel Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport. [The annual Leadership Retreat for affiliate executive directors and board members is held during the day on April 22; the conference begins that evening.] The conference is designed to serve Love INC executive directors, board members, staff, volunteers, ministry partners, and people involved in developing a new Love INC affiliate. A conference brochure and registration materials will be available in early 2010. Contact the Love INC National Headquarters at 800.777.5277 for more information.

# Memorials



With Deepest Sympathy

<h3>Memorial-General Fund</h3> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>In Memory of Viola Geiser</u> Kenneth Mehrle</p>	<h3>Scholarship Fund</h3> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>In Memorial for Albert Brown</u> <i>[Joyce Treadwell's brother]</i> S.G. &amp; Grace Coy Paul &amp; Marilyn Propst</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>In Memory of Viola Geiser</u> Brad &amp; Jo Snead Family</p>
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# What's Going On?

### Union of Concerned Christians

We would like to thank all who shared cookies with us for the refreshments after the Sunday School Christmas Program.

January 17, 2010 we plan to meet at the church for a planning meeting for the year. We will eat before the meeting at 5:30 PM. Velma plans to make Chili and possibly Potato Soup. If any one would like to bring a dessert to share that would be great. Any questions contact Bob & Velma Roloff at 335-3867.

### Mary-Martha Circle & Friendship Circle NO January Meetings

### Taking Down the Greens

Join us Sunday, January 10th after church services are over. We will eat a lunch of chili and hotdogs. After lunch, we will take the greens down, putting them away until next Christmas season.

### Annual Meeting & Dinner

The Annual Meeting and Congregational Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, January 24th right after church. The Friendship Circle will be our Hostesses for the afternoon.

The Friendship Circle will furnish fried chicken. Please bring 2 dishes, potluck style and your favorite dessert to accompany the meal. Thank you so much for your help.

#### Annual Congregational Meeting

### 2009 Annual Report

On Friday, January 1st, we will say "Hello" to the New Year of 2010. As we greet the new year with open arms, we also usher in the *end of year reports*. The deadline for turning in reports is January 18th. PLEASE get the reports in on time. I have a limited amount of time to prepare the 2009 Annual Report for the January 24, 2010 Annual Business Meeting and Dinner. I appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Susan Spinks  
Church Secretary

## Council Financial Report

Beginning Check Book	Balance 11-1-09	\$2,514.16
Deposits	November	\$5,001.02
	Interest	\$0.02
	Transfer Edward Jones	\$13,200.00
		\$18,201.04
Total Deposits for November		
Disbursements	November	\$11,627.25
Ending Check Book	Balance 11-30-09	\$9,087.95
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Wachovia Securities/ A.G. Edwards {Memorial Fund}	Balance 11-1-09	\$10,478.04
	Interest	\$0.26
	Deposits	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00
Ending Balance	As of 11-30-09	\$10,478.30
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Check Book Balance	As of 12-13-09	\$17,297.93



## Calendar Information

2009	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
<b>DIACONATE</b>	Bill & Rhonda Bolton	Barbara Oberbeck	Kaye Lee	Frank Maevers, Jr	Michael Bodine
<b>GREETERS</b>	Bill & Jane McMillan	Gary & Clodine Metje	Bob & Velma Roloff	Dorothy Klein	Margie Eakins
<b>LITURGISTS</b>	Rhonda Bolton	Linda Schild	Kaye Lee	Bill Bolton	Frank Maevers, Jr
<b>COMMUNION PREP TEAM</b>	Rebecca Schild Tom Schild	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>USHERS</b>	CAPTAIN- Michael Bodine Bill Bolton Rhonda Bolton Maxine Hale Kaye Lee Frank Maevers, Jr. Gary Metje Barbara Oberbeck Helen Owens Verla Sailer Rebecca Schild Tom Schild Brian Stahlman Bonnie Wilkening	CAPTAIN- GORDON WALTON Rhonda Bolton Bill McMillan Barbara Oberbeck Van Sander	CAPTAIN- PAUL PROPST Bill Bolton Frank Maevers, Jr. Jeff Sneathen Alvin Spencer	CAPTAIN- RANDY COY Michael Bodine Cayleigh Bolton Bob Roloff Lori Siebert	YOUTH AND DIACONATE USHERS


# Prayer List

In case of hospitalization or surgery please notify our church office. When being admitted to a hospital be sure to tell them that you are affiliated with this congregation. \* indicates a new request. **Please note:** *after six months names will be removed from the prayer list, unless an update is made to the church office.*

***Please Pray for those on our Prayer List.***

Leo Amelunke; 12-09  
 \*Josh Amelunke; 12-09  
 \*Marvin Best, JR; 12-09  
 Ruth Bierschwal; 07-09  
 Connie Blattner; 11-09  
 Dora Briggs; 07-09  
 Aleene Ellinger; 08-09  
 [Jane McMillan's mother]  
 Lillian Graden; 09-09  
 Virginia Heise; 08-09  
 Joan Hope  
 Ernie Jordan; 10-09  
 \*Ida Mae Jordan; 12-09  
 Michael Juegens; 05-09  
 [Lisa Spencer's brother]  
 Carolyn Keese; 12-09  
 [Bolton Family Friend]  
 David Kies; 11-09  
 Mehrle Family; 06-09  
 Ester Nussbaum  
 Marilyn Propst; 11-09  
 Jean Ratliff; 08-09 [Jamaican CMM]  
 Bob Roloff; 09-09  
 \*Jacob Sandvos; 12-09  
 [Barbara Lynch's Grandson]  
 Slaughter Family; 08-09

Chris Spivey; 08-09  
 [Michelle's Nephew]  
 Tanner Stallins; 10-09  
 Margaret Tallent; 07-09  
 Marjorie Thompson; 07-09  
 J.D. Treadwell; 09-09  
 Norma Trickey; 12-09  
 Burnell Turner; 11-09  
 Winfield Family; 07-09



## NURSING HOME & HOUSE BOUND

<b>Ratliff Nursing Home</b>	<b>Veteran's Home</b>	<b>Lutheran Home</b>	<b>House Bound</b>
717 N. Sprigg Street Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 Polly Wilmsmeyer	2400 Veterans Memorial Dr Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 Frank Maevers, Sr. Kenny Mehrle	2825 Bloomfield Road Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 Dorothy Cole Leonard Moore Esther Nussbaum	Loyd Bollinger S. G. Coy Mary Huckstep David Kies Helen Owens
<b>Fountainbleau Lodge</b> 2001 N. Kingshighway Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 Alta Proffer			

**Evangelical United Church of Christ**

33 South Ellis Street  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703-6201

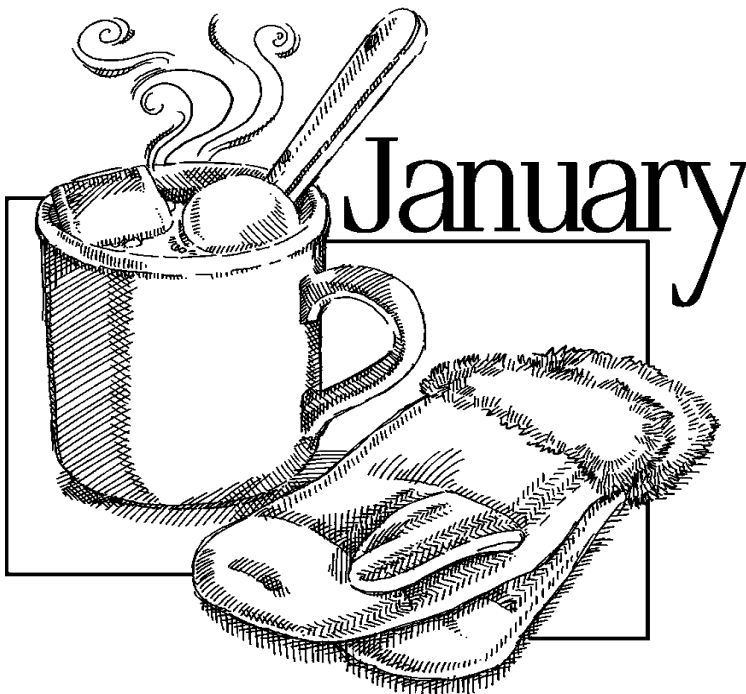
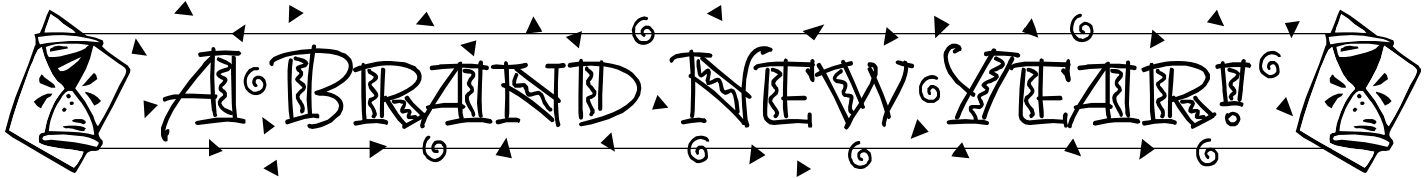
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**Pastor Daniel Johnson**

Church Phone: 573-335-5611  
Church e-mail: eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net  
Church Web Site: evangelicalucc-cape.org

**Church Times**

Fellowship 9:00 AM  
Children's Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 10:35 AM



**January 2009 Birthdays**

3	Eddie Gibson
4	Bob Best
5	Darlene Dow
8	Velma Roloff
9	Randy Coy, Helen Owens, Brad Stoops & Justin Trickey
13	Ame Maevers
14	Emily Lindsay
15	Barbara Oberbeck
18	Jane Bodine
21	Patty Lynch, Bob Roloff
22	Mary Ann Jordan
26	Brittney Spencer