

The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Feb/Mar 2010



Pastor's Message



We seek to continue Jesus' mission - of reaching out; embracing everyone; enriching all; becoming living examples; bonding all with the love of God.

"Railroads went out of business because they thought they were in the business of railroads. They weren't. They were in the business of transportation." These words belong to William Trollinger, Jr. from a review he wrote about the book *The Missional Church and Denominations: Helping Congregations Develop a Missional Identity* edited by Craig Van Gelder. His review appears in the January 12, 2010 edition of *The Christian Century*.

Trollinger goes on to say that "Likewise, churches... decline or die when they think the business they are in is church. It isn't. The business they are in is God's mission in the world." I think that Trollinger's words are apropos for us as a church. It may be an epiphany for some of us to hear that the business of the church is not the church. During the golden age of church membership in the 1950's, many churches began to function as entities unto themselves. The purpose of the church became the church. But like the Railroad industry, Trollinger is reminding us that when our gathering is all about us and not the mission of Christ, it is then that we have lost our way, and are in danger of going out of business.

Currently much of our committee process, our leadership structure and our governing by-laws are directed toward a self-centered focus instead of a mission centered focus. When churches struggle with their identity they are encouraged to revisit their mission statement. However when I read our mission statement, which is above, I think it is a very good statement of purpose. I think our challenge is to let our mission statement guide what we do as a church.

On February 20th there will be a leadership retreat, where all those who are involved in the leadership of the church will be gathering to brainstorm on how we can best be about the business of God's mission in our world. The

...our challenge is to let our mission statement guide what we do as a church.

term 'Missional Church' is another phrase for 'Emerging

Church'. Perhaps the Emerging Church is simply the Holy Spirit's way of blowing the entire church back onto the track of its true purpose, that being the mission of God in our world.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Cathy

Additional Announcements

Clapping in Worship

Recently the congregation was asked not to clap in worship after choral musical offerings. I arrived at this decision after discussion with Rob Gundlach and the choir. Since this announcement there have been some strong responses from members who feel that clapping is an appropriate way to express praise of God. While this is true, clapping, unfortunately, is too closely associated with performance approval. Recently after the choir sang and there was no clapping, I heard one member of the choir say, "I guess they didn't like that one." This is simply the wrong message we want to send to those who offer their gifts in worship.

Choral musical selections are offered as worship to God. If we clap for the music then we ought to clap for other acts of worship such as prayer or offering. Music can be very inspiring and spiritually moving, and appropriately we want to respond in some way. If you are inspired by the music which is offered in worship, say a personal "Amen" or some other words of praise, and then tell the choir and/or Rob how much the music meant for your worship experience.

Thank you,
Rev. Cathy

THEREFORE
go
AND MAKE
DISCIPLES OF ALL
nations

MATTHEW 28:19



UEC Leadership Retreat

Saturday February 20th

9:00 am – 3:00 pm
at the Church

Calling all council members, committee members, teachers, small group participants, worship participants and all persons involved in any aspect of leadership within the church. All are encouraged to attend the Leadership Retreat, to spend a day in prayer and discernment as we craft a vision for the church for 2010 and beyond.



Real Work Begins...

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace ... to make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman, *American author, civil rights leader, and theologian (1899-1981)*

Lenten Schedule



We will be exploring the healing ministry of Jesus and its significance in our lives.

February 17	Ash Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship
February 24	Lenten Worship	7:30 p.m.	"Jesus the Healer"
March 3	Lenten Worship	7:30 p.m.	"Jesus the Healer"
March 10	Lenten Worship	7:30 p.m.	"Jesus the Healer"
March 17	Lenten Worship	7:30 p.m.	"Jesus the Healer"
March 24	Lenten Worship	7:30 p.m.	"Jesus the Healer"

Before the Lenten services starting on 2/24 thru 3/24 there will be a meal of homemade soup and sandwiches. Again as last year the soup is free, the sandwiches will be \$ 4.00 and deserts will be \$ 1.00. 50% of the proceeds will go to One Great Hour of Sharing.



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins March 28th

March 31	Tableau	8:00 p.m.	Last Supper re-enactment
April 1	Maundy Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Tennebrae Service & Communion
April 2	Good Friday	9:00 a.m.	Good Friday Worship Service
April 4	Easter Sunday	6:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sunrise Worship Service Children's Worship Service Morning Worship Service

Lenten Mission Project



One Great Hour of Sharing

This year our Lenten mission project will be One Great Hour of Sharing.

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

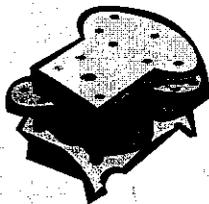
Jesus said when we serve the hungry, comfort the sick, welcome the stranger, visit the imprisoned, care for the desperate poor, we are serving him. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV).

The OGHS offering will be received on Sunday, March 28th.

Please give generously.

Your gift can profoundly affect those in need.

Lenten Meals



Wednesday Lenten
Soup and Sandwich Dinners at UEC
beginning February 24th



No time for dinner before Lenten services? No problem. Come and enjoy free soup on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Prior to worship all are invited to Friendship Hall to enjoy hearty soup and lively conversation.

The soup is free, but there will also be available for sale:

sandwiches \$ 4.00 desserts \$ 1.00

50% of all proceeds from the sandwich sales will benefit the "One Great Hour of Sharing " program, our UEC Lenten mission project.

We are looking for people to make the soup. If you can help, please contact
Bob Osburne @ 410-335-9470

Message for Lent



Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means "good news.")

A college student decided to work his way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom, leaving the authorities dumb-founded.

During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant son of God, who was only in his 30s. Get to know the good news, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.

Give It Some Thought...

The Original Meaning of Lent

This article, originally written as a reflection on the Scripture readings for the third Sunday of Lent shows us how Jesus' dialogue with the Samaritan woman at the well can help us add another dimension to our understanding and experience of the Lenten Season.

The story of the Samaritan woman (John 4) teaches the kind of evangelism that all of us can manage.

First, Jesus models it for us. He comes to a town where everyone is a member of a heretical sect and sits down by a well. A woman comes to draw water. Israelites usually don't talk to Samaritans, much less drink out of their ritually impure vessels. To boot, men usually don't make conversation with women. But Jesus recognizes her existence and affirms her by being willing to accept a drink from her. Once she gets over her shock, a dialogue ensues. It starts out about water, wells, Jews and Samaritans, but Jesus asks her questions that throw her off a bit and make her think. He finally asks a question that leads her to "fess up" and admit her need. She's hungry for love, and has run through quite a few partners looking for the real thing. Jesus' soul-piercing glance tells her that his is the love she's been looking for. She abandons her water jar and returns to town to tell everyone about Jesus.

Did she wait till she had a master's degree in theology? Did she sit down with people and demonstrate from Scripture why he was the Messiah? No. She simply **told people**, with joy, confidence, and conviction, what Jesus had done for her. And she **invited people** to come and experience him for themselves.

And that's how a large portion of that heretical town came to believe. And that's how a large portion of the Roman Empire came to believe. There were no crusades in stadiums, no TV preachers. Christians simply listened to neighbors and co-workers with respect and love, asked questions to find out their needs, and told how Jesus had met similar needs in their lives. And then an invitation was issued to come check it out.

One of our more meaningful Lenten resolutions this year ought to be to get over our fear of sharing the good news, to be aware of the spiritual needs of those around us, share his love, and invite them to Church. More people are searching than you think. "The fields are white for harvest." (John 4:35).

Excerpts from:
The Crossroads Initiative
by Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio



"How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good
news, who proclaim peace, who
bring good tidings, who proclaim
salvation, who say to Zion,
'Your God reigns!'"

I s a i a h 5 2 : 7

UEC Ministry Groups

All are invited to join in the ministry groups. You don't need to have attended in the past to come. Simply bring a dish and a spirit to share

"Worship Life"

The Worship Life ministry group will be planning creative worship experience. If you enjoyed the Pentecost drama which the Sunday School performed in May, join the next meeting, time and date to be announced.

"Youth and Young Adults"

Is reading a book on postmodern evangelism by Brian McLaren and will be discussing it at our next meeting, February 7. If interested in joining the discussion please see Rev. Cathy for a copy of the book.

"Mission Life"

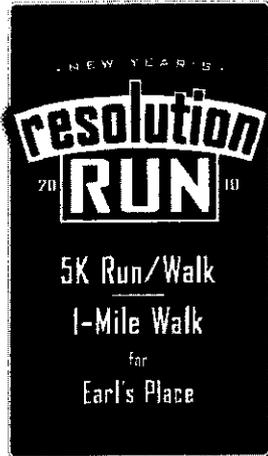
Everyone is invited to join the Mission Life ministry group which will be having dinner every month with the men of Earl's Place. The next meeting will be held on February 26th. Bring a dish to share and meet at the church at 6:00 pm. We will carpool over to Earl's Place. Come and be a part of an evening of good food, fun, fellowship and hope.

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25



Church Happenings



January 1, 2010 at 7 p.m.
- Patterson Park -
Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.

Congratulations Cal!

Our own Cal Gundlach participated in the Earl's Place Resolution Run at Patterson Park on New Year's Day. Cal finished 153 out of a field of 436 runners with a time of 27 minutes and 31 seconds.



Be sure to congratulate Cal on his successful run on behalf of United Evangelical. Cal is pictured above with Pastor Eddie Graves from Patterson Park Baptist Church.



Family Fun Bingo Night at UEC Friday, February 12

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Bingo begins promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Food and munchies will be on sale so it's a no cooking night!!

Lotsa prizes, lotsa fun, lotsa food—what else is there!!

Proceeds to benefit the UEC Youth Group, our Church, and Relay for Life-American Cancer Society

Youth Group Schedule

Youth Group Activity Schedule

Feb. 6	Saturday	Work Project	UEC @ 9:00 a.m.
Feb. 7	Sunday	Souper Bowl Collection	UEC 9:00 a.m.-noon
Feb. 12	Friday	Bingo Night	UEC 5:00 p.m.
Feb. 27	Saturday	Rock-a-Bowl-athon	Pinland 9:00 p.m.-Midnight
Mar. 19	Friday	St. Patrick's Day Dance	UEC 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.



Any questions, please call Cathy Fifield, 410-879-5121, or e-mail mrsacdc@comcast.net

Souper Bowl Collection

Sunday, Feb. 7th

Souper Bowl Sunday



Our UEC Youth Group will be collecting donations of money and/or food on Sunday, Feb. 7th for the annual Souper Bowl drive to help the hungry. So be sure to bring your non-perishable donation to help our youth in their ministry to help those struggling to provide food in their homes.

Chesapeake Association & Central Atlantic News

United Church of Christ

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Mission Moment

Wandering

Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.
Genesis 4: 16

A colleague tells the story of a single man who joined her church and dove in with the zeal of a convert. "I used to have no idea what to do with myself on the weekend," he said. "Each Friday I would face the terrible prospect of an endless, empty Saturday and Sunday. Now my weekends are so rich, and I can't wait for Sunday morning."

The land of Nod is not actually a place. The word Nod means "wandering;" for the author of Genesis, a life of wandering, without home or destination, is a terrible enough prospect that it is a fitting punishment for fratricide. In the UCC Statement of Faith (www.ucc.org/beliefs), God seeks "...to save all people from aimlessness and sin." Here, aimlessness isn't a punishment for sin, but it is a sorry enough condition that it has its own place in the list of things from which we need saving.

Not all who wander are being punished. But there are a whole lot of people out there living their lives in Nod, wandering from mall to mall, or from Web site to Web site, or from spiritual fad to spiritual fad with no aim or goal in sight. It is a terrible prospect.

With our God, no one ever need face it again.

Quinn G. Caldwell, Associate Minister
Old South Church, Boston Massachusetts

To read more from Quinn Caldwell and others, subscribe to the UCC's free Daily Devotional at www.ucc.org.

January 2010

God is still speaking,

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



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

Ladies Organization Trips & Events

Upcoming
Events



Arlene Pate
410-327-3211

Millie Wirsing
410-675-3904

Mar. 20 Faith United Oyster, Turkey and
Ham Luncheon
\$ 37.00 per person

Arlene Pate 410-327-3211 or Millie Wirsing 410-675-3904
for ticket prices and availability

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

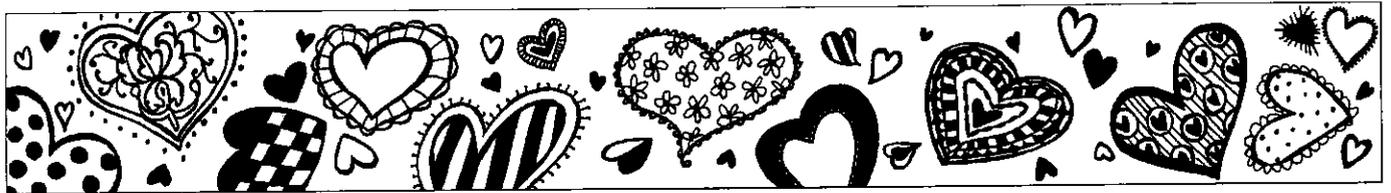
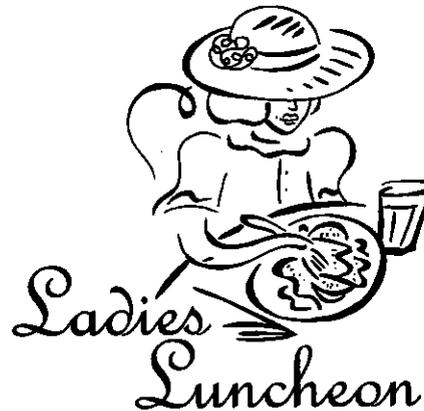
New members are always welcome!
Dues are \$ 10.00 per year

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

Feb. 3 Brown Bag Luncheon

Mar. 3 Corned Beef & Cabbage Luncheon
(Members are invited to bring a friend or spouse)

Apr. 7 Brown Bag Luncheon



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

The United Endeavor

UEC February 2010 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Brown Bag Luncheon 12 noon Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	4 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	5	6 Youth Group Work Project @ UEC 9:00 a.m.
7 <i>Communion Sunday</i> <i>Collection</i> <i>Souper Bowl</i> <i>Sunday—UEC Youth</i> <i>Group Food Drive</i> Food Bank Donations 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	8	9 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	11 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	12 Family Fun Bingo Night @ UEC 5:00 p.m.	13
14 <i>Transfiguration</i> <i>of the Lord</i> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	15	16 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	17 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30 p.m.	18 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	19	20 UEC Leadership Retreat 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
21 <i>1st Sunday</i> <i>of Lent</i> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	22	23	24 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship 7:30 p.m. (Soup & Sandwiches served before worship)	25 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	26	27 Youth Group Rock-a-bowl-athon Pinland Bowling Lanes 9:00 p.m.-Midnight
28 <i>2nd Sunday</i> <i>of Lent</i> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study						

UEC March 2010 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Corned Beef & Cabbage Luncheon 12 noon Lenten Worship 7:30 p.m. (Soup & Sandwiches served before worship)	4 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	5	6
7 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Communion Sunday</i> Food Bank Donations 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	8	9 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship 7:30 p.m. (Soup & Sandwiches served before worship)	11 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	12	13
14 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	15	16 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	17 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship 7:30 p.m. (Soup & Sandwiches served before worship)	18 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	19 Youth Group St. Patrick's Day Dance @ UEC 7:00 p.m.-10:00p.m.	20 Faith United Ham, Oyster Luncheon Trip
21 <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	22	23 Canton Community Association Meeting 6:30 p.m.	24 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship 7:30 p.m. (Soup & Sandwiches served before worship)	25 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Questioning Night for Confirmands 6:00 p.m.	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>6th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>One Great Hour of Sharing special offering</i> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	29	30	31 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Tableau 7:30 p.m.			
Holy Week						

For the Impatient

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin was a French philosopher, Jesuit priest, scientist and author of *The Phenomenon of Man*. Because Teilhard de Chardin knew people's tendency to be impatient, he wrote a devotional titled "Waiting" that includes this:

Above all, trust in the slow work of God
Give our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.
Above all, trust in the slow work of God,
our loving Vine-dresser.



And whatever you do, whether
in word or deed, do it all in the
name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father
through him.

Colossians 3:17

United Evangelical Church

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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

General Mills Boxtops for Education



*Just a
Reminder...*

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

Church Committee/CCA Information

Altar Flowers



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

If you have any questions, please call

Ursula Jacob, 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,

Parish Relations Committee

An active Parish Relations/Pastoral Relations Committee continues to exist at United. Are you asking yourself - What is a Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee? The Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee seeks to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the pastor and members of the congregation. The group serves as an advisory group to the pastor and as a support group for the pastor's leadership. The group is concerned with all church staff members' well-being. Constructive and caring communication in an atmosphere of confidentiality and trust is essential to the work of this committee.

The committee meets quarterly and reports any questions or concerns to the Council. Committee members consist of:

Rev. Cathy

Carol Rowell

Marge Hurd

Bob Osburne

Lynn Sanders

Please feel free to approach any committee member with questions, comments or areas of concern. Thank you & God Bless.

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 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.

To obtain additional info.— www.cantoncommunity.org/

Comics Corner

Red Faced Usher

When an elderly woman asked a church usher to seat her close to the pulpit, he tried to talk her out of it. "If you sit up front, you won't be able to sleep," he said.

The woman looked the usher square in the face and asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No, I don't," he responded.

"Well," she said firmly, "I'm the preacher's mother."

Fully embarrassed, the usher asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No," she answered.

"Good!" whispered the fellow. "Sit anywhere you want."



oops!

From a church bulletin in Saxapahaw, North Carolina:

Gospel reading

Sermon: "The Grace for Growling"

Hymn of the Day

Let's hope the pastor's grace and sense of humor were growing that day.



The United Endeavor

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The United Endeavor

THEREFORE
go
AND MAKE
DISCIPLES OF ALL
nations.

MATTHEW 28:19

