

CHRONICLER

“God is still speaking” in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

July 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

Vision is Everything

“Where there is no vision the people are unrestrained.” —Proverbs 29:18

The mantra of a successful business is “location, location, location.” Location, so they say, is everything. In the church, the key to success is “vision, vision, vision.” Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained.

But what is vision? From a biblical perspective, vision is a dream, a mental picture of what is being pursued, a God given sight of what will be performed and made reality. A vision is the mental picture of what a local church will look like when it arrives at the location it is uniquely called to go to. It is a spiritual goal. This vision is often placed by God within a set leader, and that leader is responsible for communicating the vision.

For example, Abraham had a crazy idea that he would be made a great nation that would bless all nations! This vision seemed impossible because he was an old man with a barren wife. Yet he acted and God was faithful. Joseph had a vision from God to rule his region, and despite the pit, Potiphar, and prison God brought the vision to pass. David the teenager saw himself as being used by God to defeat Goliath, and to be a king in Israel. The vision was impossible, but it was from God. David believed it, took some steps (like facing down Goliath with a sling shot) and it absolutely happened as God promised. Vision is everything.

God also has a vision for this church and for your life. The concept of having a specific vision, and working to-

gether toward a specific vision is a central theme in scripture. In fact, scripture teaches that a vision is absolutely vital to the health and life of the people of God.

“Where there is no vision the people are unrestrained.”

The word for “unrestrained” can be interpreted as “dissipation” or “dissolve.” The King James Version of the Bible says, “Where there is no vision the people perish.” The Hebrew word employed here gives the indication of people who are disorganized, unruly, and declining. When we look at the state of much of the church in America it would appear that many of us are living without a clear vision from God. But we can not afford to be without a clear vision. The pain of staying where we are is far greater than the pain that it will cause to move into our destiny!

We are only beginning a process to uncover the future that God has planned for us. We’re talking about it in our Sunday morning adult class. In July we will open the vision conversation to the whole congregation. I’m convinced that if we keep the process moving, God will lift from among us a group of leaders who will share the vision and the work. God will bring to pass his plans through his people. I hope you will join me in this holy cause.

—Pastor Randy Heckman

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

Worship & Ministries

Worship Plan

[Sermon Series: Real Followers]
July 2, 2006—OPEN COMMUNION
“The Power of Amazing Grace”
Romans 5:6-8

[Sermon Series: Real Followers]
July 9, 2006
“God Sizing Your Dreams”
Proverbs 29:18

[Sermon Series: Discovering God’s Will]
July 16, 2006
“Called to Be a Disciple”
Luke 5:1-11

[Sermon Series: Discovering God’s Will]
July 23, 2006
“Hearing God’s Call”
Acts 16:6-10

[Sermon Series: Discovering God’s Will]
July 30, 2006
“Discovering Our Gifts”
Romans 12:1-8

[Sermon Series: Discovering God’s Will]
August 6, 2006—OPEN COMMUNION
“Developing Our Gifts”
1 Corinthians 12:4-31

[Sermon Series: Discovering God’s Will]
August 13, 2006
“Taking Risks”
Matthew 25: 14-30

[Sermon Series: Discovering God’s Will]
August 20, 2006—RALLY SUNDAY
“Who Owns the Future?”
James 4:13-17

[Sermon Series: Discovering God’s Will]
August 27, 2006
“Having a Servant Mind”
John 13:1-17

Coming in September:

A worship series based on Gary Chapman’s book,
“The Love Languages of God”

Council Notes

June 19, 2006

Council members noted that giving to the general fund is running approximately \$11,000 behind our targeted budget for this time of year. Knowing that this is a generous congregation, and that we all want to advance the ministries of Christ, we expect that we will be able to make up this difference as the year progresses.

We are all here today because some wise, caring person helped us to grow toward what God expects of us. They helped us discover a new perception, new behavior, and new destiny. Many of us are who we are today because Christ has come into our lives with the expectancy of his grace, and has helped us grow toward God’s expectation of us.

We want to thank Jerry Siemers for his novel approach to stewardship. He donated a cow to the church. He took care of the butchering and is selling the meat. That’s thinking outside the box! Well done, good and faithful servant!

Here are some dates and decisions agreed upon by the Council:

- ▣ July 23—Congregational Meal & Meeting will follow worship. Council will supply the meat, bread and beverage. Others may bring a dish. The congregation will participate in a visioning exercise.
- ▣ July 30—Old Fashioned Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser open to the public. We’re looking for one or two people to take a leadership role in this event. More on page 6.
- ▣ August 20—Rally Sunday Worship & Neighborhood Carnival. More on page 6.
- ▣ The Worship Ministry is advancing its work toward establishing a progressive worship service. We may have an opportunity to do this as an outreach ministry in the neighborhood, at a site in the community. Wherever the service is held, we will need a projection system to do it right.
- ▣ The SEMO Homecoming will be upon us soon. We’re getting prices on publicity items to be handed out.
- ▣ Pastor Randy spoke in favor of our becoming a “Still Speaking Church.” This will get our web site listed with other “Still Speaking” congregations and enhance our ability to draw worship guests.

Spiritual Growth

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Our goal is to help each person reach their maximum potential as a follower of Jesus Christ, and to learn to walk in the way of the Lord. As a general rule every fellowship, discovery, and home group shares the following characteristics in one way or another: Prayer/Devotion, the group task, learning, growth, care & support, and administration (deciding when and where to meet.)

The following list is offered to demonstrate how we might expand our fellowship and learning opportunities in the general life of the church. Beyond the current fellowship groups we can offer an ever changing array of small, short-term groups and classes designed to broaden our vision, grow in faith, and grow the church. The Great Commission of Jesus commands us to disciple one another in the teachings of Christ [Matthew 28:19].

Pastor Randy Heckman will be glad to lead any of the following suggested groups. In the future lay leaders who are gifted and trained to lead in a particular area will assume more responsibility for leading groups. What is your gift? What is your passion? Contact Pastor Randy or the church office if you are interested in any of the following possibilities. If you don't see your interest listed, offer a suggestion.

CURRENT FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

- Wednesday Morning Prayer Team
- Friendship Circle Fellowship (women)
- Mary Martha Fellowship (women)
- Union of Concerned Christians Fellowship (singles & couples)
- ASAP Youth Fellowship

SUGGESTED DISCOVERY GROUPS (Short Term Groups)

- Core Values/Membership Class (Offered Quarterly)
- Boundary Training for Youth Leaders & Teachers
(Offered Quarterly; Required for Youth Leaders & Teachers)
- Small Group Leadership Training (Offered Quarterly)
- Basic Christianity (Offered Quarterly)
- About the United Church of Christ (Offered Quarterly)
- Conversation with the Pastor (Offered Monthly: Talk about God's vision/Pick the pastor's mind!)

Summer & Fall Offerings 2006 (Short Term Groups)

- Confirmation (Faith Formation for Youth—8th Grade and Above)
- Sexuality and the Bible
- The Parables of Jesus (Basic Spiritual Training)
- Survey of the Bible (Basic)
- The Ten Commandments (Going Deep)
- Survey of Job (When Bad Things Happen to Good People—Going Deep)

Other _____

HOME GROUPS

Small home groups (no larger than twelve to fifteen members) may be formed around any activity or interest. Persons forming small groups may want to participate in the "Small Group Leadership" training prior to getting started. Small groups bring people into fellowship with Christ, provide loving support and care to each participant, train new leaders, and seek to grow and multiply the group.

What interest, passion, or skill would you like to share with others in a small group?

Affirmation of Ministry

Find Your Spiritual Gift

The current emphasis of our Sunday morning adult study is ‘Spiritual Gifts.’ God has blessed each one of us with a gift/passion/ability to be used in the church—the Body of Christ—to build up the community of faith, to help each of us grow toward Christ-likeness.

You are a gifted person! “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in everyone” [1 Corinthians 12:4-6].

Because we are each gifted in a special way, we acknowledge the concept of the priesthood of all believers. This means that everyone who has received Christ in their life has also received a call to live as a minister of the Lord. While there may be only one pastor called to guide a congregation of followers, yet there are many ministers! Each of us has been called to Christian ministry, and each of us has received a divine gift that can be found, developed and used in that ministry. What is your gift?

We have developed/adapted a Spiritual gift inventory that can help you identify your special spiritual gift. You may obtain a copy of the inventory from the church office. Copies are also on the Information Table in our worship center. For help with the inventory, and for evaluation of the inventory after you have completed it, contact Pastor Randy Heckman. He is prepared to help you identify, understand, and grow your gift. This is a process that will bless you and the church!

Here is a sampling of spiritual gifts identified by the inventory, and suggested ways that they might be used and grown in the ongoing ministry of our congregation:

ADMINISTRATION— The gift of Administration is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate & long range goals of a particular unit of the body of Christ and to devise & execute plans to accomplish them. (see 1 Corinthians 12:28, Acts 6:1-7, Acts 27:11, Luke 14:28-30)

- ▣ A person with this gift might be suited for the Administration Ministry of the congregation: the Church Council, leadership training, vision and planning.
- ▣ This is a person who might serve any group as a leader who can keep the focus of the group centered upon its task, directed toward a long range goal.

EVANGELISM— The gift of Evangelism is the special ability God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to share the gospel with others in such a way that they come to know God’s love & recognize that we are a welcoming community. (see Ephesians 4:11-14, 2 Timothy 4:5, Acts 8:5-6, Acts 8:26-40, Acts 14:21, Acts 21:8)

- ▣ A person with the gift of evangelism will have a passion for sharing the love, peace, and lordship of Jesus Christ with other people.
- ▣ This is a person who will fit into the Evangelism Ministry of the congregation, either as one who teaches people how to share their faith, or as one who serves as an evangelist.
- ▣ There are multiple functions of an evangelist. Some have skill for promoting the church in public through the written or spoken word. Others are evangelists through their gregarious welcome of worship guests.
- ▣ An understanding of the “Good News” of Jesus Christ, the mission and vision of the church, and the ability to share faith is part of what it means to have this spiritual gift.

What gift has God blessed you with? Use the Spiritual Gift Inventory. Share the results with your pastor. Talk it over with your friends and family. Do they see that gift in you? Then test the results by putting your gift to work in one of the various ministries of the church. Pastor Randy will help you find a place to start!

Around the Church Family

Bible Trivia

- Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
A: Psalms 117
- Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?
A: Psalms 119
- Q: Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?
A: Psalms 118
- Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118
Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118
Add these numbers up and you get 1188
- Q: What is the center verse in the Bible?
A: Psalms 118:8
- Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

[The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!]

Psalms 118:8

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the center of it)?

Keeping the Sabbath

Myth #1

I can't afford the time to give up a whole day of productivity each week.

Another view:

One study indicated that people who worked seven 50-hour weeks got no more done than those who worked seven 40-hour weeks. All the devoted Sabbath keepers interviewed agreed. They find they get more done when they keep a Sabbath because they feel focused and rested during the work week, even though they may work fewer total hours.

Indeed, I find that this is true. Although I do not play golf or devote time to a relaxing hobby as often as I could, I am always refreshed and ready to work harder when I do. Sabbath rest charges my batteries! So does weekly worship!

Randy Heckman

Ice Cream Social

The Union of Concerned Christians Fellowship invites you to participate in an ice cream social on June 25 at 5:30 PM. The event will take place at Arena Park, shelter #3. The fellowship will provide brats, hot dogs, lemonade, tea and table service. Please bring a freezer of homemade ice cream or another dish to share if you are able.

The ASAP fellowship will join the party following their Ball Game. Bring lawn chairs, etc., and come ready for good food and fellowship.

Many Thanks

Once again the Church Council expresses many thanks to our members and friends who have accomplished such a wonderful job of maintaining the church building and grounds during this time that we have been without the service of a custodian.

Many wonderful thanks are extended to the members of the UCC Fellowship Group. The group has purchased a new Dirt Devil vacuum cleaner for the church. The old equipment was not functioning properly. In giving this gift one of the group members wrote, "The volunteer people do a great job, but they need equipment to work with." The gift is greatly appreciated!

It is wonderful that God has gifted us with such skill and passion to make our church a place of welcome and open hospitality. Thanks for sharing your gifts!

Youth Diaconate

Our Diaconate Ministry is currently offering to mentor the youth of our congregation [twelve years and older] in the ways of Jesus Christ. Participants in the "Youth Diaconate" will be assigned to an adult leader/mentor who will work with the youth member in a ministry field of the church. Our emphasis is to help our youth experience the lifestyle of Christ by doing ministry: visiting the sick and homebound, serving in an outreach ministry, or as a worship leader. We will help our youth explore their spiritual gifts and apply them. Contact Tom Schild [334-8804] or Pastor Randy for additional information.

Around the Church Family

C.R.O.P. Sale & Luncheon

The 37th Annual Church Women United C.R.O.P. Sale and Luncheon will take place on Friday, July 14 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This year the event will be hosted by Centenary United Methodist Church, 300 North Ellis Street.

Come early and enjoy warm cinnamon rolls & coffee!
The Luncheon will take place between 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Chicken Pasta Salad
Fresh Baked Bread, Dessert & Drink
Donation \$5.00 (carry-outs available)

ITEMS FOR SALE:
Fresh Fruit & Vegetables;
Home Canned Fruits, Vegetables, Jams & Jellies;
Baked Goodies;
Plants; Children's Items; & Many Odds & Ends!

PROCEEDS GO TO:
A Scholarship for a Woman at the Career and Technology Center,
Church World Service Projects,
A Scholarship to Young Life Camp

Old Fashioned Spaghetti Dinner

The Church Council has set July 23 as the day for a church-wide fund raiser. We're offering a Spaghetti Dinner to the public from 4-7:00 PM. Dinner prices are \$5 for Adults and \$2 for children. The meal will include spaghetti, salad, bread, and drink.

We envision each table set up in restaurant style with tablecloth and candle. Italian music may be playing softly in the background as waiters and waitresses clad in white shirts and black trousers or dress attend our dinner guests.

The Council is looking for someone to assume leadership for this event—to get it organized and publicized—and others to serve in some capacity. This is a fund raiser for the general fund of the church, so we hope to have a wide range of members involved.

We also anticipate that pre-orders, deliveries, and carry-outs will be offered, so we will want some folks to handle that part of our service.

If you want to help out—and we will need help—contact Marvin Best, Jr. or any Council member.

Rally Day Event

Rally Day comes early this year as we want to coincide that date with the beginning of school. On August 20 we will kick off the fall schedule with an honest to goodness '**church carnival!**' Plans are a bit sketchy at the moment, but we're thinking 'casual' worship, food, games, and perhaps a 'petting zoo.' The event will be geared to share with the church neighborhood and our downtown neighbors. Plans are in the works for distributing flyers and complimentary tickets that can be used for food and participation in the games.

This is not a fund raiser but an informal and fun way to introduce ourselves to the community, as well as generate enthusiasm and fellowship within our circle of friends and members. If you want to help or have good ideas to enrich this event, contact Carolyn Best [243-0733; or email best@americhicken.com.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING— July 23

Meal & Meeting Follows Worship
Bring a Dish to Share
A Visioning Exercise will Follow the Meal

Prayer & Stewardship

Memorial Gifts

In Loving Memory of Dorris Holshouser

To the Memorial Fund:
 Bob & Velma Roloff Calvin & Verla Sailer
To the Memorial General Fund:
 Marian Kramer Ramona Brinkopf

Meal-a-Month
 July 16, 2006

Canned Fruit
 Biscuit Mix
 Dried Beans
 Pudding
 Graham Crackers
 Kool-aid mix

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

Financial Report

Through June 18, 2006

| | General Fund | Total Giving |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| First Quarter | \$25,423.10 | \$28,059.18 |
| April | \$11,389.08 | \$12,377.13 |
| May | \$8,004.00 | \$8,312.00 |
| June | \$5,867.00 | \$6,034.75 |

| Calendar YTD General Fund Week 25 | YTD Goal General Fund \$61,925 | YTD Actual General Fund \$50,683.18 |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
|--|--------------------------------------|---|

Giving opportunities left this year: 28 weeks
 2006 Goal: \$128,780

***“Share with God's people who are in need.
 Practice hospitality.”
 —Romans 12:13***

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
 Brenda Burris; 11-05
 Sgt. Scott Caldwell; 09-05
 Tammy & Bobby Carlyle
 Sharon Collier; 06-06
 S.G. Coy; 06-06
 Matt Davidson; 10-05
 James Dickison
 Ruby Doughty; 06-06
 Brian Fredericks; 04-06
 Roger & Vera Fredericks
 Joy Gilbert; 05-06
 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 Huelsing; 05-06
 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
 Kathy Knoll; 03-06
 Markie Knupp; 11-05
 Robert Krudwig; 04-06
 Bill Kurre; 06-06

Kenny Mehrle
 Barbara Oberbeck
 Cora Oberbeck
 Helen Owens; 06-06
 Beverly Reece; 06-06
 Ms. Riley; 05-06
 Bob Roloff; 01-06
 Millicent Schneider
 Willis Seagraves; 01-06
 Diane Simpher; 04-06
 Charlie Smith; 09-05
 Bonnie Stahlman; 06-06
 James Trickey
 Macey York; 09-05
 Tim Wiggins
 Dee Dee Wilson; 08-05
 Elizabeth Winfield; 03-06

Join our PRAYER TEAM on Wednesday at 9:00 AM for a study on the Book of Job.

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

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Bits & Pieces

“Love Languages” Book Review

The Friendship Circle will host a book review and discussion based on Gary Chapman’s work, “The Love Languages of God.” This event will take place on July 11 at 7:00 PM. Marian Kramer will lead the discussion.

Please check with Bonnie Wilkening if you need a copy of the book. The public library has one copy that may be checked out. The program is open to all. Joyce Treadwell will offer an evening devotion, and our hostesses—Kathy Heckman, Clodine Metje, and Helen Owens—will greet you!

ASAP Water Fun!

Following Sunday worship on July 11, the ASAP Youth Fellowship will take off for the water park at Farmington, Missouri. Bring your swim clothes and sun lotion. And don’t forget about bringing some extra money for lunch and snacks.

Meals-on Wheels

It’s time to think about our ministry with the Meals-on-Wheels program at Southeast Missouri Hospital. Every year we share a week in the summer to provide warm, nutritious meals to homebound residents in the Cape Girardeau community. Our week to help this summer runs from August 14th to August 18th.

We will need seven drivers and seven helpers to cover the seven routes assigned to us. Each morning we will gather at the loading dock of Southeast Missouri Hospital at 10:45 AM. Please contact Velma or Bob Roloff [335-3867] if you are able to participate for the full week, or part of the week. We will also need a number of substitutes who will be ready to fill in if one or more of our regular drivers or helpers cannot come as they had planned.

Please contact Velma or Bob by August 1st if you can help in any way. Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” [Matthew 25:40].

Worship Survey

The Worship Ministry Team requests your assistance in helping us understand the worship patterns and interests of the congregation. Immediately following the July 4th holiday we will make phone contact with members and friends who live within reasonable driving distance of the church. We hope to get your feedback on the following questions.

Definitions:

Traditional Worship: An inspirational-style worship service featuring time-honored hymns and choruses led by traditional instrumentation.

Progressive Worship: A worship celebration filled with media, drama, and up-to-date Christian music with new arrangements of familiar hymns led by our worship band and praise team.

1. Assume you have a choice between attending a traditional service and a more progressive style worship, which one would you be inclined to attend?
 Traditional Worship
 Progressive Worship
2. Keeping the traditional service intact, would you support the formation of a second, progressive style worship for those who prefer that style of worship?
 Yes
 No
 Why Not _____
3. What is your worship pattern
 Every week
 Two or more Sundays each month
 Once a month
 Less frequently
4. What keeps you coming to worship? [all that apply]
 Praise God/Thankful to God
 Loyalty to Church
 Spiritual comfort and strength
 Part of my routine/habit
 Other _____
5. What keeps you from coming to worship? [all that apply]
 Worship is dull
 People are not friendly
 Poor health
 Lack of transportation
 The spiritual themes that matter most to me are not talked about
 Other _____
6. What are some of the spiritual topics, themes, or questions that interest you?
7. At this time do you attend worship at any other church?
8. Which day of the week offers you the best time to worship?
 Sunday Morning
 Sunday Evening
 Saturday Evening
 Wednesday Evening
 Thursday Evening
 Other _____