

# CHRONICLER

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

www.evangelicalucc-cape.org

OCTOBER 2007

## What is an Orthodox Congregation?

**Orthodox** Etymology: Greek, from *orthos* straight, right, true, upright, + Greek *doxa* opinion, glory

**Heresy** Etymology: Late Greek *hairesis*, from Greek, action of taking, choice

Source: Merriam-Webster Online

“The United Church of Christ embraces a theological heritage that affirms the Bible as the authoritative witness to the Word of God, the creeds of the ecumenical councils, and the confessions of the Reformation. The UCC has roots in the "covenantal" tradition—meaning there is no centralized authority or hierarchy that can impose any doctrine or form of worship on its members. Christ alone is Head of the Church. We seek a balance between freedom of conscience and accountability to the apostolic faith. The UCC therefore receives the historic creeds and confessions of our ancestors as testimonies, but not tests of the faith.” Source: <http://www.ucc.org/beliefs/>

Before I begin, these are the personal reflections of a simple country preacher, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the UCC or EUCC.

As Christians, belief is the foundation of our life in the Church. We are here, in the Church, because we believe. We worship, sing, give, learn, preach, and teach, because we believe. These things that we do in the Church also form, shape, and strengthen our beliefs. We come to Church with beliefs formed by our lives so far. Those beliefs are part of our gift to the life of the Church. However, by living in the Church, our beliefs are changed, as we are influenced by the beliefs of our brothers and sisters, and as our experiences in the Church changes our lives. The Church, and the body of Christ, has a history of belief that is long, complex, and sometimes ugly. This history offers us a rich tapestry of belief. If we examine the tapestry, we find that each of us has ancestors in faith who call to us. Their struggles with belief can

illuminate our own concerns.

It is hard for us to imagine the challenges faced by the first Christians. Acts and the Pauline Epistles tell the story of the Church before the New Testament was assembled and before any of the creeds were written. The Church needed to identify a body of scriptures that truly reflected the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Over a period of several hundred years, an agreement emerged over what would become the canon of the New Testament. Just as importantly, it was agreed that the Old Testament would be joined with the New Testament to form the Christian Bible. Accepting this new Bible as the authoritative word of God became a foundation for Christian identity.

However, as we know from our own experience, part of the richness of the Scripture is that it can be interpreted in many different ways. To worship together meaningfully, the founders of the Church decided that essential statements of faith, the creeds, were needed. These creeds summarized and clarified the beliefs already found in the Bible. Together the Bible and the creeds provided a set of beliefs that all Christians could hold in common.

The establishment of the Bible and the creeds involved debate, struggle, and occasionally violence. Some scholars see the adoption of the Bible and the creeds as purely a power play. They argue that the Roman Emperor and the Church leaders arbitrarily enforced a particular set of beliefs on the Church. In the view of these scholars, there were other Gospels and Epistles, and other statements of belief, which were as good or better as those that were adopted. Some of these writers claim that the Bible and creeds reflect the self-interests of an oppressive patriarchal power structure. To these scholars, the Bible and the creeds are just another case of “history being written by the winning side.”

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

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Fortunately, there is plenty of contrary evidence that the Bible and the creeds emerged from the “grass roots,” the needs and beliefs of ordinary Christians. The Bible included the books that most Christians found to be valid and useful statements of the Gospel. The creeds reflected what most Christians saw as reasonable and faithful interpretations of the Bible. Orthodox belief was not something imposed on the church by a tiny ruling elite. Instead, orthodox belief is a broad middle way that most Christians find easy to accept.

In contrast, the heretical beliefs rejected by the Church tend to reflect extreme minority viewpoints. For example, one of the earliest heretics, Marcion, rejected any use of the Old Testament, claimed that the creator 'god' of the Old Testament was not the good God and Father of Jesus Christ, and edited the Gospels to remove their links to the Old Testament. It is believed that the Apostle's Creed was written as a rebuttal to Marcion, and his mangling of scripture was an incentive for deciding on the canon of the New Testament.

For three centuries, the peace of the Church was disturbed by arguments over the nature of Christ and his relation to God the Father. Arianism denied that Jesus was of the same substance as God and held instead that he was only the highest of created beings. This doctrine undermined monotheism, setting up Christ as a second, inferior, God. The Nicene Creed, with its “begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father” was formulated in response to this controversy. These two examples, to which many more could be added, show how heretics, those with extreme minority viewpoints, stimulate the majority to clarify and better state mainstream belief.

The founders of our denomination, the reformers, believed that the Catholic Church had strayed from its founding orthodox beliefs. Too many “laws made by man” were getting in the way of faith. This is why the reformers emphasized the need for all Christians to read and interpret the Bible. Our founding reformers affirmed the Apostles and Nicene creeds. Because the reformers felt so strongly about all Christians learning sound

belief, they and their denominations put great emphasis on developing and teaching of confessions and catechisms. The “mainline” Protestant denominations—UCC, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian, among others—are clearly part of the broad stream of orthodox belief. Others, who reject the Old Testament, the Trinity, or the creeds, are clearly outside of the mainstream of Christian faith.

Many loyal and active members of mainstream Protestant churches have personal belief systems quite different from orthodox Christianity. You always have the option to remain silent when a line in a creed, hymn, or responsive reading offends you. You also have the right to question and disagree with orthodox belief during Bible studies and Sunday school classes. Our congregations need to be places where members can speak their minds without fear or favor.

As a Pastor, I hold myself to a different standard. Rather than preaching and teaching my personal opinions or parroting the latest theological fads, I am committed to making the historic beliefs of the Church relevant and meaningful to the congregation. I could not personally accept serving in a congregation where members have never been given the opportunity to learn the Bible, recite the creeds, and study the confessions and catechisms. I am unalterably convinced that orthodox belief is, at very least, an essential starting point for a Christian life. For some folks, orthodox belief is all they need on their faith journey. For others, it may initially be something they react *against* as they develop their personal Christian identity. For both, and everyone in between, “How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!”

Mark 16: 15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever *believes* and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not *believe* will be condemned.” Source: Today's New International Version (TNIV) © Copyright 2001, 2005 by International Bible Society.

—In Christ's Name,  
Pastor Daniel Johnson

## Spiritual Fellowship

### All Church Hay Ride

There will be an all church Hay Ride at the Best Farm on Saturday, October 27th. Festivities will begin at 5:30 PM contact Marvin or Carolyn for directions. Mulligan stew and hotdogs will be provided. Bring something to share to accompany stew & hot dogs, and your own drinks. Lawn chairs are a plus too! There is a



**CHURCH HAYRIDE**

group that stays at the shop while the hayride is taking place for those who do not wish to ride

### Jamaican MM Meetings

October 21, 2007  
November 18, 2007  
January 20, 2008  
February 17, 2008  
March 16, 2008  
April 20, 2008  
May 18, 2008  
June 22, 2008  
July 20, 2008  
August 17, 2008  
September 21, 2008  
October 19, 2008  
November 16, 2008  
January 18, 2009

February 15, 2009  
March 15, 2009  
April 5, 2009

*I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know; the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.*

—Albert Schweitzer

### Shannondale Weekend

Are you planning on going to Shannondale the weekend of November 9, 10 & 11? Well, if you are please contact Pastor Dan, Gary Metje, Carolyn Best or Rhonda Bolton no later than November 4th to place your name on the list of participants.

This will be a work weekend and a spiritual retreat. The meals for the weekend have already been planned. It should be a lot of fun. The more people that go the more fun that is had by all. Call Dan, Gary, Carolyn or Rhonda with any questions.

### Mary Martha Circle

The Mary Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, October 4th at 1:30 PM. Marsha Clark will have devotions and JoDaume & Ramona Brikopf will serve as the Hostesses.



### Minute for Mission

October 14th	"Love, Inc"
October 21st	"Board of Christian Ed – Scholarship"
October 28th	"ASAP – Souper Bowl Sunday"

### Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 9th at 7:00 PM. Jo Daume will be our Hostess for the evening. Program will be announced at a later date. Mark your calendar and come join us for an enjoyable evening.

### Union of Concerned Christians

For October we urge everyone to support the Hay Ride at the Best Farm, the Picnic at Pastor Dan's and any other activities that will be happening at the church.

Co-Chairpersons  
Bob & Velma Roloff

## Jamaican Medical Mission News

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Jamaican Christian Medical Mission. So much has been accomplished and yet there is much to do.

Plans and preparations are under way for our next trip on April 13, 2009. We are also trying to get help for Martino as soon as possible. All of this takes a lot of work and money. Our first fundraiser was the 4th of July food stand at the Jackson City Park. Our net profit for the day was \$1,257.39. This amount has been earmarked for Martino expenses.

The following is a list of upcoming fundraisers:

Food Stand at Pioneer Harvest Days at Jackson — Saturday, October 6th  
8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Macy's "Shop for a Cause" Day — October 13th — Tickets are \$5.00  
The group receives 100% of the ticket sales

An ongoing fundraiser is:

CiCi's Pizza — 1st SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH — Come to CiCi's Pizza anytime on the 1st Sunday of every month. Place your paid meal receipt into the jar after you write the group's name on the receipt. CiCi's Pizza will donate 10% of the net sales for the day directly to the Jamaican Christian Medical Mission. CiCi's Pizza is located at 221 S. Broadview in Cape Girardeau and their phone is 339-4555 in case you want to order a TO GO SPECIAL!

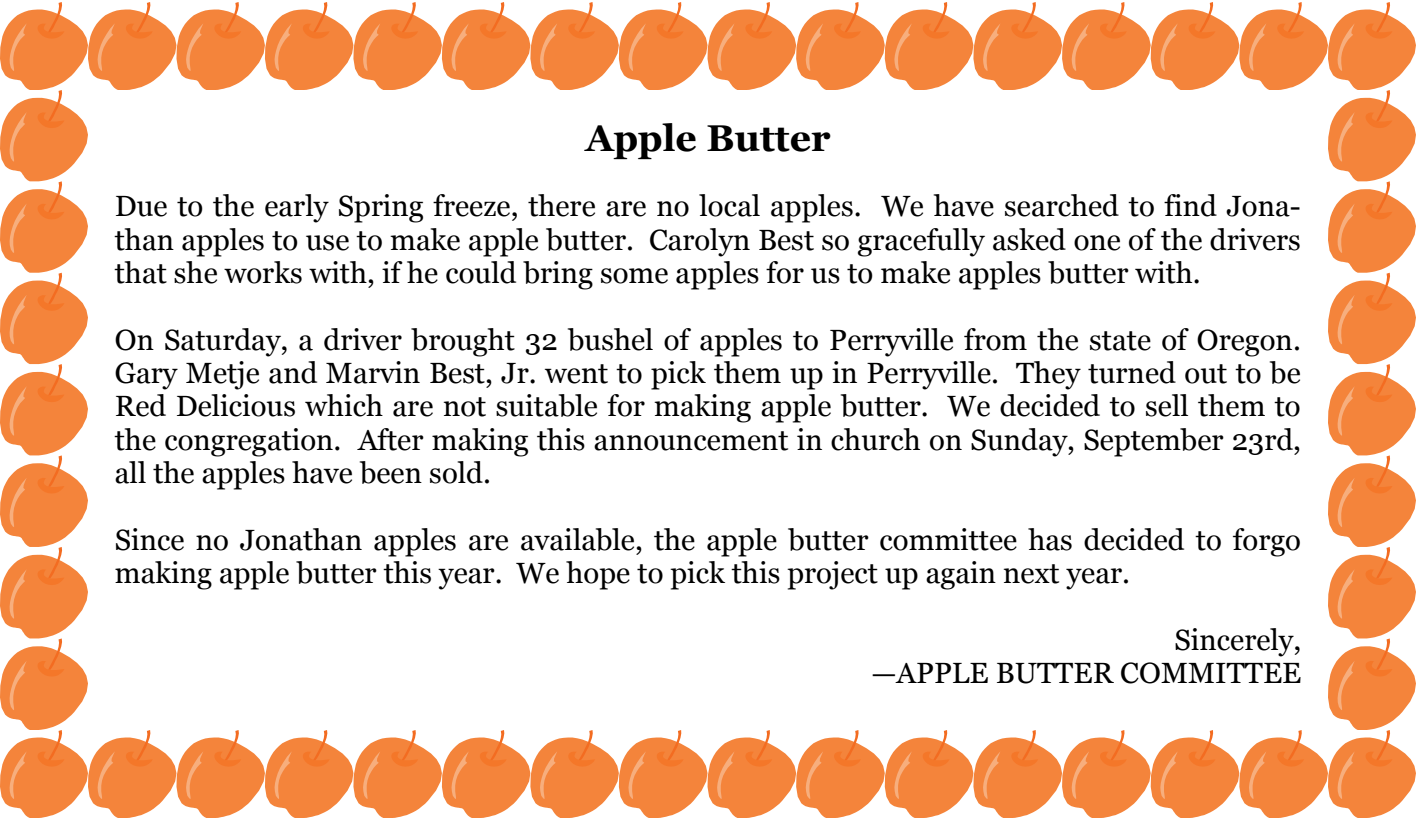
The team also decided to have another dinner/dance/auction next year. The date for this fundraiser has been set for November 8, 2008 and will be held again at the Arena Building in Cape Girardeau.

President-----Gwen Maloney  
Vice-President-----Kathy Leimer  
Secretary-----Darlene Petzoldt  
Treasurer-----Rhonda Sievers  
Historian-----Christine & Shelby Fadler

We have all been blessed with unique God-Given gifts and talents. Working with the Jamaican Christian Medical Mission is a special way to share these gifts. We have developed a special bond and relationship with our friends at Carron Hall, Jamaica and with each other. We pray for God's continuing guidance as we prepare for another trip to bring basic healthcare services to those who are severely lacking in medical care. Thank you for your commitment and support of our mission.

Yours in Christ,  
JAMAICAN CHRISTIAN MEDICAL MISSION  
Darlene Petzoldt, Secretary

FYI



Apple Butter

Due to the early Spring freeze, there are no local apples. We have searched to find Jonathan apples to use to make apple butter. Carolyn Best so gracefully asked one of the drivers that she works with, if he could bring some apples for us to make apples butter with.

On Saturday, a driver brought 32 bushel of apples to Perryville from the state of Oregon. Gary Metje and Marvin Best, Jr. went to pick them up in Perryville. They turned out to be Red Delicious which are not suitable for making apple butter. We decided to sell them to the congregation. After making this announcement in church on Sunday, September 23rd, all the apples have been sold.

Since no Jonathan apples are available, the apple butter committee has decided to forgo making apple butter this year. We hope to pick this project up again next year.

Sincerely,  
—APPLE BUTTER COMMITTEE

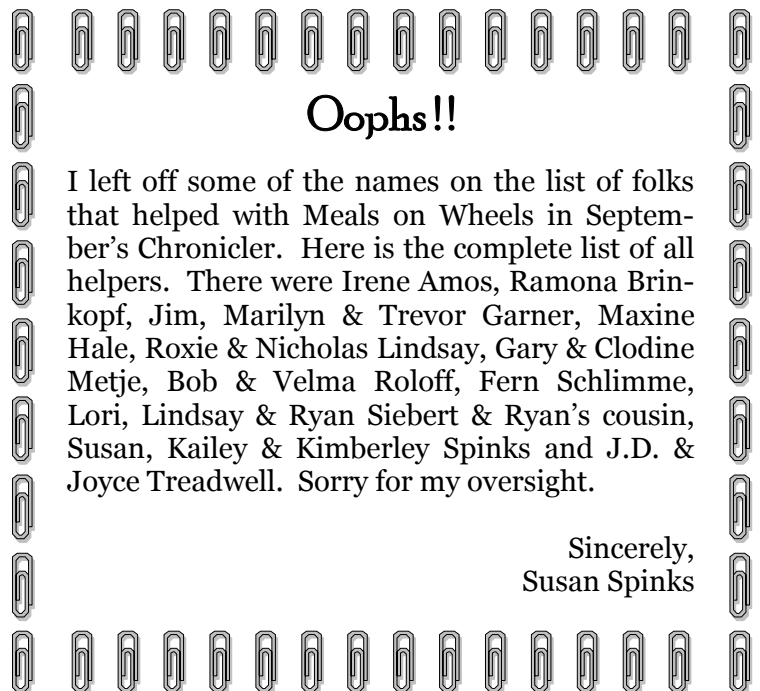
Thank You's & Oophs

Thank you everyone for all your words of sympathy and your concern for mine and Ernie's well being. I appreciated all the cards and phone calls that I received and for the memorials for my sister, Mary Kernohan.

—In Christ's Love  
Ida Mae Jordan

Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, phone calls and concerns for me during my recent knee surgery in St. Louis. I am recovering nicely and am able to get back to some of my usual activities.

—Blessings  
Paul Propst



Oophs!!

I left off some of the names on the list of folks that helped with Meals on Wheels in September's Chronicler. Here is the complete list of all helpers. There were Irene Amos, Ramona Brinkopf, Jim, Marilyn & Trevor Garner, Maxine Hale, Roxie & Nicholas Lindsay, Gary & Clodine Metje, Bob & Velma Roloff, Fern Schlimme, Lori, Lindsay & Ryan Siebert & Ryan's cousin, Susan, Kailey & Kimberley Spinks and J.D. & Joyce Treadwell. Sorry for my oversight.

Sincerely,  
Susan Spinks

## Memorial Gifts



With Deepest Sympathy

### Memorial Fund

In Memory of Mary Kernohan  
S.G. & Grace Coy  
Gary & Clodine Metje

In Memory of Bob Feldmeier  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Mehrle

## Neighbors In Need

On Sunday, October 7, 2007 we will be collecting the Neighbors In Need special mission offering. Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. One-third of NIN funds supports the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

The most powerful thing about Neighbors in Need is that our gifts are pooled. As a result, our individual and congregational gifts have a far greater effect. Coordinated giving allows the UCC to offer support to millions of people and to address the whole range of social issues and concerns, including those that matter most to people in our congregation.

\*This information came directly from the Neighbors in Need Leader's Guide.

## Council Financial Report

Distributions	August	\$7,061.67
Deposits	August	\$5,510.65
	Interest	\$2.42
Total Deposits for August		<u>\$5,513.07</u>
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A.G. Edwards Account	{Memorial Fund}	
Deposits	Memorials	\$430.00
	Interest	\$35.76
Ending Balance	As of 8/31/07	\$10,146.35
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Check Book		
Ending Balance	As of 8-31-07	\$19,244.91

## 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; 09-07

Leo Amelunke; 09-07

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

\*Austin Dowdy; 09-07

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

Irene Amos; 09-07

Tonya Pobst; 09-07

Paul Propst; 08-07

Dave Schaffner, Sr.; 08-07

Kaylyn Sneathen; 08-07

Harold Stahlman; 05-07

Karen Stephens—cancer; 05-07

Marjorie Thompson; 06-07

LaDonna Wells; 09-07

### Shut-Ins

#### Ratliff Nursing Home

717 N. Sprigg Street  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Polly Wilmsmeyer  
Bonnie Wilcox

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#### Fountainbleau Lodge

2001 N. Kingshighway  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Alta Proffer  
Connie Gibson

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#### Lutheran Home

2825 Bloomfield Road  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Dorothy Cole  
Lillian Kies  
Frank Maevers, Sr.  
Leonard Moore  
Andora Peetz

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#### 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

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## READ, READ, READ



### Meal-a-Month for FISH

Dried Beans & Peas  
Cold or Hot Cereal  
Canned Fruit Juice  
Canned Soup  
Corn Bread Mixes  
Cookie Mixes

***Thank You!***

### LIFE'S RECIPE

1 Heaping Cup of Encouragement  
1 Cup of Melted Compassion  
2 Cups of Hope  
1 Cup of Love  
1 Tablespoon of Faith (it only takes a little)  
2 Large Attitude  
Lots of Hugs in assorted sizes

Cream encouragement and compassion together. Add hope, love and faith. Mix thoroughly until smooth. Slowly add the unbeaten attitude. Batter should be firm, but not unyielding. Knead gently. Roll in hugs and cut out to the desired shape. Add stars of eyes and a kiss. Bake in a warm oven. Excellent when shared with a friend.

Author Unknown