

CHRONICLER

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

www.evangelicalucc-cape.org

June 2010

Christianity, Justice, and Charity

Luke 16:19-24 There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

One of the best lessons I learned about Christianity and politics occurred while I attended a family camp with members of an urban Presbyterian (USA) congregation. Around the fire pit, the conversation turned to politics and one individual began attacking the then Republican attorney general. The attacks received many expressions of support from most of those around the fire. However, after a few minutes, a very faithful and active member of the church burst out, with obvious hurt in his voice, "You all act like you can't be both a Republican and a Christian."

The conservative media figure Glenn Beck has received much attention and criticism for saying that social justice is fundamentally incompatible with Christianity. I agree that there are "political" views that are incompatible with Christianity. The racism of Nazism and the atheism of Communism are radically opposed to the foundations of the Christian Faith. However, the broad spectrum of political views from liberal to conservative can co-exist with Christian belief. What is important to point out in today's debate is that non-extremist political views, whether liberal or conservative, do not make or unmake you a Christian. Your opinions on political issues, including "social justice" issues are simply not relevant. Instead, what makes you a Christian is your relationship with Christ.

There are Biblical foundations for two con-

cepts related to social justice. They are *justice* and *charity*. Justice is an ancient concept. Justice and judgment permeate the Old and New Testaments. In the Bible, God is the source of all justice. God is just and merciful. The Law of Moses commands that we treat each other justly. In Exodus 21:6-7, soon after the 10 commandments, we already read, "Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. Have nothing to do with a false charge and do not put an innocent or honest person to death, for I will not acquit the guilty." Deuteronomy 24:17-18 states, "Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this." The poor, the widow, the orphan, the foreigner are to be treated fairly.

The Old Testament Law also provides for *charity* so that foreigners, widows, and orphans receive a share of tithes and are allowed to glean the fields and orchards. God provides a model for this kindness in Deuteronomy 10: 17-19, "For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigners residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt." There were clearly two related Old Testament obligations to orphans, widows, and foreigners: [1] to treat them fairly in contracts and legal matters, and [2] to give them charitable assistance.

In the New Testament, Jesus is living in a society where justice was in short supply. When he wanted to illustrate the importance of persistence in prayer, Jesus used a parable of a widow and an unjust judge. Jesus accused the Pharisees of worrying about tithing garden spices, but neglecting justice. Jesus was executed by a justice system where the powerful and privileged could easily convict the poor and weak on trumped up charges. All the unjust systems of this

LOVE Charity suffereth *long*;
and is *kind*;
charity *envieth* not;
charity *vaunteth* not itself
is not *puffed* up....
1 Corinthians 13:4

Continued from Page 1

world will be overturned when Christ returns to judge the nations.

Jesus made charity one the centerpieces of his teaching. Jesus went beyond charity to challenge his followers to become servants, the slaves of all who are first in God's Kingdom. Jesus teaches that when the Son of Man comes in glory to judge the nations, he will separate the good from the bad based on their acts of charity. He tells the good [sheep] in Matthew 25:35-36, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Jesus places a great value on the proper use of worldly wealth. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, what separates the rich man from God is his failure to use the gift of his wealth properly by helping Lazarus. Charity does not earn salvation. Instead it is an outward sign of God's saving Grace.

Justice and servant charity are clearly at the heart of Christianity. Any beliefs that are contrary to Biblical teaching on justice and charity are incompatible with Christianity. For example, there is no sound Biblical basis for racial prejudice. Laws that discriminate among persons based on their skin color are clearly contrary to Biblical teaching on justice. We can be proud of the fact that Christians were among those leading the movement to repeal those laws.

However, the advocates of social justice extend the Biblical mandate for justice far beyond the equality of treatment. Social justice advocates the expansion of legal rights in ways that guarantee equality of outcome. They also extend charity beyond the providing to the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter. Social justice advocates the redistribution of income and wealth to push society toward economic equality. A principle claim of social justice is that it is appropriate to use the power of the Federal government to reshape society. This leads social justice advocates to lobby for Federal legislation and/or programs related to guaranteed education and employment, increased environmental protection, universal health care, immigration reform, same-sex marriage, redistribution of income, and many other issues.

From my point of view, it is problematic to expect a secular, non-religious, non-Christian government to properly fulfill Christian values. I served

15 years as a Federal civil servant and I can testify that although many civil servants are good Christians, there is nothing Christ-like in the way the government treats those dependent on its programs. The assistance provided by government programs can frequently be dehumanizing and degrading to the recipients and can create a culture of passivity and dependency.

I support the separation of church and state because involvement with the state always corrupts the church. I also support limited government because intrusive government "crowds out" the role of the church in daily life. It does not seem to be coincidental that some nations with intrusive governments, high tax rates, and "cradle to grave" social services have weak churches, rapidly falling church attendance, low levels of Christian belief, and minimal church mission programs.

I have also found that exclusive emphasis on social justice is frequently accompanied by beliefs that I cannot accept. Social justice advocates tend to have views about Jesus, salvation, and the Kingdom of God that are not consistent with our historic creeds, and with the historic confessions and catechisms of the reformed faith. I do not have space to expand on this point, but I think it is telling that the UCC national web site, which prominently features a social justice campaign against the Arizona immigration law on the front page, has removed all links on that web page to our historic testimonies of faith. The Evangelical Catechism is still there, but appears to only be accessible through the "search" function.

Glenn Beck and other critics of social justice have sometimes acted as if rugged American individualism is the foundation of Christian faith. In my view, the Bible makes it clear that we relate to Christ, not as individuals, but as members of the Body of Christ. Justice and servant charity are primarily functions of the Church, not of isolated individuals. Christ calls us to the Church, His Body, where we will use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to act in justice and in servant charity on a scale much greater than we ever could as individuals.

Reasonable Christian people can disagree on these issues. What we should agree on is that support or nonsupport for any item in the social justice agenda must not be a test of whether we are good Christians. In this regard, both Glenn Beck and his critics are wrong.

*Yours in Christian Love,
—Pastor Dan*

What's Going On?

Friendship Circle

The members of the Friendship Circle will meet on, Tuesday, June 8th at 7:00 PM. Marsha Clark will present—Women of the Bible. Clodine Metje and Kaye Lee will be the Hostesses and Jo Daume will have the devotions. Please come and fellowship with us.

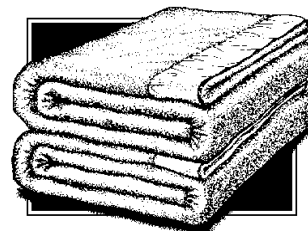


Women of the Bible

Love INC Information

The Hope Chest linen ministry is in need of all sizes of gently used blankets and new pillows. These blankets can be from garage sales or thrift shops, but we do ask that they be washed before being donated. Donations can be brought to Love INC's office, located in St. Andrew Lutheran Church @ 804 N. Cape Rock Drive, Monday through Thursday between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm. Thanks in advance for responding to this need!

Jesus said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."
Luke 18:27



Mary-Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle is happy to welcome Marjorie Kurre as a new member. She received the attendance prize at the May meeting because she is our most loyal Cardinal baseball fan!



Fourteen ladies were present and agreed to help provide sandwiches, salads, and desserts for the UCC ladies luncheon on June 3rd. An interesting program will be given by Maxine Hale, Grace Coy, Joyce Treadwell, and Meta Siemers. We hope to see other Evangelical UCC ladies joining in the fellowship with ladies from St. Johns UCC, St. James UCC, and Emanuel UCC.

—Meta Siemers

Area UCC Women's Meeting

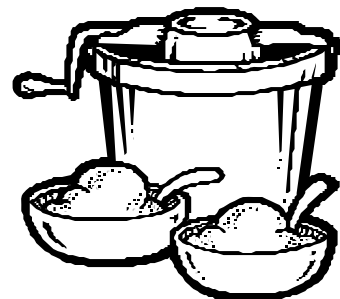
All the ladies of our congregation are invited to participate in the Area UCC Women's Meeting on Thursday, June 3rd, 11:30 AM. The Friendship Circle and Mary Martha Circles will host the event. Lunch will consist of sandwiches, salad and dessert to be served at noon. Devotions will follow the noon meal.



Ice Cream Social

Pastor Dan has once again, invited the Union of Concerned Christians and all the other Evangelical church members to his home at 2246 State HWY PP, Jackson, MO for the Union of Concerned Christians Annual Ice Cream Social.

On Sunday, June 27th, we will meet at Pastor Dan's home starting around 4:30 PM for brats, topping off the evening with homemade ice cream. Please remember to bring a side dish of food to go with the brats. The UCC will furnish the brats, buns, plates, bowls, plastic tableware, napkins, mustard, ketchup, etc. Everyone will need to bring their lawn chairs and remember your bug spray.



Gary Metje and Tom Schild have volunteered to be in charge of this year's the Ice Cream Social. If you have any questions please call Gary @ 334-2160 or Tom @ 334-8804.



Shelter of Hope



Show Your Support for
the Shelter of Hope
by participating in the
2010 Realty Executives
1st Annual 5K Walk/Run
Saturday, June 5, 2010

Race will begin at
Clippard Elementary School
On Hopper Road

Registration & T-Shirt pick up @ 7:00 AM
Race starts @ 8:00 AM

For registration contact Varonnica Kim
VaronnicaKim@RealtyExecutives.com
[573]335-8111

Entry Fee: \$20.00 to pre-register
\$25.00 registration after May 20th

Safe House for Women

Safe House for Women, Inc.



Save the Date! For our 10th Annual
Going the Distance for Victims of Violence
10th Annual 5K Walk/Run
Saturday, June 26, 2010

Get on your mark, get set, and let's go the distance to raise awareness and support for victims of violence together in a fun and healthy way! For more information on registration or sponsorship call 335-7745 or visit our website at www.semosafehouse.org

Registration begins at 6:30 AM.

Race begins at 8:45 AM.

Please no pets, bikes, strollers, roller blades or head phones on the course. Goody bag and refreshments will be available to participants. T-shirt will be available to those that register by June 15, 2010.

Jamaican C.M.M.

Community Health Fair

Southside Baptist Church
805 Hackberry, Cape Girardeau, MO
Phone: 334-3656

June 12, 2010 8:00 AM to 11:45 AM

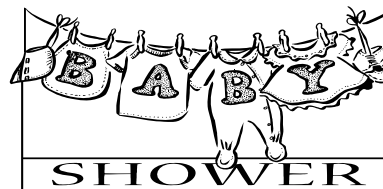
SCREENINGS

Eye
Weight/BMI/Waist
Blood Sugar
Bone Density
Memory – *Appointment Recommended*
Cholesterol Panel – *Appointment Recommended [Must fast 10 hours before test]*
Stroke – *Appointment Recommended: need cholesterol panel first*
Hearing
Balance – *Appointment Recommended*
Foot Exam
Heart Attack Risk Evaluation – *Need cholesterol panel first*
Nutritional Counseling – *Conducted by Registered Dietician*
Medication Counseling – *Provided by Registered Pharmacist [bring all medication]*
Assistance and Information about Advance Directives / Living Will

Please call **Southside Baptist Church, 334-3656** for appointment and further information. There will be refreshments and attendance prizes.

You're Invited

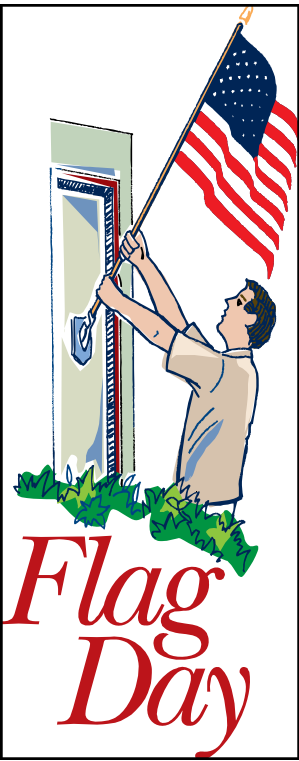
All ladies of Evangelical U. C. C. are invited to
Attend Lindsay Siebert's Baby Shower
On Sunday, June 27th, 2:00—4:00 PM
In the lower auditorium.



Lindsay Siebert is
registered at
Toys 'R' Us.

Council Financial Report

Beginning Check Book	Balance 04-01-10	\$1,520.81
Deposits	April	\$6,333.41
	Interest	\$0.02
	Transfer Edward Jones	\$6,000.00
Total Deposits for April		\$12,333.43
Disbursements	April	\$9,314.20
Ending Check Book	Balance 04-30-10	\$4,540.04
Memorial Fund	Balance 03-01-10	\$10,706.52
	Interest	\$5.83
	Deposits	\$75.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00
Ending Balance	As of 03-31-10	\$10,787.35
Check Book Balance	As of 05-15-10	\$1,940.46



June Calendar Information

2010	6th	13th	20th	27th
DIACONATE	?	Frank Maevers, Jr.	Michael Bodine	Rebecca Schild
GREETERS	Diaconate	Ernie & Ida Mae Jordan	J.D. & Joyce Treadwell	Kaye Lee
LITURGISTS	Kaye Lee	Michelle Schrock	Frank Maevers, Jr.	Stahlman's
COMMUNION PREP TEAM	Kaye Lee Barbara Oberbeck	_____	_____	_____
USHERS	CAPTAIN- Michael Bodine Bill Bolton Rhonda Bolton Maxine Hale Kaye Lee Frank Maevers, Jr. Gary Metje Barbara Oberbeck Helen Owens Tammy Popp 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

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.

<p>Leo Amelunke; 12-09 Josh Amelunke; 12-09 Irene Amos; 01-10 Marvin Best, Jr; 02-10 Verna Best; 02-10 Connie Blattner; 05-10 Caughlin Family; 04-10 Darline Dow [Life Care]; 05-10 Aleene Ellinger; 08-09 [Jane McMillan's mother] Joan Hope; 04-10 Dylan Hottes; 04-10 [11 years old] Mary Kate Johnson; 03-10 [Dan's Mom] Ernie Jordan; 03-10 Ida Mae Jordan; 05-10 Carolyn Keese; 12-09 [Bolton Family Friend] David Kies; 01-10 *Betty McLain; 05-10 Sally McMillan; 01-10 [Bill & Jane's sister-in-law] Nussbaum Family; 04-10 Becky [Helen Owens daughter]; 04-10</p>	<p>Justin Pashia; 02-10 Van Sanders Family; 04-10 Jacob Sandvos; 03-10 [Barbara Lynch's Grandson] Mary Ann Smith; 03-10 [Marilyn Propst Sister] Treadwell Family; 02-10 Norma Trickey; 02-10 Burnell Turner; 11-09 Terry Wildman; 03-10 Larry Winfield; 02-10 [Mary Slaughter's Brother] *Martha Ann Young; 05-10 [Dave Hale's cousin] Gavin Zyduck; 04-10 [4 months old]</p>
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NURSING HOME & HOUSE BOUND

<p>Ratliff Nursing Home 717 N. Sprigg Street Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 Polly Wilmsmeyer</p>	<p>Fountainbleau Lodge 2001 N. Kingshighway Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 Alta Proffer</p>	<p>Life Care Centers 2852 Independence Street Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 Darline Dow</p>
<p>Veteran's Home 2400 Veterans Memorial Dr Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 Frank Maevers, Sr. Kenny Mehrle</p>	<p>Lutheran Home 2825 Bloomfield Road Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 Dorothy Cole S. G. Coy Leonard Moore</p>	<p>House Bound Loyd Bollinger Mary Huckstep David Kies Helen Owens</p>

Memorials



With Deepest Sympathy

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Yvonne Papendick
Pastor Daniel Johnson

ASAP Float Trip

The Always Say A Prayer Youth Group will once again go to Shannondale for a float trip on the Current River. We will be leaving on Friday, June 18th and coming home on Sunday, June 20th. Please contact Carolyn Best @ 243-0733 or Lisa Spencer @ 243-4299 if you are planning on going. Thanks.



Emmaus Night at the Ballgame

The Cardinals play the Diamondbacks at St. Louis, Tuesday, June 29th, 7:15 PM. The residents of the Emmaus Home will be attending the game. So will some of the members of the Emmanuel/Evangelical Work Camp, including Pastor Sam and Pastor Dan. All church members, friends, and family are welcome to join us at the game. According to the Emmaus Home, tickets will be available at the special price of \$18. You can join our caravan at the Emmaus Home Marthasville or meet us at the ballpark. Please let Pastor Dan or the church office know as soon as possible, if you are going to Emmaus Night with the Cardinals and how many tickets you need. Pastor Dan will purchase the tickets with those going reimbursing Pastor Dan.

2010 Reception of Graduates

Please join the Board of Christian Education in the back of the sanctuary following the service, Sunday, June 6th. We will have a reception of cookies and punch for all the graduates.

Kaylyn Sneathen has earned the Board of Christian Education Scholarship Award.



2010 Graduates

Kaylyn Sneathen, Jackson High School — May 20th
Kaylyn will attend the Univ. of MO @ Columbia in the Fall,
possibly majoring in Journalism.

Jordan Sneathen, Univ. of MO @ Columbia — May 15th
Jordan will graduate with a Business Degree and
plans to go on to law school after a break.

Proud Parents are Jeff & Sandra Sneathen and
Proud Grandparents are Paul & Marilyn Propst

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

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

June Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 4 Connie Blattner | 6 Benjamin Siebert |
| 13 Marjorie Thompson | 15 Sharon Collier |
| 18 Kenny Lindsay
"Gracie" Stricker | 21 Marvin Best, Jr.
& Clodine Metje |
| 23 Vicki Lantz | 27 Doug Lindsay |
| 28 Marilyn Propst
Lisa Spencer | 30 Marvin Best, Sr.
& Dennis Trickey |

June Anniversaries

- | |
|--|
| 9 Rick & Stephanie Vines |
| 11 Larry & Tammy Popp
Van & Rosemary Sander |
| 19 John & Liz Hale |

