

# The United Endeavor

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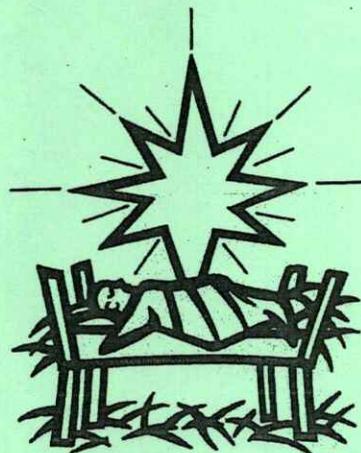
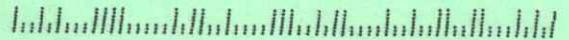
United Evangelical Church  
United Church of Christ  
3200 Dillon Street  
Baltimore, MD 21224

**Address Service Requested**

**Dated Material**

Rev. Catherine J. Oatman  
3236 Churchville Road  
Churchville, MD 21028

2102831804 R002



R E M E M B E R  
**THE CHILD**

**Kids Only!!**



# The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.

1 - k      2 - (1) e

3 afr + - m      4 g + - h      5 - paper

6 j + - b      7 - b

8 t + - d      9 b + - h

"Do \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 I bring you \_\_\_\_\_ 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 5 of great \_\_\_\_\_ 6 that will be for \_\_\_\_\_ 7 the people.

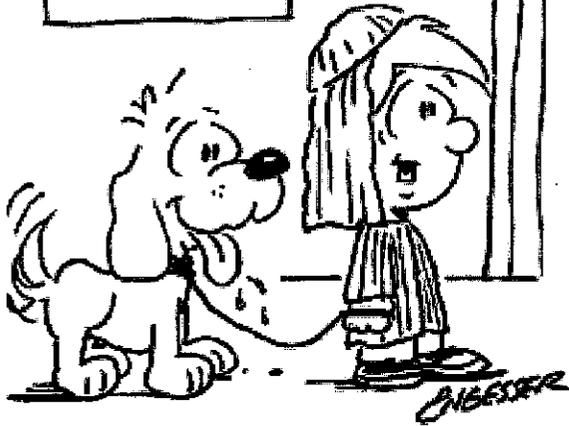
Today in the \_\_\_\_\_ 8 of David a Savior has been \_\_\_\_\_ 9

to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(1)e=be; 3. afr+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born

Comics Corner

CHRISTMAS PLAY  
TRYOUTS



"We found our donkey!"

**Mistletoe at the Airport**

Do you know why mistletoe hangs in the airport baggage area?

So you can kiss your luggage goodbye!

**The Army of the Lord**

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

**oops!**

From a worship bulletin in Burlingame, Kansas:  
THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS  
Food bank panty is low.  
Choir rehearsal resumes Wednesday.  
Let's hope the pantry shortage is brief.

**The Gift**

Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Chris Cody said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best present I ever got."

"That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"

"Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night."



### Altar Flowers



The chart for requesting altar flowers is in the Narthex. The cost is \$18 per vase.

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

### 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.



## United Evangelical Church

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cell phone: 410-428-1482  
cj oatman@msn.com

Church Office 410-276-0393  
e-mail: uecucc@verizon.net  
website: www.unitedevangelical.org

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

Secretary Carol Duray

Custodian Paul Polasky

Director of Music Robert Gundlach  
robert.gundlach@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor Barbara Matthew  
barbmatthew@verizon.net

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



### A "Hunger Site at the U.N" on the Internet

All you have to do is click a button and somewhere in the world some hungry person gets a meal to eat at no cost to you. Corporate sponsors pay for the food. Just go to the site listed below and click.

**No gimmicks, no tricks.**

You are only allowed one click per day, so spread the word to others.

**The site is: [www.hungersite.com](http://www.hungersite.com)**



### Canton Community Association Meetings

The Canton Community Association meets at our church on a bi-monthly basis. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with free dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. 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. Next Meeting is January 25, 2011.

More information at [www.cantoncommunity.org/](http://www.cantoncommunity.org/)

# UEC January 2011 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Earl's Place Resolution Run 12 noon Patterson Park
<b>2</b> Food Bank Donations 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Rev. Cathy on vacation 12/27 thru 1/3	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>12</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Chili & Beer Makin' Challenge 6:00-8:00 p.m. UEC Fellowship Hall
<b>16</b> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>19</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School UEC Congregational Meeting following 10:30 Worship	<b>31</b>					

# UEC December 2010 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	2	3	4 Youth Lock-In & Cookie Bake 5:00 p.m.
5  Food Bank Donations  8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service  9:15 a.m. Sunday School	6	7	8 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Ladies Organization Luncheon Meeting 12 noon	9	10	11
12 Tinsel Sunday  10:30 a.m. Worship Service	13	14 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	16	17	18
19 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service  9:15 a.m. Sunday School  Christmas Caroling Future Care in Canton 2:00 p.m.	20	21	22 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7:30 p.m.	25 Christmas
26 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service  9:15 a.m. Sunday School	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

Rev. Cathy on vacation 12/27 thru 1/3

New & Exciting Happenings...



**Chili & Beer Makin' Challenge**

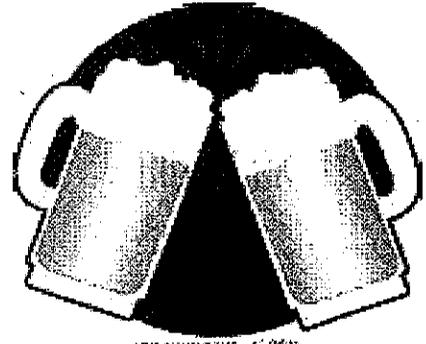
**Saturday, January 15**

**UEC Fellowship Hall**

**6:00—8:00 p.m.**

**Entry fee \$25.00**

**First Prize wins \$ 100.00**



Our first ever Chili & Beer Makin' Challenge requires a \$25.00 entry fee for all chili makers and beer brewers. There is a limit of 10 chili entries and 10 beer brewing entries.

Entry is on a first-come basis. Call 410-276-0393 to enter.

A \$5.00 fee for all chili and beer tasters.

Proceeds to benefit Earl's Place and United Evangelical Church

Come out and lose those cabin fever blues at the Chili & Beer Makin' Challenge

Soda/water/desserts will also be available



Quarter Auction  
Saturday,  
February 19, 2011



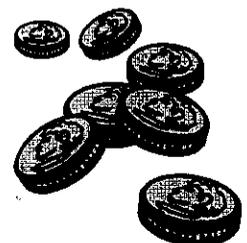
**Come have fun at the first UEC Quarter Auction!**

**Doors Open at 5:15 p.m.**

**Auction Begins at 7:00 p.m**

**Food & Refreshments will be available.**

**Bidding Paddles - \$ 3.00 each or 2 for \$ 5.00**



**All proceeds benefit United Evangelical Church**

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

Ladies Organization Trips & Events

Upcoming Events



Christmas Get Together \$ 28.00 per person  
December 15, 12 noon  
Williamsburg Inn—1st Floor

Please call Arlene or Millie before Dec. 1st to reserve a spot  
All are welcome to join the celebration (and bring a friend!)  
Single Crab Cake  
Chicken Marsala  
Entrée, Potato, Soup, Salad & Dessert

New members are always welcome!  
Dues are \$ 10.00 per year

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

Dec.1 No meeting  
Jan. 2 Pizza

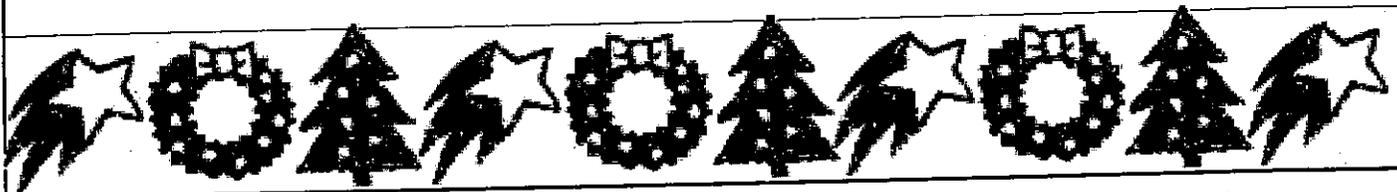


Come join the Ladies Organization,  
we would love to see you!!

Any ladies who are free the first Wednesday of each month from 12 noon to about 3 p.m. are invited and welcome to join the UEC Ladies Organization. We normally have 2 bus trips a year to the Faith Church Luncheon, a Christmas Luncheon and several other luncheons during our meeting times. Please consider joining us.

A special thank you to all new members who joined our group in October 2010!!

Arlene



**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 or Millie Wirsing 410-675-3904**



United Church of Christ

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

## The Christmas Gift

If you haven't found the right gift by now, you may be feeling desperate. Desperate, anxious and maybe a little irritated. Lot of pressure, the gift-giving thing. The ads tell us that if only we get/find/buy the right gift, then we will be loved.

The people of Israel were operating on a similar premise: God would love them if they offered the right gift. But they are a little irritated about it all. Nothing seemed to be enough. No gift they could think up seemed sufficient to get God's love. So they poured out their frustration to the prophet, Micah. "With that shall I come before God . . . Burnt offerings, calves a year old . . . Thousands of rams, ten thousands of rivers of oil?" (Micah 6: 6 – 8) What does God want? Micah's answer, and the good news of Christmas, is that we don't have to come up with the perfect or the biggest or the most expensive gift. We don't have to win God's favor or to appease God at all. We don't have to try to get on God's good side, because God has taken our side. God has sent God's own first born child to our side. "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a child."

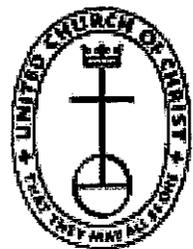
We can't do a thing to earn God's love, but we can receive it and trust it. We are, however, asked to respond to God's love and grace. How? Micah tells us, "by doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God." Give this gift to God not to win God's love but because God will always love you. It's a gift. Your Christmas gift.

Open it and live.

*(by Anthony B. Robinson, from the Stillspeaking Daily Devotional)*



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



## Youth Group Schedule



### Youth Group Activity Schedule

Any questions, please call Cathy Fifield, 410-879-5121, or e-mail [mrsacdc@comcast.net](mailto:mrsacdc@comcast.net)

#### **Lock-In & Cookie Bake Saturday, December 4**

From 5:00 p.m. on Saturday till after worship on Sunday  
Don't forget to bring bedding, pajamas, clothes for church  
and personal hygiene items!

#### **Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 19, 2:00 p.m.**

Future Care in Canton  
Everyone is invited to join our Youth Group for luncheon, a short  
practice and then caroling at 2:00 p.m.

#### **Resolution Run Saturday, January 1, 12 noon**

Earl's Place Resolution Run  
St. Elizabeth's (Baltimore Street across from Patterson Park)

#### **Youth Group Meeting Thursday, January 6, 5:30 p.m.**

UEC kitchen

#### **Youth Group Meeting Thursday, January 20, 5:30 p.m.**

UEC kitchen



Coming Attractions in January - Mark Your Calendars!



January 1, 2011—Earl's Place Resolution Run  
registration begins at 12:00 noon

Runners should register at St. Elizabeth's on  
Baltimore Street across from Patterson Park

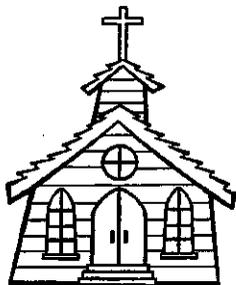


Chili & Beer Makin' Challenge!

Saturday, January 15  
6:00-8:00 p.m.  
UEC Fellowship Hall

Our first ever beer and chili makin' challenge!!

(See further details in this issue of The Endeavor)



CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 30  
following 10:30 Worship

Come and participate in your church!

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

## Coming Attractions in December - Mark Your Calendars!



### **Dec. 4 —Youth Lock-in and Cookie Bake Begins Saturday, December 4 at 5:00 p.m.**

From 5:00 p.m. on Saturday til after church on Sunday our Youth Group will be baking up cookies for their fund raiser. Games and snacks will be provided. Don't forget to bring bedding, pjs, clothes for church and personal hygiene items.



### **December 12—Tinsel Sunday**

Come join in the annual Advent workshop celebration. The message will be given by the Sunday School in the pageant, "When Christmas Comes for Everyone."

Tickets are needed for the luncheon following worship and can be picked up at the office or from Ursula Jacob, Pam Sartori, Cass Young or Darlene Waters. If you're under 12 it's free (but you still need a ticket). \$7.00 per person for those over age 12. Menu includes spiral ham, company potatoes, mixed vegetables, warm biscuits, apple sauce and pumpkin pie. Hot dogs and chips for the kids. Come and enjoy!!

**Please note: There will be only one worship service on Dec. 12 at 10:30am**



### **Join our Youth Group for Caroling at Future Care on Boston Street Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 p.m.**

Everyone is invited to join our Youth Group for luncheon and a short practice after worship and then caroling at 2:00 p.m. Come lift your voices with our Youth Group. All voices are welcome!!



### **Christmas Eve Worship Friday, December 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

Children's Message, Communion  
and Candlelight Service.

## Give It Some Thought...

### Christmas Cheer

Every year around this time, I have a familiar experience. I'm out shopping, and I'll go through the checkout line, and pay for my stuff. When the cashier hands me back the change, they'll say "Happy holidays," or perhaps even "Merry Christmas."

I realize that this comment is not always motivated by the cashier's genuine interest in whether or not I enjoy my holiday. I'm aware that they may be saying this because they've been told to. I can envision the memo from K mart corporate headquarters directing cashiers when to switch from "Have a nice day" to "Happy Holidays," on the assumption that this will somehow help cement a lasting bond between the store and the customer that won't evaporate when a Wal-Mart opens across the street.

I'm aware of all that, and suspicious of the whole business. But at least once every year, I have a cashier who looks me in the eye and says "Merry Christmas," and really means it. And it changes my whole day.

There really is something genuine to this whole idea of Christmas cheer. As Dec. 25th draws near, people warm up just a bit. If you're out and around on Christmas Eve, you'll notice that people are friendlier than on any other day of the year.

Folks warm up when they are mindful of the Christ child's birth, and make an extra effort to practice the virtues the angels sing of – "peace on earth, goodwill towards men."

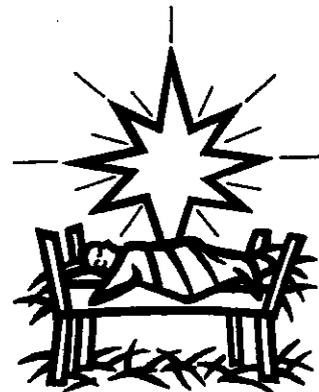
But consider this – why do we notice this at Christmas? Why does this surge in warmheartedness stand out? I think it's because, despite our best intentions, good will towards men can easily become a seasonal event rather than a standing policy.

When Christ entered our world, he didn't come to brighten our Decembers, but to transform our lives. It can be hard work to practice good will towards one another. But John the Baptist's message was that as we prepare for Christ to come into our lives, we can change our ways.

The Gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry provide the blueprint for loving our neighbor in a busy and complicated neighborhood. Christ made a point of seeking out the broken and disenfranchised people of his day – the lepers, prostitutes and tax collectors – and he saw the value in each one of them. And in so doing, He helped them recognize the value in themselves.

This Christmas season, let us recognize that just as faith is a decision, good will towards people is a series of decisions that work themselves out not in temporary holiday cheer, but in the details of everyday life.

*These meditations were prepared by Rich Miller of Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Rich is a lay speaker who attends the The Hopewell United Methodist Church in Hopewell*



R E M E M B E R  
**THE CHILD**

## Holiday Worship & Council News

(continued from page 1)

**If you wanted to be more hopeful about this congregation and you were allowed one wish for it, what would it be. I wish...**

Predominant themes – More members, more of a focus on God

**In your opinion, what should the congregation do to increase a hopeful attitude among the members?**

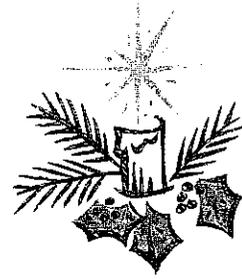
Predominant themes – Youth involvement, move or join together with other churches, involve God more in our live together as a church

**Name two ways this congregation can grow in its loving response to people and the Gospel. Please name specific things the congregation can do.**

Predominant themes – Mission to the underprivileged, ministry of faith enrichment, outreach to the un-churched, hospitality and welcoming both inside and outside the church

**Think of actions you could take to grow in your response to the love of God and people. List the things you want to do below.**

Predominant themes – Commit more time and participate more actively in the church, personal transformation towards Christ-likeness, more personal sacred time



### A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Dec. 24 Friday, Christmas Eve

7:30 p.m. Worship



# The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Dec/0/Jan/11

## Pastor's Message

*Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. Luke 1:38*

I am always amazed at Mary's response to the message that the angel Gabriel brought to her. It took a lot of courage to say yes to God's plan for her life. As we approach Christmas and we once again listen to Mary's story, we are reminded that God's ways are so very counterintuitive to how we perceive our lives.

This counterintuitive life extends to our life as a church as well, and during our stewardship study living this courageous life was the focus. As a church we filled out questionnaires, answering questions about how God was calling us each individually to a courageous life. It was interesting as I read through them how so many different people responded with similar answers. It was obvious that there were common themes running throughout the congregation. The practice of spiritual discernment teaches us to pay attention to common motifs, as this is often where we find God speaking.

The predominant themes to those questions are listed below. Between now and the end of January the stewardship team and the council will be considering how to act on your thoughtful responses. Knowing that God calls us to a courageous life we may all be amazed at the message that God has sent to us.

In Christ,

Rev. Cathy

**What are some ways this congregation can be more faithful to the call of Jesus Christ and the true purpose of the church? Make a list.**

Predominant themes – mission and ministry to other in various capacities, Bible and scripture study, fellowship and compassion for each other.

**What are the next steps you must take if you want to grow in your faithfulness to Christ and the church. List the things that come to mind.**

Predominant themes – praying, striving to be more Christ-like, devoting more resources to the church.

(continued)