

# CHRONICLER

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

www.evangelicalucc-cape.org

AUGUST 2008

## Treasure In Jars of Clay—Part 3

*Continued from last month . . .*

### *Impact on Ministry and Pastoral Care*

The theme of “identity” always emerges from my core beliefs and shapes my ministry, including my pastoral care. The question I always start from is “who am I?” The idea of constructing a Christian self from all the broken pieces of my life is how I see myself growing as a pastor. My unique history and gifts are in continual dialogue with the preconceptions and assumptions of my congregation about who a pastor is and what a pastor does. I am not seminary trained. I am licensed, not ordained. Therefore, I was never indoctrinated to be a professional pastor. I am serving because I was called to this particular congregation, not because I wanted to make a career as clergy.

I tend to contrast my identity, which I am constructing, with the identity of God, which I am discovering. I am quite convinced that God is not only complete, perfect, and good, but is also active, dynamic, and fully present in daily life. Currently, I am discovering God through studying the Bible through the Revised Common Lectionary and sharing the results of that study in my preaching. My intention in my preach-

ing is to communicate the Word clearly and simply, reflecting the traditions of the church, incorporating my somewhat eccentric personal viewpoint as appropriate, and taking a cautious approach to historical/critical thinking. In preaching, I consistently find myself returning to the theme of identity, the identity of God, and the challenge to each of us to construct a Christian identity in the Body of Christ.

In contrast to my carefully prepared sermons, I have been seeking out the discipline of extemporaneous preaching and prayer as a way of challenging myself to be open to the active presence of the Holy Spirit. I currently present the 8 AM devotional on Monday mornings in the chapel at St. Francis Medical Center. When I preach and pray in public with little or no conscious preparation, my statements have a passion and creativity that is missing in my prepared sermons. My spontaneous statements are full of allusions to scripture and the liturgies I grew up with. However, they also are very responsive to the feeling tones of the current setting,

not just my feelings and emotions, but also to the feelings and emotions of those around me. I am willing to risk occasionally rambling or speaking a bit of nonsense in exchange for all these riches. I



**But we have this  
treasure in jars of  
clay to show that  
this all-surpassing  
power is from God  
and not from us.**

2 Corinthians 4:7



## Continued from Page 1

am not sure how to distinguish between my intuition and the Spirit, but I suppose that they are both gifts from God.

In my pastoral care, I strive to give everyone the full measure of respect that they deserve as someone Christ died for. I think of them as fellow **“stones that the builders rejected.”** I find it easy to enjoy and appreciate their unique gifts, strengths, and limitations. In many cases, my role is to listen and sometimes encourage. I do not provide extended counseling and I have recommended that persons seek out counseling help.

Pastoral care at the hospital and nursing home can be quite different, depending on the **person’s level of impairment.** If they are able to talk and want me to listen, then I apply my active listening skills to reflect and clarify their themes and concerns. I have found that ill persons sometimes have concerns that they cannot share with family members. These may relate to fears about death, wanting to die, and feelings of guilt. If they are more impaired or ill, my focus will be on praying, reading the Bible to them, and serving them communion. If a person is dying and family members are present, meeting the needs of the family members through prayer, scripture reading, and a service for the dying becomes important. Of course, not all families want me to be present at the death and some families choose to let their family member die alone under the care of medical professionals.

My congregation expects me to visit those **who are at the nursing home, hospital, or “shut-**

**in.”** However, there are no clear expectations about what should happen during that visit. Communion may be declined. Laying on of hands or anointing is not common. I have no problem loving the person needing care and in feeling the presence of a loving God. My struggle is to discern and respond appropriately to the needs of each person visited within the boundaries and limitations of my pastoral role. I continue to struggle with how often I should visit and how long I should stay, especially since I am a part-time pastor who is often exhausted after a long day of mental health assessments at the Bootheel Counseling Service.

Pastoral care will continue to be a very important part of how I show my love for Christ **and my neighbor and carry out Christ’s commandments** in my ministry. It is a challenging area and one where I can experience a great deal of professional growth. It can also be stressful and emotionally draining. As I have become more involved in pastoral care, I have had to strengthen how I manage stress through exercise, my own counseling, and prayer. I will continue to work to develop my self-knowledge and deepen my self-care, so I can continue to serve my congregation for as many years as God grants me.

Bible quotations are from Today’s New International Version (TNIV) © Copyright 2001, 2005 by International Bible Society, accessed via [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)



### Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Please remember to attend the Quarterly Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 3rd. The meeting will be directly after Sunday church services.

—The Church Council



With Deepest Sympathy

### Memorial Fund

In Memory of Betty Metcalfe  
Ramona Brinkopf



## Mary– Martha News

Please join the Mary-Martha Ladies on Thursday, August 7th at 1:30 PM for fun and fellowship. Roxie Lindsay will have our devotions. Helen Owens and Roxie Lindsay will be our hostesses for the afternoon and bring us something good to eat.



We would like to welcome Barbara Oberbeck back as an active member of the Mary-Martha Ladies.

## Meals On Wheels

Our Church is responsible for delivering Meals-On-Wheels the week of August 25-29th. Several have volunteered, but we still need more help. We especially need another driver for all week and a driver helper for Thursday and Friday of that week for one of the routes.



This is our time to help others in the community that are unable to cook for themselves.

## Rally Day

Plans are in the works for Rally Day which will be during church service on August 24th.

The Board of Christian Education will have a meeting on Monday, August 11th at 7:00 PM where plans will be finalized for Rally Day. We have two members which will be eligible for the B. C. Ed. Scholarship Fund. They are Jamie Popp and Brittney Spencer. If you know of anyone else who would be eligible please contact Roxie Lindsay or Carolyn Best.

## Friendship Circle



**The Friendship Circle's** next meeting is August 12th at 7:00 PM. We are in for an excellent program as Meta Siewers will present a book review. The Faith of The American Soldier by Stephen Mansfield. Jo Daume & Ida Mae Jordan will be our hostesses.



Macaroni & Cheese  
Peanut Butter  
Cold or Hot Cereal  
Canned Fruit  
Fruit Juice Canned

*Thank You!*

## Union of Concerned Christians

We are still hoping for apples this year to **make "Apple Butter"**. If you have any pint jars and new lids, we sure could use them. Also save September 26th & 27th to help make the apple butter. Those who can work the evening of Thursday, August 25th, will cut the apple preparing them for cooking.

You may call your orders into the church office, please leave your name, phone number along with the number of pints and quarts you will need.

At this time we do not know the price, but we do know the supplies have gone up. When a price is determined we will let you know.



Apple Butter Committee

## Council Financial Report

Beginning Check Book	Balance 6-1-08	\$31,396.65
Deposits	June	\$7,143.09
	Interest	\$0.61
Total Deposits for June		\$7,143.70
Distributions	June	\$7,015.40
Ending Check Book	Balance 6-30-08	\$31,524.95
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A.G. Edwards {Memorial Fund}	Balance 6-1-08	\$10,842.22
	Interest	\$18.86
	Deposits	---
	Disbursements:	\$890.32
	Carpet & Installation in Sunday School Rooms	
Ending Balance	As of 6-30-08	\$9,970.76
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Check Book Balance	As of 7-11-08	\$30,823.98



### Spring 2008 Tornadoes & Floods

Thousands of homes are destroyed or damaged across the Mid West. FEMA has received 83,301 requests for individual household assistance from the five States impacted by floods (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin). This number does not include businesses, schools, churches or other institutions that were damaged. The maximum amount that may be received from FEMA is \$28,800 – many people will receive less. United Church of Christ local churches in Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin and Missouri have received a total of \$37,000 from the One Great Hour of Sharing special fund, "2008 Tornadoes and Floods." These funds are to help with emergency needs for UCC families, and UCC local churches. Additionally, \$38,894.70 was used to purchase personal protection equipment for home owners and volunteers in Wisconsin, Indiana and Iowa who are cleaning out homes. 2000 pieces of each item have been sent to Wisconsin, Indiana and Iowa. Did you know? -- \$6.98 will purchase one each: Tyvek coverall with hood and boot, chemical splash goggle, nitrile glove, and N95 respirator. This equipment will help to protect home owners and volunteers during clean up. As of July 22, 2008, \$59,119 has been received in response to the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Appeal, "2008 Tornadoes and Floods." The United Church of Christ, National Disaster Ministries is seeking \$200,000 for the current response and long term recovery efforts.

To help those affected by disasters you may, send gifts payable to Evangelical UCC marked for "2008 Tornadoes and Floods" which will be sent to our Conference office and on to Wider Church Ministries OR send gifts, made out to Wider Church Ministries and marked in the memo portion "2008 Tornadoes and Floods" to Financial Services; Wider Church Ministries; 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

*To read the complete article, go to*

*[http://www.ucc.org/disaster/spring\\_2008\\_tornadoes\\_floods\\_in\\_central\\_us.html](http://www.ucc.org/disaster/spring_2008_tornadoes_floods_in_central_us.html)*

## Prayer List & Friends at Home

### 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.*

Leo Amelunke; 09-07  
 Marilyn Amelunke; 05-08  
 Linda Anderson; 05-08  
 Michael Bodine; 06-08  
 Loyd Bollinger  
 Ian Bolton; 06-08  
 \*Heather Cato; 07-08  
 S.G. Coy  
 \*Bettye Crockett; 06-08  
**Michael "Benji" Doerhoff; 06-08**  
 Lexi Edwards; 05-08  
 Joan Hope  
 Carol Huebert; 02-08  
 Jed & Jon Jones; 05-08  
 Ernest & Ida Mae Jordan  
 Mary Ann Jordan  
 Tyler Lalumondiere—Iraq; 04-08  
 Kenny Mehrle  
 Bill McMillian; 06-08  
 Ester Nussbaum  
 \*Hannah Parks; 06-08  
 Sharon Reif; 03-08  
 Kaylyn Sneathen; 06-08  
 \*Doug Stacy; 07-08  
 Aieral Steffens; 05-08  
 \*Brett/Cherie Stembel; 06-08  
 Karen Steffens; 06-08  
 Bonnie Stricker; 04-08  
 Evelyn Warrick; 04-08

### Friends at Home

Ratliff Nursing Home  
 717 N. Sprigg Street  
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Polly Wilmsmeyer

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Fountainbleau Lodge  
 2001 N. Kingshighway  
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Alta Proffer

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Lutheran Home  
 2825 Bloomfield Road  
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Dorothy Cole  
 Viola Geiser  
 Frank Maevers, Sr.  
 Leonard Moore  
 Andora Peetz

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Auburn Creek  
 2910 Beaver Creek Drive  
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Irene Orlando

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Home Bound  
 Helen Owens  
 Mary Huckstep



Evangelical United Church of Christ  
33 South Ellis Street  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703-6201

Pastor Dan Johnson  
Church Phone: 573-335-5611  
Church e-mail: [eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net)  
Church Web Site: [evangelicalucc-cape.org](http://evangelicalucc-cape.org)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUEST



## New Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.



## Directory Update

Please make these changes in your church directory.

Kenneth & Bettie Mehrle  
3148 Park Place  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
Phone #334-6587

Corkey & Becky McCormack  
1155 E. Woodland Street  
Springfield, MO 65807-3749