

CHRONICLER

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

www.evangelicalucc-cape.org

SEPTEMBER 2007

Adult Bible Class
9:30 AM

Sunday School
9:30 AM

Sunday Worship
10:35 AM

“We have waited
for Him, so that He
might save us.”
Isaiah 25:9

What does it mean to be a conservative congregation?

Dear Fellow Christians,

Last month my article discussed what it means to be an evangelical congregation. During the second part of this series we will talk about what it means to be a conservative congregation?

Note: Some UCC congregations have identified themselves as Evangelical, Conservative, Orthodox, or Traditional (ECOT). This series reflects on the meanings of these qualities.

Ecclesiastes 7:12

(Today's New International Version)

Wisdom is a shelter
as money is a shelter,
but the advantage of
knowledge is this:

Wisdom preserves the life
of its possessor.

Conservative

1. Preservative, that which keeps safe from injury, harm, or destruction.
2. Of or relating to a philosophy of conservatism, a political philosophy based on tradition and social stability, stressing established institutions, and preferring gradual development to abrupt change.

3. a. Tending or disposed to maintain existing views, conditions, or institutions.

b. Marked by moderation or caution.

c. Marked by or relating to traditional norms of taste, elegance, style, or manners.

(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

What does it mean to be a conservative congregation? At the most fundamental level, it means that we value what is old, as well as what is new. As a faith that is centered on a book that is thousands of years old, we must be conservative in some sense of the word. We may believe that “God is still speaking” today, but we keep in mind that he was also speaking during the last several thousand years. We also may remember from our school lessons that during the “Dark Ages” the Christian church was the sole preserver of literacy and culture. We should not discard this role of preservation too lightly, even if other congregations around us are feverishly changing their worship services into a hybrid between a rock concert and a talk show.

Today we may question the usefulness of the label “conservative” because Republican politicians have claimed that label, just as Democ-

*“Steeped in Tradition, Stirred by the Spirit,
Sweetened with Love”*

Continued From Page 1

atic politicians have claimed the label “liberal.” A careful reading of scripture reveals that Jesus and his disciples dealt with a very different set of issues than today’s politicians. After all, they were a conquered people, living under a powerful and sometimes benevolent, but always brutal, empire. Although some of Jesus’ concerns may be called social, economic, or even political, he clearly was addressing the spiritual crisis of his time, and especially the question of how to continue to live as God’s chosen people in such difficult times. When we stay true to Jesus’ call, we may find ourselves frequently in conflict with today’s conservatives and liberals alike!

Nevertheless, regardless of our political views we may expect our church to conserve and preserve certain practices and values, even if we accept a rapid pace of change in our nation, businesses, workplace, and even our homes. The heart of any conservative philosophy is the conviction that human societies and institutions are living creatures that are born, grow up, mature, and finally die. Attempts to force radical change and build a perfectly just, fair, and rational society or church immediately always fail and always cause a great deal of suffering. A nation or a congregation has a history and a personality. Rapid change that does not respect the integrity of a society or congregation’s identity will usually do more harm than good.

Conserving what is good means that we always build upon where we are now, rather than starting over from scratch. Renovating a historic building is conservative, while dynamiting the old building and putting up a fiberglass facade Disney World replica is not. Conserving what is good requires that today’s leaders humble themselves before the wisdom and experience of their predecessors. There is no reason to assume that we are always smarter than those who came before us. Moreover, we should not assume that the newest and latest is always the best.

Conserving what is good is not the same thing as blindly following tradition. Tradition emphasizes continuity of outward forms. A tra-

ditional congregation tends to use older, time-tested liturgy and music. Being conservative focuses more on the meaning and the purpose of these practices. A congregation may carry an honored tradition without knowing its meaning. There is a story about a congregation that was concerned because the new pastor did not touch a certain spot on the wall below a treasured cross as he ascended to the pulpit, as the old pastor had done every Sunday for more than 30 years. The new pastor anxiously phoned the old pastor at his retirement home, only to learn that the old pastor had a touch of vertigo and had merely touched the wall to steady himself.

Conservatism is not blind resistance to change. Because human institutions naturally grow and change, the task is not to resist change, but to choose changes that are authentic and maintain the integrity of the congregation. Respecting our past does not mean that we always reject change. Nevertheless, it means that we require a good reason for change. It is often important to look at what is best for this particular congregation at this point in its development. Imposing the most efficient, most rational, or most politically correct practices upon a congregation may be hazardous to its health. A vital congregation will grow and change while at the same time staying true to its identity. Not all congregations should try to grow up to become megachurches!

Matthew 9:16-18

(Today's New International Version)

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out, and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Blessings,
Pastor Dan Johnson

Spiritual Fellowship

Rally Day Picnic

The congregation is invited to stay after church on Sunday, August 26th for the Rally Day Picnic. All the food will be provided, that includes hamburgers & hotdogs. There will be prizes and games to play. Rally Day



is sponsored by the Sunday School and the Board of Christian Ed. Please stay and share in the fun and fellowship here at Evangelical United Church of Christ.

Meals On Wheels

Our week to deliver Meals on Wheels turned out to be a hot one this year, we hung in there and accomplished our project. We would like to thank all who drove their cars or served as helpers. There were Irene Amos, Ramona Brinkopf, Jim, Marilyn & Trevor Garner, Maxine Hale, Roxie & Nicholas Lindsay, Lori & Ryan Siebert & Ryan's cousin, Susan, Kailey & Kimberley Spinks and J.D. & Joyce Treadwell.

This is a great project for the church to participate in with Southeast Missouri Hospital. Thanks again to all who helped.

Bob & Velma Roloff
—Coordinators for our church

Shannondale Weekend

Please place the weekend of November 9th thru 11th on your calendar for a mission trip to Shannondale. This will be a work weekend and a spiritual retreat. Watch for more information concerning the weekend mission trip.

Mary Martha Circle

Please come join the fun on Thursday, September 6th at 1:30 PM. Maxine Hale will be reading the Devotions and Ida Mae Jordan and Maxine Hale will be serving as Hostesses during the Mary Martha Meeting. It is sure to be an afternoon of food, fun and friendship. So be sure to attend.



Minute for Mission

September 9th	“FISH”
September 16th	“Martino”
September 23rd	“Helping Hands”
September 30th	“Safe House”

Friendship Circle

The September 11th meeting of the Friendship Circle is one you will enjoy. Rev. Ernie Jordan is scheduled to present a program with a painting demonstration. Let's have a big turn out and as always, visitors are welcomed to be with us.

Hostesses will be Linda Schild, Bonnie Wilkening and Kaye Lee. Circle the 11th and come for a bit of art education! Time 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, September 4th has been scheduled for making dumplings. Please plan on helping with this service project.

We will have dumplings to sell as soon as last nights batch dries. Please call the church office to place your dumpling order. Thank You.

Jamaican Medical Mission

Help Martino and the Jamaican Medical Mission

During September, we will be collecting a special offering to support the Jamaican Medical Mission's efforts to bring a boy with severe scoliosis named Martino to the USA for surgery. In addition to your regular giving, please make an additional designated offering this month. Please place your offering in the collection plate with the envelope clearly marked "Martino" or a designated 'Martino' and the amount on your regular offering envelope. Or send a check to the church office with "Martino" in the "for" memo line.

The Evangelical United Church of Christ has been a long time supporter of the Jamaican medical mission. The team goes to the same location each trip and sets up a clinic at the Carron Hall United Church. The group began making these trips in 1999, and has gone every other year since. With this special offering, EUCC is rededicating itself as a major supporter of the Jamaican Medical Mission.

From Mission Memories

Saturday, July 14, 2007

By RHONDA SIEVERS ~ Special to the Southeast Missourian

In April a group of volunteers from the area made its fifth medical mission trip to Jamaica. The team is made up of doctors, dentists, an eye specialist, nurses and volunteers from Cape Girardeau, Jackson, Sikeston, Oak Ridge, one from Tennessee and a few from Southern Illinois.

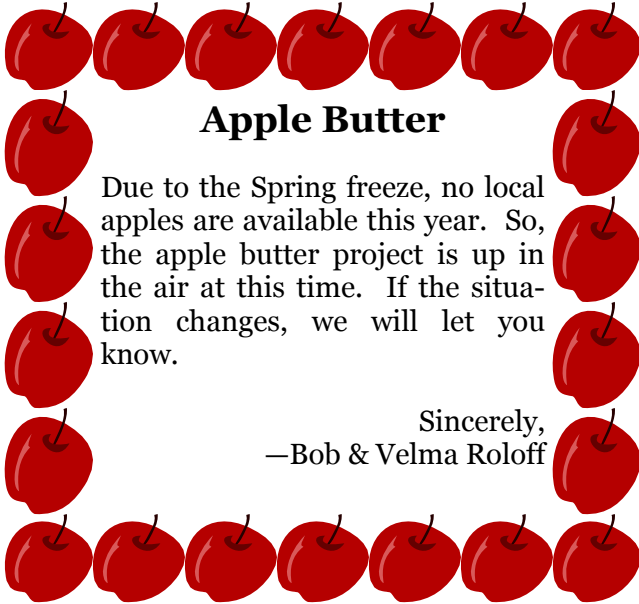
Each time we make the trip, certain patients seem to stand out...Another person we are trying to find help for is Martino, a 16-year-old boy who weighs 50 pounds. He has severe scoliosis, and it is difficult for him to walk. It is also difficult for him to eat. Our hope is to bring Martino to the United States for surgery and make a difference in his life.

Our next trip will be in 2009. Please pray that we will again be able to raise the money to make the trip. Anyone who would like more information about the group or would like to take part in the next trip, contact Rhonda Sievers at 335-8613 or Gwen Maloney at 243-4307.

Update from Rhonda Sievers on August 8, 2007.

We are still working on trying to get Martino here for surgeries...Martino seems to be doing ok according to his aunt with whom he lives. He does fall a lot on the way to school—but is holding his own. He loves the instant breakfast we have been sending to him. His aunt said he has gained a little weight and maybe a little strength.

FYI



Apple Butter

Due to the Spring freeze, no local apples are available this year. So, the apple butter project is up in the air at this time. If the situation changes, we will let you know.

Sincerely,
—Bob & Velma Roloff

FISH

Fish buys a lot of the food they give out with money that has been donated. Such as: frozen products, ground beef, hot dogs, cheese, margarine, cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, Bisquick, Jiffy mix, crackers, powdered milk, tuna, spaghetti, egg noodles & rice, plus many more items.

This Summer FISH is spending \$1,000.00 more per month than the cash donations that are coming in each month. Please HELP if you can.

In Christian Love,
—Gary Metje

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Wake up, smell the coffee, and prayerfully study God's Word. Pastor Dan leads an ecumenical Bible study on Tuesday mornings from 7:30 AM to 8:00 AM at Grace Café located at 818 Broadway. The study follows the Revised Common Lectionary. Bring a Bible and join us! Beginners are welcome.

In Christian Love,
—Pastor Dan Johnson

Adult Bible Study

That You May Believe: The Gospel of John

Join our Wednesday evening Bible Study Group starting August 29, every Wednesday in the Library from 6:30 to 7:30 PM for an in-depth study of the Gospel according to John. In fourteen sessions, we will walk anew through this Gospel to the end "that you may believe." John's Gospel offers spiritually attuned, stunningly beautiful insights into the nature of Jesus and the meaning of faith. We witness signs and wonders, view contrasts of darkness and light, blindness and sight, death and new life as John puts before us whom Jesus is, where he has come from, and where he is going. From start to finish, John's purpose is plain: "These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ and believing ... have life in his name."

Questions call Pastor Dan Johnson at 335-5611.

Memorial Gifts



With Deepest Sympathy

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Lillian Maevers

Betty Crockett
Beverly Barker
William Muter
Calvin & Verla Sailer

In Memory of Bob Feldmeier

Marvin & Carolyn Best, Jr.
Gary & Clodine Metje
Bob & Velma Roloff
Meta Siemers
E.W. Koenigsmark
Union of Concerned Christians
Friendship Circle
Jack Hensley
Judy Wiefarth
Connie Blattner
Jane Bodine
James & Marilyn Garner
Dave & Maxine Hale
Calvin & Verla Sailer
Bonnie Wilkening

Fern Schlimme
AAA
Charles Steck
Gary Gateley
Norma Blatner
Hattie Barns

Memorial-General Fund

In Memory of Bob Feldmeier

S.G. & Grace Coy
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Graden
Mr. & Mrs. David Kies
Paul & Marilyn Propst
Tom & Linda Schild
Irene Amos
Betty Metcalfe
Ramona Brinkopf

In Honor of Paul Propst

Union of Concerned Christians

Council Financial Report

Distributions	July	\$5,386.45
Deposits	July	\$9,407.60
	Interest	\$2.32
Total Deposits for July		\$9,409.92

A.G. Edwards Account	{Memorial Fund}	
Ending Balance	As of 7/31/07	\$9,680.59

Check Book		
Ending Balance	As of 7-31-07	\$20,793.51

Prayer List & Shut-Ins

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.*

Sahara Aldridge; 04-07
 Allen Family; 02-07
 [Brett, Elisha, Brayden, & Jaden]
 Leo Amelunke; 03-07
 Loyd Bollinger
 Tom Boston; 07-07
 S.G. Coy
 Michael "Benji" Doerhoff [In Iraq]; 08-07
 Bob Dolle; 08-07
 Ruby Doughty; 05-07
 Darlene Dow; 04-07
 Carl Fledderman; 04-07
 Joan Hope; 04-07
 Ernest & Ida Mae Jordan
 Robert Jurgens; 08-07
 Frank Maevers; 07-07
 Kenny Mehrle
 Betty Metcalfe; 07-07
 Stephen Miller; 04-07
 Esther Nussbaum; 05-07
 Paul Propst; 07-07
 *Dave Schaffner, Sr.; 08-07
 Linda Schild; 06-07
 Sandra & Kaylyn Sneathen; 08-07
 Harold Stahlman; 05-07
 Karen Stephens—cancer; 05-07
 Taylor & Family; 03-07
 [Taylor is a 9 year old little girl diagnosed
 with stage 4 Acute Lymphocyte Leukemia]
 Marjorie Thompson; 06-07

Shut-Ins

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

Polly Wilmsmeyer
 Bonnie Wilcox

Fountainbleau Lodge
 2001 N. Kingshighway
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Alta Proffer
 Connie Gibson
 Bonnie Wilcox

Lutheran Home
 2825 Bloomfield Road
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Dorothy Cole
 Lillian Kies
 Frank Maevers
 Leonard Moore
 Andora Peetz

House Bound
 Ruby Doughty
 711 South Pacific Street
 Cape Girardeau, MO 63703-7836

Esther Nussbaum
 181 Gopher Lane
 Gordonville, MO 63701-9506

“With everlasting **Love** I will have **compassion** on you ...”
 Isaiah 54:8

Evangelical United Church of Christ
33 South Ellis Street
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Church e-mail: eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net
Church Web Site: evangelicalucc-cape.org

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READ, READ, READ



Meal-a-Month for FISH

Pasta or Rice Mixes
Dry Cereal
Canned Peaches, Pears & Pineapple
Canned Yams
Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce
Single Bars of Soap

Thank You!

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications are being accepted now. If you are a Senior in high school this year, you are eligible to apply for the Scholarship. There are a few requirements that must be met for completion of the application. Please call Roxie Lindsay for specific information.

Open Gym

Wednesday, August 29th is the start date for Open Gym. Please plan on a start time of 6:30 PM. Questions should be directed to Carolyn Best and Bonnie Stahlman.