

CHRONICLER

“God is still speaking” in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

May 2006



Seekers & Searchers Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship 10:35 AM
“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”



evangelicalucc-cape.org

Unfolding God’s Vision

“Love God—Love One Another—Learn to Make a Difference”

The Bible makes it pretty clear what God wants from us. When asked for his rendition of the first and greatest commandment, Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments. He told us to love God and love one another [Mark 12:29-31]. In his departing words to the disciples Jesus commissioned them [and us] to “go and make disciples...teaching them everything that I have commanded you” [Matthew 28:19-20]. Friends, we have our marching orders. This is what God wants us to do.

When God gives a command, and when that command is fully understood, we don’t argue about it. We simply go out and do it. Love God—Love One Another—Learn to Make a Difference; this is what God wants us to do.

What we need is a concrete plan that will empower us to live toward that vision. In prayer, study, and conversation with our Leadership/Vision Team, that plan is coming into clearer focus. There are three parts to the plan: 1] Covenant, 2] Spiritual Discovery, and 3] Structure.

In this plan church membership becomes a spiritual discipline. Living in covenant with God and one another, we make five promises: regular worship participation, enlistment in at least one study or faith formation group, involvement in one form of ministry, a commitment to move toward tithing, and sharing God’s vision.

In this plan God’s vision comes into focus best as we discover our spiritual gifts and put them to work in the name of Jesus Christ. When we discover and exercise our God-given gifts we will also find enrichment and blessing. A Spi-

ritual Gifts Discovery packet has recently been developed and is now being introduced as a tool to help each of us discover our spiritual gifts.

The third part of this plan requires a well defined, yet flexible structure that will enhance, not hinder, our response to God’s marching orders. For this structure I yield to the wisdom of the Bible and others—like Rick Warren, Tom Bandy, Michael Slaughter, Bill Easum, and Kennon Callahan. [Yes, I still read, study, and do my homework.]

I propose that we work toward a congregational structure that includes six ministries: Evangelism, Worship, Diaconate [fellowship care], Education, Outreach, and Administration. Each of these ministries will have the following in common: 1] each will have a clear mission; 2] each will be autonomous and free to act within certain boundaries; 3] each will be accountable for results; 4] each will call persons into their ministry based upon the individual’s spiritual gifts and passion.

I have faith in God. I have confidence that God’s vision will enrich our lives, strengthen our ministry, and draw people into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. God’s vision and this plan, of course, will take time to unfold. My prayer is that we will grow into God’s vision together. This means we have more study and conversation to do. It also requires that we stay committed to one another in Christian love, being able to put God first in all we do. Love God—Love One Another—Learn to Make a Difference.

—Pastor Randy Heckman

Worship & UCC Identity

Worship Plan

[Sermon Series: Real Followers]
[Based on a book by Michael Slaughter]

May 28, 2006

“Take the Plunge”

Luke 19:1-10

June 4, 2006

“Seek Engagement, Not Escape”

Isaiah 58:5-7
Philippians 3:10-11

June 11, 2006

“God is Still Speaking— Are You Still Listening?”

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19

June 18, 2006

“God is More Than a Preference”

Mark 10:17-22
Exodus 3:1-5

June 25, 2006

“God Created You For a Unique Mission”

Acts 1:1-11
Acts 2:42-47

July 2, 2006

“The Power of Amazing Grace”

Romans 5:6-8

July 9, 2006

“God Sizing Your Dreams”

Proverbs 29:18

Spiritual Gift Discovery

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, . . . Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

1 Timothy 4:14-15

The Bible tells us that we have all received gifts so that we may contribute to God's work. With this newsletter we introduce the 'Spiritual Gift Discovery' packet—a tool designed to help you identify and begin to grow your spiritual gifts. Our ultimate goal is that every church member and participating friend of the congregation will complete one of these discovery packets. At the present time this twelve page packet is available in the pastor's office.

While the packet has been completed, the process for effective use of the packet has not been finalized. We're working on that. What happens after you complete the spiritual gift discovery packet? Here's a sample of what might happen when everything falls into place: 1] each person will meet one-on-one with the pastor or designated church leader, or in a small group, to learn about their spiritual gift; 2] each person will be encouraged to test their gift in a ministry of the church; 3] each person will receive some form of confirmation from the church body.

It's important that we find our gifts and use them. Remember the story of the steward who buried his talent in the ground and received a stern response from his master [Luke 19:20]? We have gifts and God wants us to use them for his purposes. Don't bury your gift! Find out what it is and put it to use. Your life's meaning is linked to that gift. It's the reason why you are here!

Meal-a-Month

June 18, 2006

Cold Cereal
Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Tuna
Canned Chicken
Canned Tomatoes
Cream Soups: celery, mushroom, chicken, cheese
Canned Fruit
Canned Juice

[Bring all—or what you are able to bring—for the glory of Christ and care of those in need.]

Memorial Gifts

In Loving Memory of Dorris Holshouser

To the Memorial Fund:

Gary & Clodine Metje Art & Meta Siemers

To the Memorial General Fund:

Marvin & Carolyn Best S.G. & Grace Coy
M&M Leonard Graden Bonnie Wilcox

In Honor of Bob Dolle

To the Memorial General Fund:

The UCC Fellowship

Prayer & Finance

Strengthen the Church

On Sunday, June 11, we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering, part of our church's ministry through the United Church of Christ.

This offering is dedicated to "faithfully Building the Body of Christ," by starting new churches where the need is great and renewing existing congregations that only need some assistance from us to thrive again. Our contributions to Strengthen the Church help fund ordained leadership for these congregations.

The Strengthen the Church offering also funds programs for youth and young adults, and leadership development for the whole church.

Please think about how important a strong and vital church is to you and your family and consider making a gift to the Strengthen the Church offering on Sunday, June 11. Your support is needed and very much appreciated!

—Pastor Randy

Financial Report

Through May 14, 2006

	General Fund	Total Giving
First Quarter	\$25,423.10	\$28,059.18
April	\$11,389.08	\$12,377.13
May	\$5,477.00	\$5,687.25
June	-0-	-0-

Calendar YTD General Fund Week 20	YTD Goal General Fund \$49,210	YTD Actual General Fund \$42,289.18
--	--------------------------------------	---

Giving opportunities left this year: 33 weeks
2006 Goal: \$128,780

*"The wicked man earns
deceptive wages, but he who sows
righteousness reaps a sure reward."*
—Proverbs 11:18

Prayer Requests

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.

Jonie Adams Bliss; 01-06
Loyd Bollinger; 08-05
Helen Jo Brown; 01-06
Donna Buckley
Brenda Burris; 11-05
Brooke Cantwell
Sgt. Scott Caldwell; 09-05
Tammy & Bobby Carlyle
Matt Davidson; 10-05
James Dickison
Bob Dolle; 05-06
Bill Dunham; 08-05
Brian Fredericks; 04-06
Roger & Vera Fredericks
Carla Glass; 05-06
Cindy Glueck; 08-05
Rick Goad; 02-06

Natalie Goyette; 02-06
Joan Hope; 09-05
Julian Howard; 03-06
Cindy Jaeger; 01-06
Matthew Johnson; 10-05
Ida Mae Jordan; 01-06
Julie Jordan; 01-06
Debbie Juergens; 10-05
Dustin Kaminsky; 05-06
Jeannie Kies in Iraq
Lillian Kies; 09-05
Paul Kipper; 01-06
Joyce Koester
Kathy Knoll; 03-06
Markie Knupp; 11-05
Robert Krudwig; 04-06
Colin McLain; 03-06

Kenny Mehrle
Barbara Oberbeck
Cora Oberbeck
Ms. Riley; 05-06
Diana Rhodes
Bob Roloff; 01-06
Fred Schmucker; 02-06
Millicent Schneider
Bill Seabaugh; 02-06
Willis Seagraves; 01-06
Diane Simpher; 04-06
Charlie Smith; 09-05
Randy Sneathen; 10-05
James Trickey
Macey York; 09-05
Tim Wiggins
Dee Dee Wilson; 08-05

Join our PRAYER TEAM on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 AM for a study on 'Angels.'

Evangelical United Church of Christ
33 South Ellis Street
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703-6201
Church Phone: 573-335-5611
Church e-mail: eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net
Church Web Site: evangelicalucc-cape.org
Pastor Randy Heckman Phone: 573-334-3070
Pastor Randy e-mail: rheckman@hotmail.com

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US Postage Paid
Permit NO. 320
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703-6201

Bits & Pieces

ASAP Fellowship

'Take me out to the ballgame,
Take me out with the crowd,
Buy me some peanuts & Crackerjacks,
I don't care if I ever come back...'

Join the ASAP Youth Group for a softball game on Sunday, June 25th. Meet at the Central Junior High ball field at 3:00 PM and bring friends!!

Here's another date to mark on your calendar: Sunday July 16. We're headed for the water park at Farmington. Watch for additional information!!

Food Fair

The Mary Martha Circle was pleased by the response to our annual 'Food Fair.' We appreciate the donations of food and those who made purchases totaling \$460. These funds will enable our fellowship to contribute to a variety of charities and missions in 2006.

Friendship Circle

Don't miss the next gathering of the Friendship Circle! Carla Jordan will join us with a presentation concerning 'historical preservation.' We'll gather on June 13 at 7:00 PM. Come—and bring a friend!! Clara Feldmeier, Helen Owens and Jobyna Daume will serve as hostesses.

We extend our grateful thanks to all who helped make the Mother/Daughter Banquet a big success! It was a festive party with beautiful place settings and delicious food. Approximately fifty mothers and daughters shared the evening fun. Highlight of the evening was the program on 'aprons' offered by Donna Magwitz. Donna brought a number of her aprons and shared their heritage and meaning with the group. Outstanding!!