

# The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Jan/Feb 2013

## Pastor's Message

As we start a New Year there are some very important decisions we must make as a church. At the November Congregational meeting the vote to approve the budget was postponed until our January 27<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting in order to have people consider the idea of having a part-time pastor. Two separate budgets were presented to the congregation in November, one with a full-time pastor and one with a part-time pastor. If we approve a full time pastor we are looking at nearly a \$38,000 deficit! When the budget figures were put together by our treasurer, Harvey Jacob, and I saw the deficit, I told him we had to do something to stop the hemorrhaging of money.

I think that the responsible thing for the church to do is to approve a budget for a part-time pastor. It was my suggestion to the council that we do this and that I am willing to remain as the pastor on a part-time basis. Currently the church has \$250,000 in reserves but if we continue to approve deficit budgets we will be out of reserves in less than 7 years. It would be irresponsible of us to have a full-time pastor when the income to support one is just not there.



Before I say anything else about our financial position I want to address some of the concerns I am hearing about what a part-time pastor would

mean to the church. First and foremost, I am your pastor. If you need your pastor, you call me, anytime day or night. Just because a pastor is part-time doesn't mean they are only your pastor on certain days. I have told the council that I would be available for any emergencies which would mean I would adjust my schedule to accommodate them.

The schedule that I would plan to keep would be for me to be at the church on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays and to be

available for Tuesday night meetings. The places that I know of

right now where I would need to cut back would be working with the youth and community involvement such as the Hatton Center and the Canton Community Association. I anticipate having to also let go of a few other things but I think it will take living through a month or so with this schedule before I can say what they are for sure.

(continued)

## Pastor's Message

The council is a little nervous about taking this step and so we agreed to review this arrangement after 6 months to make sure it is working for both the church and myself, and then to review it again after one year. The council is also looking for other suggestions on ways we can address the budget shortfall, and your input is desired.

In the meantime, as you know, we are in the process of starting a daycare here at the church. This is one way we can use our facilities for ministry and generate some revenue for the church. It is anticipated that the daycare will be operational at some point in 2013, however it may take a few years for it to be at full capacity.

Returning to our financial picture, another item that will be addressed at the January congregational meeting will be to vote on establishing an Endowment Fund. Establishing an Endowment Fund is another way to generate more revenue for the church. There are some concerns about establishing this fund. Some think we should instead use the money to keep a full-time pastor. I would call this penny-wise but pound-foolish. The money that we would invest in the Endowment Fund is currently earning less than 1% interest. The UCF Moderate Fund, which is where our endowment would be, earned 8% this past year. As with any investment fund, the return rate will vary year to year but historically they out-perform other investment vehicles.

The bottom line is that we need to have our money working harder for us. Keeping it in the bank is not the best use of the gifts we have been given. Learning from the parable of the talents where the man buried his one talent in the ground because he was afraid, we need to act in faith to use the talent that we have.

Finally I know that some people are worried that having a part time pastor is the beginning of the end for the church. I believe it is the exact opposite, I see it as a road to a new beginning. I don't anticipate the pastor position to be part-time on a permanent basis. With all these plans I believe that within three years the church will be in a position to have a full-time pastor once again. In 2007 we did a visioning study where we all recognized that we will probably never be a large church again, but we can be a strong, small church. I feel like we already are a strong, small church. These steps are just lining up our finances with who we are.

In addition, I hope you all understand that I wasn't called into ministry to get fat off of the church (even though I have put on weight). I am called to give my best for the work of God. The question is always "what is the best we can do for the work of God?" Right now, at this point of the church's life I believe the best thing we can do is to have a part-time pastor and to establish an endowment fund. I hope you will make plans to be at the congregational meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 a.m. service so we can do the work of God.

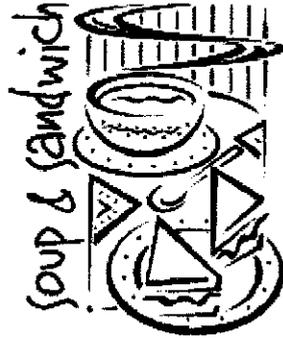
In Christ's love,  
Rev. Cathy

## Lenten Season



### Lenten Series Services (every Wednesday during Lent)

Feb. 13	Ash Wednesday
7:30 p.m.	Worship
Feb. 20	Lenten
7:30 p.m.	Worship
Feb. 27	Lenten
7:30 p.m.	Worship
Mar. 6	Lenten
7:30 p.m.	Worship
Mar. 13	Lenten
7:30 p.m.	Worship
Mar. 20	Lenten
7:30 p.m.	Worship
Mar. 27	Lenten
7:30 p.m.	Worship



### Lenten Soup & Sandwich Evenings

No time to cook before Wednesday worship? No problem. Each Wednesday during Lent there will be soup and sandwiches served in Fellowship Hall. **THE SOUP IS FREE!!** In addition, sandwiches and desserts will be sold with the proceeds going to the Lenten mission project. This year we are supporting the Heifer Project.

Come have a hearty bowl of soup & sandwich and join in worship



### Your Fundraising Ideas are Needed!

If you have fundraising ideas that you would like considered, please present them to any member of the fundraising committee. All ideas are welcome!!

### Prizes are Needed!!

Prizes are needed to supply our bingo and other game nights that are being planned. Donations of new merchandise for those prizes is very much needed. If you would rather make a monetary donation for prizes, that would also be welcomed.

**As always, your kind support is  
much appreciated!**

## Give it Some Thought...

### The Small, Strong Church

The 21st century is the century of small, strong congregations. More people will be drawn to small, strong congregations than any other kind of congregation. Yes, there are mega-congregations; their number is increasing greatly. Nevertheless, across the planet, the vast majority of congregations will be small and strong, and the vast majority of people will be in these congregations.— Kennon Callahan, *Small Strong Congregations*

#### Four futures for the 21st century church

Kennon Callahan believes that there are four futures for the 21st century church: Mega; Large, regional; Middle (or medium); and **Small, strong**. He further believes that the two strongest futures are the Large, regional and Small, strong. By contrast, the hardest size congregation to maintain is the middle (Note: Steve Boots, Associate for Redevelopment of the PCUSA, estimates that over 80% of our denomination's membership decline comes from the medium-sized church). In his book *Small, Strong Congregations*, Callahan questions the bigger-is-better notion in church membership, noting the number of congregations that are deliberately small, active, and happy in their dedication to creating a strong community of faith that advance God's mission. It is important to remember that a mission church is not defined by size, but rather by the way it thinks and acts. Is the church "outward" focused, connected to its community, providing care for both members and others? Or do the people have "in-turned hearts" focused on survival?

#### Creating strengths & health for the small church

A church's future is determined by its mission field and the strengths God has given the congregation. What we believe about God's mission call yields what we become. Unchurched (pre-Christians) are looking for three things: Help, Hope, and Home. In truth, church members are looking for the same thing.

We need to be freed to both give help and receive help... give hope and receive hope... give home and receive home. People join a congregation, not a denomination, just as people join a family, not an organization. People are searching for community, not a committee to serve on.

#### Strengths on which to build

- Mission and Service
- Compassion and Shepherding
- Community and Belonging
- Self-Reliance and Self-Sufficiency
- Worship and Hope
- Teams, Leaders, Congregation
- Just Enough Space and Facilities
- Giving and Generosity

When working with a struggling congregation, work to grow one strength at a time. Build on strength, rather than seeking to shore up weaknesses. Claim strengths, expand them, add one, and act!

**A word of caution and promise:** Mission must be done for the sake of mission, not to get new members. But, deliver one excellent mission in the community, and people will support it (with their time, talent and money).



Excerpts from *Small, Strong Congregations* by Kennon Callahan

## UEC Air Conditioning Fund



### Our Church Air-Conditioning Fund Drive Needs You!!

**Our Goal:                   \$ 60,378**

**Raised so far:           \$ 54,157**

**Needed to Reach Our Goal:   \$ 6,221**

**With Your Help We Can Get There**

Thanks to your very generous donations, our air conditioning fund drive has raised over **\$ 53,000!!** Great job and thanks to all who have contributed and continue to contribute to the fund. Without your support we would not have come this far.

Until we reach our goal, the church must pay interest each month on the loan for the a/c system. We must reach the \$60,000 goal in order to move on to other projects. Your continued support is vital in paying off the loan balance.

**The cost of the new a/c system totals \$60,378, so we only need \$ 6,221 to reach our goal.** Please consider donating to the fund so that our church can retire this loan and move on to other church projects.

**Just think, a mere \$10 per week added to your offering will help significantly in our effort to pay this debt. You can help.**



**THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



## More, More...



### Charitable Automobile Recycling

Every year in the U.S.A. almost 15 million automobiles become inoperable and get a one way ticket to the junkyard. Every part of the automobile can be

recycled with the proper resources. When a car is donated to a charitable car donation organization it is first determined if it is operable or if it can be repaired at a reasonable cost. If not, every part of the car is removed and refurbished for further use; this includes the doors, bumpers, engine, transmission, and even the radio and floor mats! The steel in the vehicle is perhaps the most recyclable, and each year over 14 million tons of steel from defunct automobiles gets recycled, this is enough to make almost 13 million new cars!

It is interesting to note that steel is one of the few materials that can be recycled indefinitely without losing its strength, this means that the steel in your car could have been used in numerous cars before and may be used in numerous vehicles to come. In addition, car recycling is beneficial because motor oil that may otherwise be dripping into the soil from a vehicle in a junkyard or another unused vehicle is safely removed, filtered, and reused in cars, schools, homes, and businesses. Charitable car recycling is an easy, no hassle way to help the environment and local charities while getting rid of that clunker sitting in your driveway, not to mention it's a great tax write off!



### *NEW Weekly YOGA Classes at United!*

*Linda Howard, a local yoga instructor, is now offering  
2 weekly yoga classes*

#### *Every Tuesday in the United gym!!*

The first class, "Easing into Yoga," is held from 5-6 pm. This class is offered on a donation basis, giving whatever you can afford.

The second class, "Beginner's Yoga," is held from 6:30-7:45 pm. The cost for this class is \$12 per session.

Linda used to offer these classes at the Hatton Senior Center but due to changes with the use of City space, she is now offering them at United. We are very excited to be able to provide the space for these community classes!

If you have any questions, please call Linda at 410-947-8796.

## UCC Mission Moments



# mission MOMENTS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Stewardship Message

#### Stewards of Life Abundant: Transformative Generosity

*You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God. – 2 Corinthians 9:11*

As Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann points out, the Bible starts out with a liturgy of abundance – a song of praise for God's generosity. It keeps saying, "It is good, it is good, it is good, it is very good." Filled with God's generosity, Jesus went around to people suffering from scarcity – of health, of acceptance, of power, of understanding – and replaced it with a gift of abundance. Jesus is well-schooled in the transformative generosity of God and in the conviction that if you share your bread with the neighbor, the world will be made new. He knows that generosity isn't something you just think about, it's something you do.

Stewardship presumes blessing and abundance. Jesus sums up the purpose of his ministry this way: that we "may have life, and have it abundantly." Our job is discernment of the ways in which all of us, including the church, already have "far more than all we can ask or imagine." Then the real work of stewardship becomes embracing generosity *in the spirit of Jesus* as a way of life. How is this way of life transformative for you?

*A message from Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship available from United Church of Christ Resources.*

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

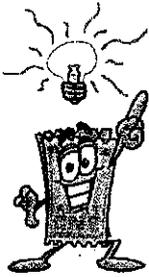


## Looking Ahead - Mark Your Calendars!

### Planning Meeting for 140th Anniversary & General Fundraising

January 4, 2013

Friday, 6:00 p.m. (Dinner will be provided)



All are invited to attend to share/brainstorm with ideas for our celebrations and fundraisers. If unable to attend, please provide all ideas and suggestions to any Church Council member or Fundraising Committee member. All input is encouraged and welcome.

### Congregational Meeting

January 27, Sunday (following 10:30 a.m. worship)



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Everyone is encouraged to attend the upcoming Congregational Meeting. We will be discussing some very crucial topics regarding the future of the church. Upcoming changes will affect each and every one of us. Please plan to attend.

### Family Fun Bingo Night

February 1, 2013 (Friday)

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Bingo begins at 6:00 p.m.



No need to cook!! There will be plenty of great food and desserts. Come out for great fun and fellowship.

### 140th UEC Anniversary

Wanna Dance? Here's your Chance!



2013 marks UEC's 140th anniversary. To celebrate our Church Council is considering a UEC Dinner Dance. In order to continue planning, we need a "ballpark figure" of possible attendees. So please contact Darlene Waters at 410-574-6021 and advise if you are interested in attending.

### 140th UEC Anniversary Cookbook

Share Your Favorite Recipes!



The UEC Ladies Organization is planning a 140th Anniversary Cookbook for 2013. Get our your new-favorites and long-time treasured recipes. More information will be included in upcoming weekly bulletins and future Endeavors.

# Places to Go, People to See, Things to Do...

## Ladies Organization Trips & Events

### Upcoming Events



Call Arlene Pate  
410-327-3211  
for ticket prices & availability

Upcoming Events to be announced  
in the next issue of the Endeavor.  
Stay tuned....

Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings  
first Wednesday of the month.  
All Meetings Begin at 12 noon  
(unless otherwise noted)

Jan. 2            Luncheon

Feb. 6            Luncheon

Come join the Ladies Organization,  
we would love to see you!!



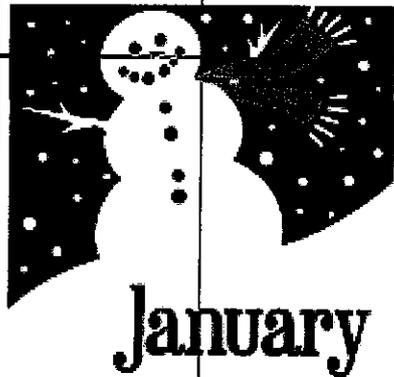
A few of our ladies are unable to attend meetings. It has been suggested that any ladies who have retired or are free the first Wednesday of the month from 12 noon to about 3 p.m. might like to join our group. We normally have two bus trips per year to Faith Church for their luncheons, a Christmas luncheon and several other luncheons during our meeting times. Please consider joining us. Dues are only \$ 10 per year.

### Important Notice—All trips MUST HAVE DEPOSIT TO HOLD SEATS

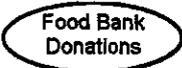
If you must cancel your seat you need to find someone to take your seat to receive your money back.

Persons to contact: Arlene Pate 410-327-3211

# UEC January 2013 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Ladies Organization Luncheon 12 noon	3	4 140th Anniv. & Event Planning Meeting 6:00 p.m.	5
6 <i>Communion Sunday</i> <b>Food Bank Donations</b> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 Bible Study & Christian Education	7	8 Yoga Classes 5:00-6:00 p.m. 6:30-7:45 p.m. Church Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.	9 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	10 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	11	12
13 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 Bible Study & Christian Education	14	15 Yoga Classes 5:00-6:00 p.m. 6:30-7:45 p.m. Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	17 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	18	19
20 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 Bible Study & Christian Education	21	22 Yoga Classes 5:00-6:00 p.m. 6:30-7:45 p.m. Canton Community Association Meeting 7:00 p.m.	23 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	24 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	25	26
27 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 Bible Study & Christian Education	28	29 Yoga Classes 5:00-6:00 p.m. 6:30-7:45 p.m.	30 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	31 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.		

# UCC February 2013 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Family Fun Bingo Night 5:00 p.m.	2
3 <b>Communion Sunday</b>  8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 Bible Study & Christian Education	4	5 Yoga Classes 5:00-6:00 p.m. 6:30-7:45 p.m.	6 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Luncheon 12 noon Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	7 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	8	9
10 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 Bible Study & Christian Education	11	12 Church Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Yoga Classes 5:00-6:00 p.m. 6:30-7:45 p.m.	13 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30 p.m.	14 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	15	16
17 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 Bible Study & Christian Education	18	19 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m. Yoga Classes 5:00-6:00 p.m. 6:30-7:45 p.m.	20 Lenten Worship 7:30 p.m.	21 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	22	23
24 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 Bible Study Christian Education	25	26 Yoga Classes 5:00-6:00 p.m. 6:30-7:45 p.m.	27 Lenten Worship 7:30 p.m.	28 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.		

### Only is Enough

God is not looking for the best qualifications, best ability, best charisma, best prospects type of people — not that he would turn down these sorts automatically, because it's also true that some of the most gifted people in our society have also been some of God's best servants. But that

“Well done, good and faithful servant!”

Matthew 25:21, NIV



is a coincidence and not a requirement. I think that is because God knows that the vast majority of men and women fall into the “I am only” category. But only is

enough with God's help, and it would amaze you what God can make of them.

—Alastair Symington

### United Evangelical Church

Pastor

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Hours

Tuesday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Secretary

Abby Markowitz

Custodian

Mr. James Brooks

Director of Music

Robert Gundlach  
robert.gundlach@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor

Barbara Matthew  
barbmatthew@verizon.net



### New Bible Study Class

Bible Study returns to Sunday morning in between worship services (at 9:15 a.m.). Ric Nyborg leads a lectionary based study in Friendship Hall.

Please come and join in.



Our Bible Study!

### General Mills Boxtops

for Education



Don't forget to bring in your General Mills Box tops for Education and leave them in the display in the Narthex.

*Just a Reminder...*

## Odds 'n Ends

### Altar Flowers



The chart for requesting altar flowers is in the Narthex. The offering is \$ 19 per vase (this is the new price effective December 1st.

If you have any questions, please contact Ursula Jacob at 410-679-6163.



Our UEC Bowling League has Openings!

If interested contact Holly Raddatz @ 410-285-0894

### A New Twist on Coffee Hour

With everyone's busy schedules it can be difficult to host Coffee Hour. So we are going to have a Coffee Hour Collection Carafe in the Narthex, When the collection totals enough for a Coffee Hour than we'll have one.

So look for the Coffee Hour Carafe in the Narthex,

### Wrestling With God

One way Christianity differs from other world religions is how intimately we relate to God, often sparring with him as we do with close family members.

The name *Israel*, after all, means "God-struggler." God's people Israel are named after their ancestor Jacob, who wrestled face to face with God one entire night and survived — indeed, was blessed.

God isn't distant, refusing to hear complaints or entertain questions. He isn't even above wrestling back and forth with us over matters of faith and life. God welcomes honest struggles and even presumptuous requests (such as Jacob's "Please tell me your name"). Sometimes, as with Jacob's grandfather Abraham (Genesis 18:20-32), God even responds to our pleas by changing his mind.

Above all, when we engage personally and sincerely in relationship with God, he blesses



### Canton Community Association Meetings



NEIGHBORHOOD Association

The Canton Community Association meets at our church on a bi-monthly basis. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with free dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Friendship Hall. These meetings are a wonderful way to meet new neighbors and stay informed about the concerns of our community. It also shows that our church thinks being involved in its community is important. Put the meetings on your calendar and come show our neighbors how important our community is to us as a church. The next meeting is January 22nd.

To obtain additional info.— [www.cantoncommunity.org/](http://www.cantoncommunity.org/)

# Comics Corner



## The Greek Priest

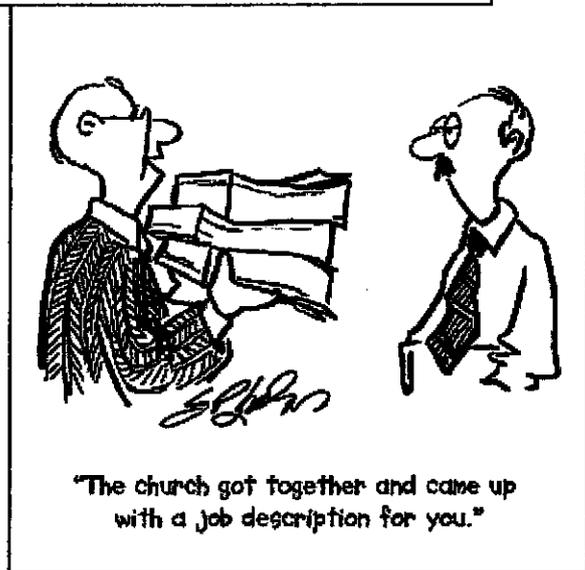
A Greek priest is driving down to New York to see a show, and he's stopped in Connecticut for speeding.

The state trooper smells alcohol on his breath, sees an empty wine bottle on the floor, and asks, "Sir, have you been drinking?"

The minister replies, "Just water."

The trooper asks, "Then, why do I smell wine?"

The minister looks down at the bottle and exclaims, "Good Lord, He's done it again!"



A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class.

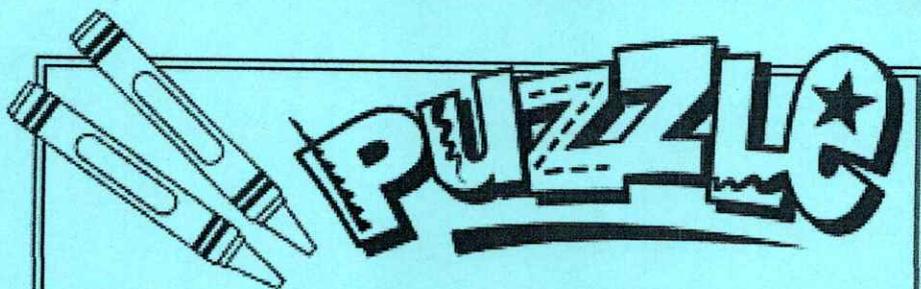
As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

As she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again.

As she ran she once again began to pray,

"Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!...But don't shove me either."

Kids Only!!



PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Want to start the new year off right? Remember to always ask God for guidance.

Directions: Write each word (or word part) in the correct numbered box to complete Proverbs 16:3, NIV.

JANUARY 2013						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

14 - lab 18 - Pro 7 - ever 6 - what 15 - lish 8 - you 4 - the  
 21 - :3 16 - your 9 - do 1 - Com 20 - 16 11 - he 10 - and 22 - NIV  
 3 - to 12 - will 19 - verbs 13 - es 2 - mit 17 - plans 5 - Lord

Answer: "Commit to the Lord whatever you do and he will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3, NIV

**The United Endeavor**

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