

CHRONICLER

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

www.evangelicalucc-cape.org

November 2008

Multimedia Madness? Part 2

I had the privilege of our congregation recently sending me to the annual Persons in Ministry Retreat at Lake of the Ozarks. I really enjoyed the opportunity to relax a little and get to know some of my colleagues. The keynote speaker, Pastor Michael Bausch, led a series of programs on the use of multimedia in church worship. Michael is a recognized expert on this subject and has a great deal of experience using images and video clips in worship. Michael proposed that multimedia worship can reach the part of the population who find traditional services boring and unappealing.

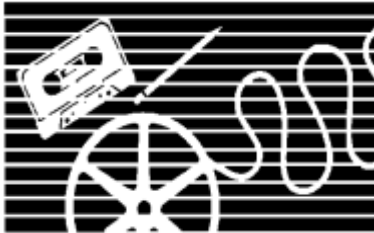
In the first part of this article, published in the October "Chronicler," I discussed some doubts I had with the claim that multimedia worship corrects traditional worship's bias in favor of auditory learners over visual learners. Today, I am addressing a second claim made by multimedia advocates. This is the argument that the Church needs to match the culture. Our culture floods our senses with a constant cascade of overcharged images—what researchers call supernormal stimuli—designed to provoke a stronger response than anything found in nature or what used to be called "real life." **The general argument seems to be that the Church is too quiet, too calm, to technically primitive, to compete with other forms of entertainment or "edutainment." To compete with the culture, the Church needs to be more exciting, colorful, and stimulating, and the best way to do this is to set up screens and show movie clips and music videos that illustrate or amplify sermon themes.** There also seems to be a view that worship can be more attractive when media are used to link worship to current trends in the culture. Instead of timeless and traditional, worship has broader appeal when it

is up-to-date and trendy.

Again, I feel less than qualified to address these arguments. Images produced for the entertainment market can have religious content. In fact, it is common for commercial entertainment to borrow images and ideas from religion. These borrowings can give movies and songs a spiritual dimension. **Secular storytellers "steal fire from heaven" to punch up their products.** It is ironic when the Church starts recycling commercial images for religious content that Hollywood stole from the Church in the first place. Although commercial images may have religious undercurrents, they usually do a poor job of presenting complex or challenging theological ideas. In fact, they tend to reduce those ideas to cultural stereotypes of the spiritual. **"Star Wars" may have some interesting religious content.** However, it also has a body count inconsistent with any serious commitment to Christian values.

Use of popular culture images in worship also assumes that there is a common popular culture to draw from. In fact, our culture is becoming more and more stratified on age, racial, and ethnic lines. The movies and music of interest to the younger generation are foreign and often offensive to older generations. Ultimately, multimedia services may end up having a narrower appeal than traditional worship, because media polarizes rather than unites.

I may sound a little negative about the use of multimedia in worship. However, if I were part of a team designing a new sanctuary, I would definitely want to ask the architects to include screens, projectors, and powerful audio systems into the design of the worship space. In an existing church building, there may be spaces in the church building were



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screens and projectors can be put to good use for special services and programs. However, adding screens and projectors to sanctuaries that were not designed for them usually yields poor results, both aesthetically and functionally.

If screens and projectors can be fitted to the sanctuary, they should be used with caution. It may sometimes make sense to project some liturgy, song lyrics, and scripture verses on the screen rather than have members refer to their bulletins, hymnals, and pew Bibles. Projecting media and announcements before and after church may also be useful to bookend worship. The purpose of Worship is to **praise God and to witness to others and ourselves and to show our gratitude for God's mighty deeds and abundant love.** Projecting still images and video during key parts of the liturgy, scripture readings, and sermon can be more of a distraction than a benefit.

Personally, I view the sanctuary as a place where I can get away from the intrusive noises and images that flood the rest of my life. The sanctuary is a holy place, set aside from the world for the worship of God. If the sanctuary seems strange, different, or old fashioned, that is a good thing. It is hard enough to focus on God with all the mental and emotional baggage I bring into that holy place. It seems almost a sacrilege to bring the hyped up noises and images of the secular world into a place that should be a place of refuge and protection from the temptations and distractions of that world. If there is not a separation between the sanctuary and the world, something has gone terribly wrong. For the ways of the world are not God's ways. As St. Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 1:25, **"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."** Amen.

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JAMAICAN CHRISTIAN MEDICAL MISSION

6TH Annual DINNER — DANCE — AUCTION

NOVEMBER 15 2008, Doors Open @ 5:00 PM

Schedule of Events

Silent Auction Begins

Pink, Green, & Gold silent auctions close at 8:00
 Blue, Canary, & Beige silent auctions close at 8:30
 Salmon, Gray, & Lilac silent auctions closes at 9:00

Dinner — Catered by Mac's Smokehouse

BBQ Pulled Pork — Smoked Chicken
 Scalloped Potatoes — Green Beans
 Salad — Roll and Butter — Ice Cream

Welcome and Auction Special Table

Invocation

Music Set

Oral Auction

Music Set

50/50 Drawing

Music Set

Attendance Prizes

The Jamaican Christian Medical Mission's Dinner—Dance—Auction will be held on Saturday, November 15th at the Arena Building in Cape Girardeau. Doors will open at 5:00 PM. A single ticket is \$18.00 and a table for eight is \$120.00. If you wish to purchase tickets, call Susan at the church office — 335-5611.



Mary– Martha News

Mary Martha Circle members enjoyed the presence of three of their “home-bound” members at the October meeting. Viola Geiser, Mary Huckstep, and Helen Owens were present—it was great to see them!

The group decided to provide snacks for the 20 children in the after school program at the Family Resource Center for one week.



Our next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, November 6th at 1:30 PM. Phyllis Garstang will lead devotions. Our hostesses will be Phyllis Garstang and Irene Amos.

The Christmas gift for the annual Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 4th will be “personal kits” for the ladies of Jamaica. Each kit will contain: hand lotion, vaseline, bar soap, washcloth, band-aids, deoderant, tooth brush, and hankie. If any ladies outside the circle wish to participate, you may do so. If you have any questions, ask

Thanks!

The Friendship Circle heartfully thanks everyone that helped roll out dumplings, de-boning the chicken, set up & decorating the dining room, and an extra thank you to every person who worked Sunday during the Chicken & Dumpling Dinner.

We had a successful dinner — serving approximately 345 people, a profit of approximately \$1,500.00. The Friendship Circle voted to apply the profits toward new carpet in the Sanctuary.

Again we thank each and everyone of you for your help with the Chicken & Dumpling Dinner. We could not have done this without all of your help.

In Christian Love
—The Friendship Circle

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle’s meeting on Tuesday, November 11th — 6:30 PM, will be the annual Auction which always provides a lot of FUN! Please bring something to auction off and of course, buy something from the Auction. This is a fun meeting and a great money-making event. Check your calendars for November 11th for a great time!

Members bring snacks. Everyone is invited to come and join in the fun of the evening.



Auction

Church Women United

All ladies are invited to World Community Day on Friday, November 7th at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The theme is “God’s Wisdom Sets Us Free”. Coffee and the program will begin at 9:00 AM.

Dinner & A Show

On Sunday, November 16th at 5:00 PM, in the lower auditorium, the Union of Concerned Christians will host a “Fried Chicken Appreciation Dinner” with entertainment in the form of a “Talent Show” for your viewing pleasure. The meal will be furnished by the UCC Group and all it’s members, just come, eat, and enjoy the evening. We welcome all to attend. We are grateful for the success of our apple butter making this year.

—Bob & Velma Roloff

Note: This year we have combined the UCC Appreciation Dinner with the ASAP’s Talent Show.

Council Financial Report

Beginning Check Book	Balance 9-1-08	\$26,804.96
Deposits	September	\$6,511.23
	Interest	\$0.20
Total Deposits for September		\$6,511.43
Disbursements	September	\$8,072.48
Ending Check Book	Balance 9-30-08	\$25,243.91
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A.G. Edwards {Memorial Fund}	Balance 9-1-08	\$10,813.22
	Interest	\$18.95
	Deposits	----
	Disbursements:	----
Ending Balance	As of 8-31-08	\$10,832.17
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Check Book Balance	As of 10-9-08	\$29,780.22



With Deepest Sympathy

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Paulette Maevers
 Gary & Clodine Metje
 Meta Siemers
 Diane Lough
 Pat Suzuki
 Betty Vogel
 Larry Graden
 Jo Strack
 Bob & Velma Roloff

Memorial General Fund

In Memory of Paulette Maevers
 S.G. & Grace Coy
 Helen Owens

Salem Cementary Fund

In Memory of Paulette Maevers
 Ramona Brinkopf



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.*

- Joyce Abernathy; 10-08
- Leo Amelunke; 09-08
- Marilyn Amelunke; 05-08
- Linda Anderson; 05-08
- Loyd Bollinger
- Ian Bolton; 10-08
- Heather Cato; 07-08
- *Eldon Chasteen-bone cancer; 10-08
- Phyllis Chasteen; 08-08
- "Red" Clifton; 08-08**
- Trent Conrad; 08-08
- Bettye Crockett; 06-08
- Lexi Edwards; 05-08
- Aleene Ellinger—**R. Bolton's Grandma**; 10-08
- Joan Hope
- Jed & Jon Jones; 05-08
- Jane Juergens; 09-08
- Anita MacDonald; 09-08
- Frank, Jr & Ame Maevers; 09-08
- Kenny Mehrle
- Bill McMillan; 06-08
- M.D. McMillan; 08-08
- Ester Nussbaum
- Hannah Parks; 06-08
- Travis Rister—Iraq; 09-08
- Bob & Nora Lee Seabaugh; 09-08
- Kailey Spinks; 10-08
- Aieral Steffens; 05-08
- Brett/Cherie Stembel; 06-08
- Karen Steffens; 06-08
- Marshall Whitworth; 08-08

Friends at Home

- Ratliff Nursing Home
717 N. Sprigg Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
- Polly Wilmsmeyer
-
- Fountainbleau Lodge
2001 N. Kingshighway
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
- Alta Proffer
-
- Lutheran Home
2825 Bloomfield Road
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
- Dorothy Cole
Viola Geiser
Frank Maevers, Sr.
Leonard Moore
Andora Peetz
-
- Auburn Creek
2910 Beaver Creek Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
- Irene Orlando
-
- Home Bound
S. G. Coy
Mary Huckstep
Helen Owens



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33 South Ellis Street
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703-6201

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Pastor Daniel Johnson
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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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUEST



Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 23rd, Evangelical United Church of Christ will host the Downtown Council of churches Community Thanksgiving Service. May of the details are being finalized. Be looking for more information in upcoming bulletins.