

In 1945 a handful of believers wanted to start a Pentecostal Church in Hannibal, Missouri. They did not have a Pastor, so Sister Ethel Stuckey contacted the Missouri District Superintendent, Brother B.H. Hite and Missouri District Secretary, Brother Harry Branding in St. Louis.

Rev. Branding sent Rev. Calvin Albert to Hannibal, and he was elected Pastor of the newly formed First Pentecostal Church of Hannibal, Missouri. Rev. Branding's Church provided financing, and the Hannibal Church purchased its first building at 420 Mark Twain Ave., the purchase price was \$5,000. The first business meeting, with Rev. Albert as the Pastor, was held on August 13, 1945. In attendance was Rev. Harry Branding, Rev. Frank Osbourn and Rev. B.H. Hite along with its founding members.

The congregation continued to grow under the leadership of Pastor Albert. In 1948, the Church purchased the property at 1100 Broadway, known as the "11th & Broadway" location, for \$12,500. In 1950 Pastor Albert started a radio broadcast that aired over KHMO. The broadcast aired each week starting May 1950 until the Fall of 1983. On January 17, 1961, the Church voted to change its name to "First United Pentecostal Church of Hannibal".

In 1974 the Church felt the need of a bus ministry and the first bus was purchased February 11, 1974. Brother Albert Niffen Jr. painted the bus with stripes and a large tiger on each side. The bus caused the Sunday School to grow. Soon there was a need for a second bus so on March 21, 1974, the second bus was purchased. A third bus was purchased on December 13, 1974. Brother Albert Niffen Jr. named them the Safari and the Jungle Buggy. Through the years, Pastor Albert served in many different capacities in the Missouri District of the United Pentecostal Church (UPCI). He was appointed as District Secretary in 1948 and served until 1952, Missouri UPCI Section 11 Presbyter from 1948 to 1984, editor of "The Voice of Missouri District" (Missouri's District News Paper), Secretary of the Sunday School Department of Missouri and later became the Director of that Department. He served on the Board of Urshan Bible College, formally known as Gateway College of Evangelism in St. Louis where he taught classes on the Corinthians. Due to poor health, Pastor Albert retired from the Church in 1984 and finished life's race, on September 18, 1990.