

The United Endeavor

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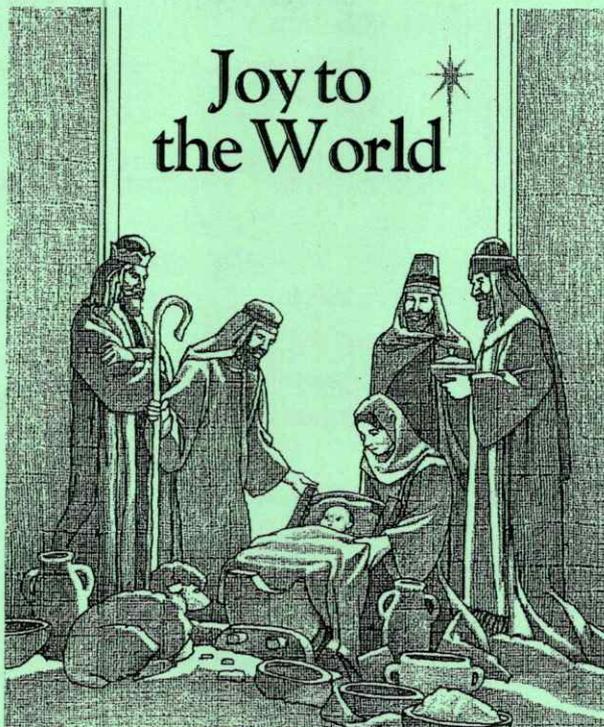
United Evangelical Church
United Church of Christ
3200 Dillon Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

Dated Material

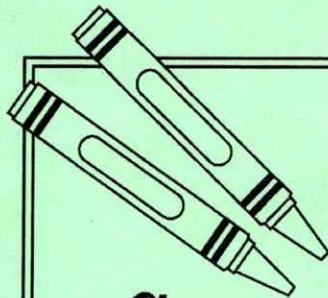
Rev. Catherine J. Oatman
██████████ Road
Churchville, MD ██████████

The United Endeavor

Joy to
the World



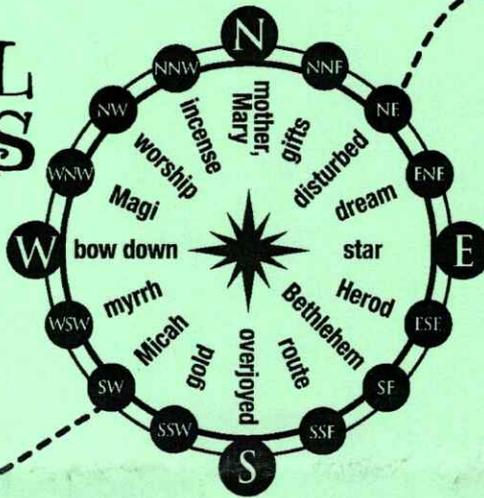
Kids Only!!



Just for **KIDS**

SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.



1. Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW)
 _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route



Comics Corner

Family Photo

An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, "But where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a moment and replied, "He's taking the picture."

© 1996 Shuey Greeting Card by Universal Press Syndicate

Christmas is just plain weird. What other time of year do you sit in front of a dead tree in the living room and eat candy out of your socks.



Santa's Outfit

How do you know Santa has to be a man?

No woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Christmas Spirit

It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, 'What are you charged with?'

The prisoner replied, 'Doing my Christmas shopping too early.'

'That's no crime', said the magistrate. 'Just how early were you doing this shopping?'

'Before the shop opened', answered the prisoner.

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

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



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. At the time of publication meetings are scheduled for May 27, September 23, and November 25.

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

Don't Forget....



**Swing &
Ballroom
Dance
Lessons
at UEC**

Every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.

**Put on your dancin' shoes and join
swing and ballroom dance classes at
United Evangelical Church
with instructor John Butler**

**Classes are held in the
United Evangelical School Building in
the 900 block of S. East Avenue
Come to the double red doors**

**Cost: \$ 5.00 per person each lesson
plus one non-perishable food item
for the Canton Food Bank**

Dance Instructor: John Butler

**For more information call 410-276-0393
Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.
United Evangelical Church in Canton
Don't Miss It!**

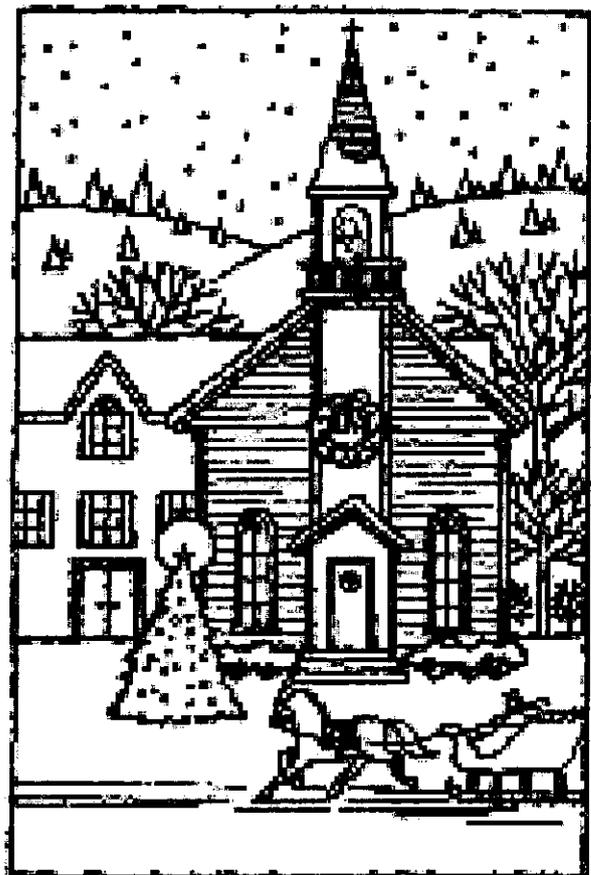


**Extra, Extra,
Read All About It!**

**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,



Prayer for the New Year

Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2010 to following your will for our lives.

Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions, day by day and hour by hour. Help us accomplish all that you desire for us to do, until our mission on earth is finished.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



United Evangelical Church

Pastor

Rev. Catherine J. Oatman
cell phone: 410-428-1482
cjatman@msn.com

Church Office

e-mail:
website:

410-276-0393
uecucc@verizon.net
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
barbmattew@verizon.net



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

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...*

UEC January 2010 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Resolution Run at Patterson Park 2:00 p.m.	2
3 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Food Bank Donations 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study Pastor Cathy off	4 Pastor Cathy off	5	6 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Org. Luncheon 12 noon Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Swing Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.	7 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	8	9
10 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study Youth & Young Adult Ministry Group Meeting following 10:30 worship	11	12 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	13 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Swing Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.	14 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	15 Mission Ministry Group—Dinner at Earl's Place 6:00 p.m.	16
17 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study Work Skills Training (Youth Group) 12:30—3:00 p.m.	18	19 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	20 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Swing Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.	21 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	22	23
24 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study Worship Life Ministry Group Meeting following 10:30 worship	25	26	27 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Swing Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.	28 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	29	30
31 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study Congregational Meeting following 10:30 worship Youth Group Souper Bowl Strategy Meeting 12:30-3:00 p.m.						

UEC December 2009 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Swing Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.	3 Advent Service 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	4	5 "White Christmas" at Toby's Dinner Theatre (Ladies Org.) Youth Group Lock-In Retreat @ UEC
6 <i>Communion Sunday</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin: 5px 0;">Food Bank Donations</div> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Cookie pick up between services 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	7	8 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Swing Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.	10 Advent Service 7:00 p.m.	11	12
13 <i>Tinsel Sunday</i> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Please note: There will only be one worship service at 10:30 a.m.	14	15 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Christmas Party Riverwatch 12 noon-3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Swing Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.	17 Advent Service 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	18	19
20 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study Christmas Caroling @ Canton Future Care 12:30-3:00 p.m.	21	22	23 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Swing Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.	24 Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	25 Christmas Day	26
27 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Please note: There will only be one worship service at 10:00 a.m.	28 Pastor Cathy off	29	30 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Swing Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.	31		→

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

December 5
\$41.10 per person

"White Christmas" at
Toby's Travel Plaza
Sold out

December 16
12 noon—3:00 p.m.

Christmas Party
Riverwatch Restaurant
Cost of luncheon due in October
(voted on by members)

Contact

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

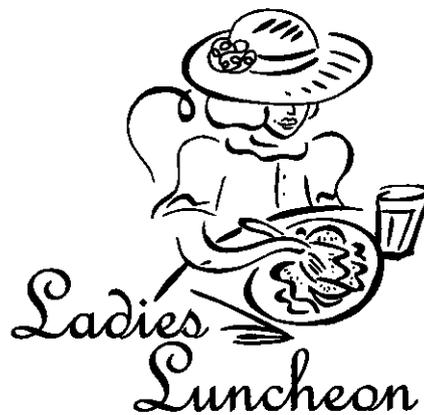
Come join the Ladies Organization,
we would love to see you!!

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)

Dec. 2 Meeting cancelled
(see Christmas luncheon
& dinner theatre)

Jan 6, 2010 Pizza & salad
\$ 7.00 per person



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



First United Church UCC

Celebrates 160th Anniversary

On Sunday December 6th, First United UCC will celebrate their 160th anniversary with a special Morning Service at 10:45 a.m. followed by a dinner. The Rev. Charles Higgins, who served at First United as Pastor through the years 1966-1974 will be preaching.

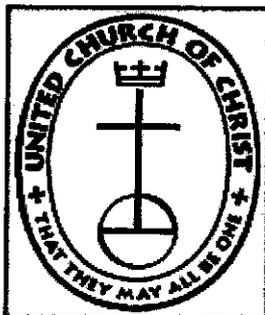
For additional information contact :
Rev. David Flaherty @ davflaher@aol.com

First United Church UCC

Winter Solstice Concert VI

On Sunday December 20th, Come and celebrate the longest night of the year with music, story and light @ 7pm. This community tradition sprang from a desire to welcome folk in for this special Winter's night.

Please contact **Rev David B G Flaherty** at davflaher@aol.com for more information.



S.H.A.R.P.:

Homeless Persons'

Memorial Day

Where: Inner Harbor,
Baltimore City
(corner of Pratt & Light Sts.,
at the amphitheatre)

Time: 5 pm

Date: Monday,
December 21, 2009

Info: A prayer service to
remember all homeless
people who died in 2009.

Held by United Ministries / Earl's Place.

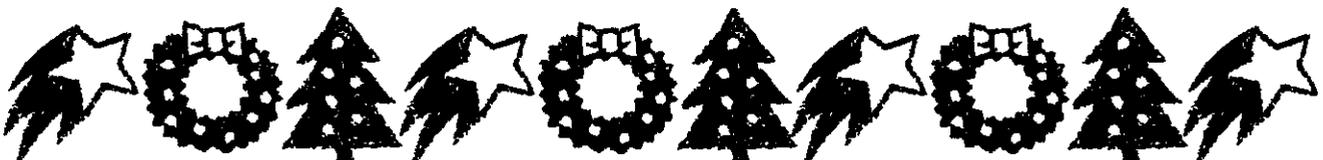
Please contact
Sheila Helgerson
at shehgerson@comcast.net
for more information.

Youth Group Schedule



- December 5, 2009. Lock in Retreat @ UEC Cookie baking. 5:00 p.m. on Saturday till after Church on Sunday.
- December 6, 2009. Cookie orders can be paid for and picked up in-between services @ UEC.
- December 6, 2009. Help host the Coffee Hour with Christian Education @ UEC.
- December 13, 2009 @ UEC. Decorate the tree in the Sanctuary. Assist with serving at Tinsel Sunday meal. Advent crafts. Starts after 10:30 a.m. Church service.
- December 20th, Christmas Caroling at Future Care on Boston Street 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- January 1, 2010, Earl's Place Resolution Run @ Patterson Park 12 noon-5:00 p.m.
- January 17, 2010 @ UEC Work Skills Training 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- January 31, 2010 @ UEC Souper Bowl Strategy Planning 12:30p.m.-3:00 p.m.

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



Earl's Place Resolution Run—January 1, 2010

- ENTRY FEE -

\$25 registration prior to 12/22/09
\$30 after 12/22/09 and race day
\$10 for ages 12 and under

- REGISTRATION -

BY MAIL

Send check and registration form
by 12/22/09

ONLINE AT

www.charmcityrun.com or www.active.com

IN PERSON

At packet pick-up locations or on race day

- AWARDS -

Awards will be presented
to runners as follows:

The top three male/female overall finishers
and the top three male/female finishers
in the following age categories:
15 and under, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39,
40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70 and over.

- PRIZES -

Random prizes will be given
at the post-race celebration.

- AMENITIES -

LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT for all pre-registered
participants. (Register early, shirt sizes
and availability are not guaranteed
on the afternoon of the race.)

A WARM AND HEARTY LUNCH of chili
and cornbread will be served
during the post-race celebration.

- PACKET PICK-UP -

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2009

12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Falls Road Running Store
6247 Falls Road in Baltimore
410.296.5050

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2009

12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Earl's Place
1400 E. Lombard Street
410.522.0225

RACE DAY BEGINNING AT 12:30 P.M.

St. Elizabeth Church Hall

**THE COURSE IS ENTIRELY
IN PATTERSON PARK**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Kelly Dees at 410.308.8270
or kelly@charmcityrun.com

- DIRECTIONS -

From downtown Baltimore,
go east on Pratt Street until it ends
at Patterson Park Avenue. Turn left.
At the second light, turn right
onto Baltimore Street. St. Elizabeth
of Hungary Church is on the left
at the corner of Baltimore Street
and Lukewood Avenue (eight blocks east
of Patterson Park Avenue).
Street parking is available.

NEW YEAR'S
resolution
20 **RUN** 10
5K Run/Walk
1-Mile Walk
for
Earl's Place

January 1, 2010 at 2 p.m.

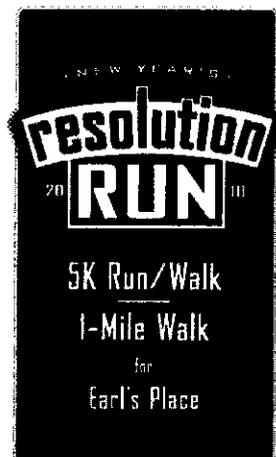
- Patterson Park -

Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.

Cal Gundlach will be representing our church in the upcoming Resolution Run race to benefit Earl's Place. As many of you know, Cal has been a longtime participant in these races. If you would like to sponsor Cal, please let him know in advance of the race.

And many thanks for your support!!

Coming Attractions—January and more



January 1, 2010 at 2 p.m.
- Patterson Park -
Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.

Earl's Place—Resolution Run

January 1, 2010
race begins at 2:00 p.m.

Additional details on the next page



Congregational Meeting—January 31

Come and participate in your church. Our congregational meeting will follow the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, January 31.

Everyone is encouraged to attend,



Family Fun Bingo Night at UEC Friday, February 12

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

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

Coming Attractions—December

Youth Lock-In
Saturday, December 5-6



Overnight Lock-in

From 5:00 p.m. on Saturday til after church on Sunday, our Youth Group will participate in a youth lock-in at the church. They will be baking up cookies for their fund raiser followed by Evening Vespers. Movies, game and snacks will be provided all night.

Don't forget to bring bedding, pajamas, clothes for church and personal hygiene items.
Sounds like fun!!!

Tinsel Sunday
December 13

(following 10:30 worship)



Come join us for the annual Tinsel Sunday celebration. Crafts, singing and fellowship to ring in the holiday season.

Christmas Party

Tickets are \$ 5.00 each for adults, children under the age of 18 are admitted free. A delicious dinner is included. See Ursula Jacob or Cass Young for tickets.

Please note: There is only one worship service at 10:30 am on December 13.



Christmas Caroling

**Join our Youth Group for Caroling at Future Care
on Boston Street
Sunday, December 20
12:30—3:00 p.m.**

Come lift your voices with our youth. All voices are welcome!

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"

The Youth and Young Adults ministry group is currently reading a book on postmodern evangelism by Brian McLaren and will be discussing it at our next meeting, January 10, 2010. 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 January 15th. 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, and fellowship.

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

News from the Altar Committee

I wish to thank Art and Lois Jones for faithfully filling the communion cups for the past eight years. I cannot remember any time when they were unable to fill the cups. Their dedication is greatly appreciated. They now find that they are unable to continue this task.

Pam Sartori has kindly offered to take over. Pam thank you so much for your willingness and we welcome you to the Altar Committee.


A Special
THANK YOU


Holiday Services

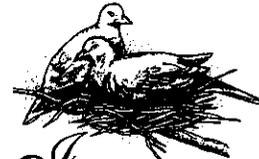


Dec. 3	Thursday	Contemplative Advent Gathering
	7:00 p.m.	
Dec 10	Thursday	Contemplative Advent Gathering
	7:00 p.m.	
Dec 17	Thursday	Contemplative Advent Gathering
	7:00 p.m.	
Dec 24	Thursday	Christmas Eve Worship
	7:30 p.m.	

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence - A Contemplative Advent Gathering

An escape from the rush and pressure and superficiality of the pre-Christmas season. Come and find God waiting in the silence.

Thursdays, December 3, 10, & 17.
7:00 pm in the UEC sanctuary.



*I will lie down and
sleep in peace,
for you alone,
O Lord, make
me dwell in safety.*
Psalm 4:8

Christmas Gifts - Jesus Would Have Approved

Christmas Gift Suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

Author: *Oren Arnold*

Turning Toward Life

they had simply lost heart because of the odds. Their collective denial allowed them to feel okay and that they and their church were safe. Yet, they also felt trapped in a situation for which they could not find any solutions. They knew that they would not be able to sustain their church because their building and finances were about to give out. I think they felt powerless, but still they had not given up hope. That was when they called me as their first full-time pastor in decades, their first female pastor ever, and they asked me to help them change. People do not necessarily resist change, they resist loss. And much was at stake to lose.

Not everyone in a turnaround church is going to agree with the way change happens. Power struggles and conflict need to be dealt with in calm and systemic ways. Previously, the members had lived with two major fears. The first was that the church would close, and the second was that those who had led them would leave. The second came true and others had to step up to lead. Yes, those who had threatened to leave did. When those who remained saw their worst fear come true and they survived, they felt free to change direction. The result of that group leaving was a shared leadership that set the stage for dramatic change. Members took responsibility as a spiritual community for worship, stewardship, and leadership. The congregation took a new look at itself and invited the Holy Spirit to fill the vacuum created by its former leaders' departure. The Spirit creates an environment where people can take initiative to empower themselves and others, take risks, and experience success.

We were able to change the course of our own history by interrupting the course of fifty years of decline. By exposing the denial and by opening ourselves to the truth of possibility about the church, most, but not all, of those who lived under the cloud of denial again sing God's praises. Not everyone made it, but those who stayed have found reasons to rejoice in God's finding favor in their church.

Mary Louise Gifford

The similarities between our church and the one the author is describing are obvious. As a church, we must ask ourselves, "Is what we are doing worthwhile?" If the answer is yes, then there is hope for the future.



The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Dec 2009/Jan 2010



At the Congregational Meeting on November 15th, Rev. Cathy read an article by Mary Louise Gifford entitled, "Turning Toward Life." In it the author describes the course of events in turning around a declining church. Read on:

Decreasing numbers in worship, smaller numbers of volunteers to do the work of the church, and old buildings in need of costly repairs are prompting many congregations to ask questions about their future. Quiet conversations are taking place everywhere about the relevance of a church in its neighborhood and whether even to try to reach out to the new neighbors. Options for these churches include, but are not limited to, turnarounds, merging or yoking with another church, adoption by larger churches, or closing down and using the existing buildings as site for new church starts. Another option is to sell the buildings and use the money to help other churches continue their ministry. These were some of the decisions the folks at the church I pastor had to wrestle with as they called me and we moved forward into an uncertain future of our own. When we began our work together, we had never even heard the term turnaround church.

Not every declining or dying church is meant to live. Not all churches can or should turn around. But there are some, like ours, that have a will to live and a strong sense of God's call to at least try. Our work together has defined us as "a new church start in an old church building."

Turning a church around involves a number of years dedicated to dismantling old systems and initiating and implementing newer, more effective systems. This is one of the major obstacles that points out the difference between a new church plant and a turnaround church. Although a new church plant does have its own set of challenges, it does not carry the same baggage as a turnaround church. At our church, that baggage sometimes seemed overwhelming. As I walked around the church buildings, I saw physical plant issues everywhere: holes in the walls, paint peeling, walls caving in, closets stuffed with papers and other remnants of the past. Water came into the building every time it rained. Members of the congregation had learned to close their eyes to all of this decay, a form of visual denial. The work seemed overwhelming and eventually they just ignored it. They had not put serious effort into repair of the church building. It seemed as if

(cont'd)