

The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Aug/Sep 2009



Message from Rev. Griffin



Let me begin by thanking you for a gracious welcome as your summer supply pastor. The Council and staff, especially Carol and Rob, have been helpful as I try to become oriented to the people and way of this church.

For over a dozen years I was a pastor of an urban church. I have a fondness for city congregations. Indeed, I have done research on many UCC center-city churches. Those of you who are long-time members are aware of the dramatic changes in such churches. Many, like United Evangelical Church, were neighborhood congregations. Members often walked to church, especially before the coming of the automobile! It is no surprise that most older city churches have no parking lots.

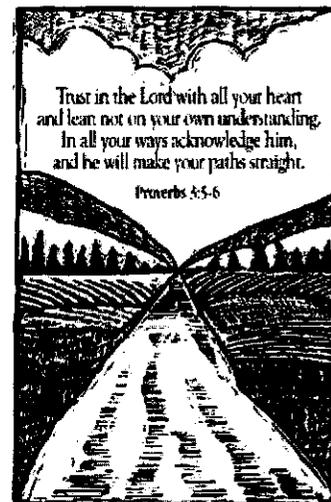
Two other changes are dramatic drops in membership and the fact that Americans are less church going than after World War II. At one time UEC had more than a thousand members. Like most city churches, this church witnessed a migration to the suburbs by young families in the post war years and in the 1950s. New churches were established in suburbia with programs and proximity which attracted such families. Of course, the good old days were not as wonderful as some would have us believe.

However, there are grounds to hope for urban churches. One place to begin is to recognize the current strengths of UEC. You are blessed with an able pastor who deeply cares about this church. You have excellent and faithful lay leaders, not just those currently in office. You have an outreach to the Canton community. You have a beautiful sanctuary at an easy to find location.

...there is always an ongoing need to define the distinctive mission of UEC.

As with many churches, there is always an

ongoing need to define the distinctive mission of UEC. I am aware that you have engaged in commendable research and planning for the future of this congregation. Every church, regardless of its location or size, needs to ask this fundamental question: "What is calling us to be and to do in this time and place?"



Council & Committee Updates



Have you noticed any changes in yourself or others since Rev. Cathy left for her sabbatical time? One of the factors that gets overlooked during sabbaticals and renewal leave is the relationship between learning and change. Learning changes the learner. A sabbatical does not only affect the clergy person because the whole congregation is a community. So, if one person in the community changes, the entire community will experience the impact of that change. The whole community has the opportunity to change.

Our United church family is experiencing the affects of sabbatical time and it seems to be a positive experience. We have welcomed Rev. Griffin into our family and we share in worship and hear the word of the Lord each week from him. We share in a special prayer time and light a candle during the church service asking for the Lord's blessings and spiritual growth for Rev. Cathy. In turn, Rev. Cathy lights a candle and offers prayers for our congregation to experience spiritual growth at the same time. And, we are thankful for volunteers who are willing and comfortable with leading the Sabbatical prayer while another volunteer lights the candle. We believe that, upon Rev. Cathy's return in September, she will notice that she is not the only person who has grown during this time. Lay leadership is continuing to develop; volunteers are stepping forth and offering to participate. The sabbatical period should prove to be beneficial to both the pastor and the parish. Let us move forward together, experiencing spiritual growth and change as we realize that the congregation is on sabbatical also.

God Bless,
The Parish Relations Committee
(Carol Rowell, Bob Osburne, Lynn Sanders)

The United Evangelical Church of Baltimore, MD

Treasurer's Report

Operating Revenue and Expenses 1/01/09 through 6/30/09

Revenue: Proceeds from Donations, Rent & Interest	\$ 92,387.00
Operating Expenses	\$ <u>99,998.00</u>
Amount Under (-Deficit)	\$ -7,611.00

Operating, Investment & Endowment Funds Balance 12/31/08

Operating Funds (Includes Youth Group Funds)	\$ 28,358.00
Investment & Endowment Funds	\$ 190,389.00
Youth Group Funds	\$ <u>1,405.00</u>
Total All Church Funds	\$ 220,152.00

New Hymnals



Council has voted to purchase new hymnals for the sanctuary. Hymnals may be dedicated for a \$15.00 fee. The form below can be completed and sent to the church office or put in the Sunday collection in an envelope designated for hymnal dedication. The deadline for dedications is September 30.

This Hymnal
Presented by

In Loving Memory of

or

In Honor of

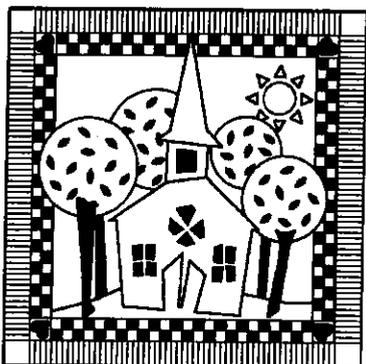
(circle one)

United Evangelical Church, UCC

Form submitted by:

September Highlights

CHURCH FAMILY



PICNIC

UEC Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, September 20th

Chesterwood Park

(picnic begins immediately following 10:30 am worship)

\$ 7.00 per person (children under 18 free)
for tickets see Ursula Jacob or Cass Young

There will be sign up sheets in the Narthex for those providing or needing a ride to the park.

Parking is available right next to the picnic area, so no need to walk far.

Menu

Hamburgers

Hot Dogs

Potato Salad

Cole Slaw

Chips

Games & Prizes for everyone!

Come and spend a relaxing day at the park

Please bring your own drinks (non-alcoholic) &
dessert to share with everyone



Coming Attractions...

UEC Oktoberfest 2009

Sunday, October 25th, 2009
(Oktoberfest begins immediately
following 10:30 a.m. Worship)



Come out and enjoy the UEC Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 25th, 2009.

We are gearing up for this festive event with committees handling the planning, food, entertainment, set up and clean up for the festival. All volunteers are welcome to participate.

Also donations of prizes for the raffles and items to sell at the festival are being requested. If you can help or have any suggestions, please contact Cissy Funk at 443-676-9957 or via email at jakco22@hotmail.com.

Don't miss out - come and enjoy Oktoberfest Sunday at UEC!!

Live German Band

Outdoor Beer & Wine Garden

Raffles & Prizes

Silent Auction

Puppet Show for the kids

and more!!!

Brats & Kraut

Hot Dogs

Sour Beef & Dumplings

Invite your families, friends, neighbors, co-workers!!

With everyone's help our festival will be a great success and will help to serve as an invitation to the neighborhood and visitors to come and be a part of United Evangelical Church.

Give It Some Thought...

The God of All Comfort

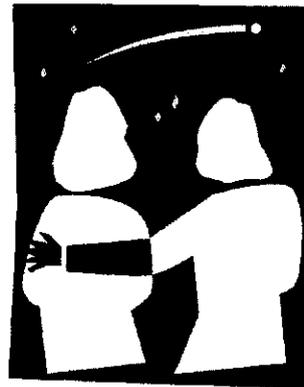
2 Corinthians 1:3 NIV

God can bring you through situations you think you won't survive, or feel you'll be stuck in forever. He can make you comfortable in the most uncomfortable places, and give you peace in the midst of trauma. Before your life is over you'll live, love, and experience loss. Losing some things will actually help you to appreciate the things you still have. It's the taste of failure that makes success sweet. You'll live each day not knowing what tomorrow holds, but confident that God has your tomorrows all planned out. They're not in the hands of your boss or your banker or your mate or anybody else. Nor are they in your own hands to manipulate and control. No, all your tomorrows are in God's hands.

Just because you don't recognize the path you're on doesn't mean that God's not leading you. He promises, '... I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them' (Isaiah 42:16 NKJV). So get to know God - you'll need Him. And He'll be there for you.

He'll be there when everybody and everything else has failed you. He'll be there for you in the dark places. '... Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning' (Psalm 30:5 NKJV). However long the night, morning always comes, and with it His joy. As you look back you'll realize that His grace protected you, provided for you, secured you, calmed you, comforted you and brought you through. Times and seasons change, but not God. He's always 'the God of all comfort.'

from The Word for Today with Bob Gass



**Comfort those in any
trouble with the comfort
we ourselves have
received from God.**

2 Corinthians 1:4

The UEC Youth Booth



YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Our youth group, along with St. John's Youth, will be traveling to Green Lodge, TN from August 1-8th to aide the Morgan-Scott Project, ministering to citizens of the Appalachia area. While our youth do hands on volunteer work, we are asking our members to help stock their thrift store with some basic new items such as laundry soap, dish washing soap, shampoo, toothpaste. If easier, a monetary contribution to UEC in an envelope marked for Morgan-Scott Project would allow us to purchase goods strictly to help them. Reaching out to the people of other regions, showing we care about them has proven to be a rewarding experience for everyone involved. Please try to help show that UEC in Baltimore Cares and Shares.

Thank you for your generosity.

We know that all things work together for good to those who love God to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

Summer Schedule Updates

Choir Summer Schedule



Choir rehearsal resumes

Thursday, August 27

Choir resumes singing on

Sunday, September 20



Just a reminder that there will be no Sunday School during August.

Sessions will resume September 13th.

United Church of Christ

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Our Church's Wider Mission in 'plain talk'

Written by Staff Reports
July 21, 2009

Taking a cue from the popular "in plain English" series of YouTube videos, the United Church of Christ's Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) ministry has produced a video that explains church giving with simple language and graphics.

The video debuted at General Synod 27 in Grand Rapids, Mich., and was an immediate hit with viewers.

"Conference ministers were stopping me every 15 minutes at Synod asking 'When can we have that?,'" says the Rev. Jane Heckles, the UCC's minister for OCWM. "They're looking forward to using this video as a means to explain how giving builds partnerships across all settings of the church."

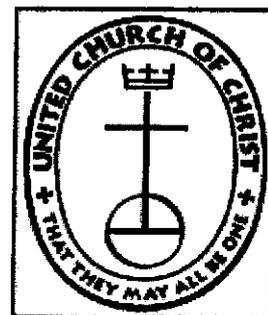
Rather than detail budget allocations, retention and apportionments from Associations to Conferences to covenanted ministries (confused yet?), the "Plain Talk" video tells the story of how church giving at a local level not only helps ones' church, but also the UCC's regional, national and international efforts.

"The 'Plain Talk' video gives us an easy to use, understandable and fun way to explain something many stumble over trying to describe," says Heckles.

Tracy Carnes, the UCC's associate minister for stewardship resources and OCWM promotion, says there is excitement about the video's ability to better explain how church giving fits into the big picture of the UCC's ministries.

"We've received calls from local church pastors, Association ministers and stewardship lay leaders requesting a copy of the video because they feel it explains OCWM in simple and easy to understand terms," says Carnes. "They're delighted that we've put it together."

The video is available to view online, or via free download or DVD shipment from the UCC Resources store.



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

November 7 Faith Church Oyster, Turkey,
Ham Luncheon

December 16 Christmas Party
12 noon—3:00 p.m. Riverwatch Restaurant

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!!

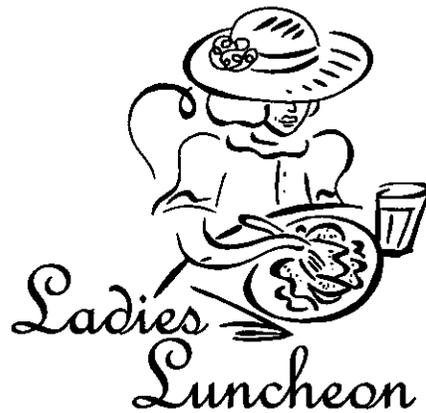
New members are always welcome!

Dues are \$ 10.00 per year

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

Aug. 5 Carson Creek Restaurant Luncheon
12:30 p.m. (you must provide your
own transportation and pay for your
own meal)

Sep. 2 Covered Dish 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



UEC August 2009 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Rev. Cathy on Sabbatical until 9/1/09						1
2 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Food Bank Donations 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	3	4	5 Ladies Organization Carson Creek Luncheon meeting 12:30 p.m.	6	7	8
Youth Group Mission to Green Lodge, TN (Morgan-Scott Project) Aug 1-8						
9 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	10	11 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	12 Swing Dance Lessons UEC gymnasium 7:30 p.m.	13	14	15
16 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	17	18 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	19 Swing Dance Lessons UEC gymnasium 7:30 p.m.	20	21	22
23 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	24	25	26 Swing Dance Lessons UEC gymnasium 7:30 p.m.	27 Choir Practice resumes 7:30 p.m.	28	29
30 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	31					

UEC September 2009 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Luncheon Meeting Friendship Hall 12 noon Swing Dance Lessons UEC gymnasium 7:30 p.m.	3	4	5
6 <i>Communion Sunday</i>  8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	7 Labor Day	8 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Swing Dance Lessons UEC gymnasium 7:30 p.m.	10	11 Patriot Day	12
13 <i>National Grandparents Day</i> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	14	15 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Swing Dance Lessons UEC gymnasium 7:30 p.m.	17	18	19
20 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Church Choir resumes) 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Bible Study UEC Annual Church Picnic Chesterwood Park in Dundalk	21	22 Canton Comm. Assoc. Meeting Friendship Hall 6:30 p.m. First Day of Autumn	23 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Swing Dance Lessons UEC gymnasium 7:30 p.m.	24	25	26
27 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	28	29	30 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Swing Dance Lessons UEC gymnasium 7:30 p.m.	31		

Take a look at this line of type:

GODISNOWHERE

Did you read it as "God is nowhere"?

Or are you an optimist who read it as

"God is now here"?



United Evangelical Church

Pastor

Rev. Ben Griffin
cell phone: 410-349-6531
BenGriffin21@comcast.net

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.

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Custodian

Paul Polasky

Director of Music

Robert Gundlach
robert.gundlach@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor

Barbara Matthew
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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.

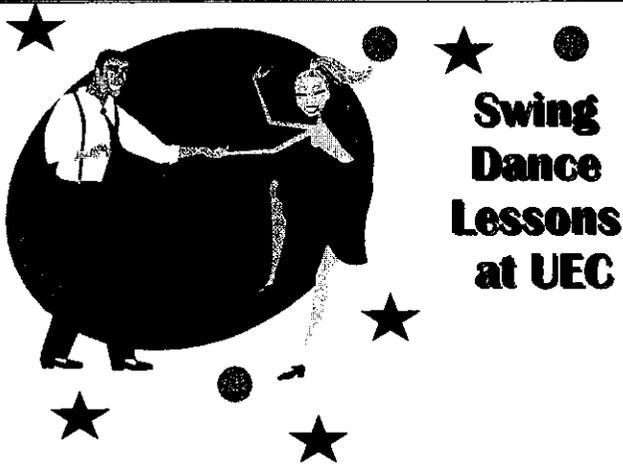
The site is: www.hungersite.com

General Mills Box tops for Education



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

Don't Forget....



**Swing
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!**

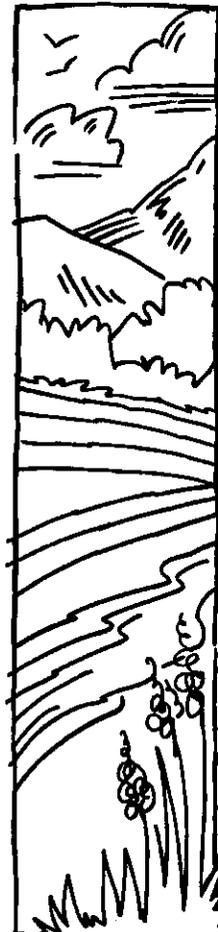


Extra, Extra,
Read All About It!

A New Twist on
Coffee Hour

With everyone's busy
schedules it can be diffi-
cult 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,



*We know
that all
things work
together
for good for
those who
love God....*

Romans 8:28

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.

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.



Our UEC Bowling League
has Openings!

If interested contact
Holly Raddatz
@ 410-285-0894



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.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:
(there are no meetings scheduled during the summer season)

September 22, 2009 — 6:30 p.m.

Canton Community Association Meetings

Christ Church Festival in Locust Point

Dear Friends,

This is to let you know about **Christ Church's Oktoberfest and Arts Festival this coming October 31 and November 1!** We are planning a big two-day event and I hope you can come - and also that you will help us get the word out to everyone you know who may be interested. Here are our plans to date:

We anticipate 20-25 artists and craftsmen/women as exhibitors. We have already had 11 ask for contracts. This will be a juried arts fair and there are no re-sale items. So, all arts and crafts will be original and the artists will be present.

On Saturday (October 31) we will also be serving Christ Church's famous "sauerbeef and dumplings" dinner!

We are selling raffle tickets for a Ravens and Steelers football package: 2 tickets to the game in Baltimore, 2 tickets to the game in Pittsburgh, airfare and hotel accommodations for two in Pittsburgh. The drawing will be on Sunday afternoon - you do not have to be present to win.

Beer, wine and music both days. We are currently negotiating with a Maryland winery to offer a wine tasting area at the Oktoberfest.

Hotdogs and Brauts both days.

Periodic raffles both days for items donated by the arts and crafts vendors.

Special events for children.

Watch for more information in the coming weeks! Check our website www.christuccbaltimore.org for updates.

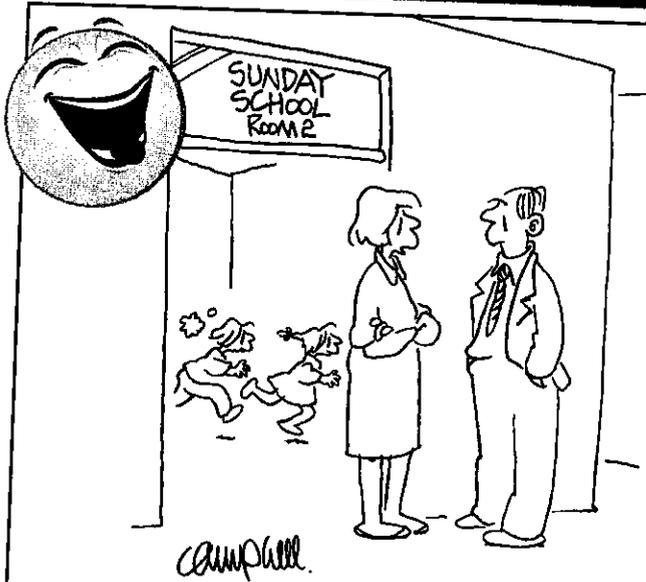
If you know of good artists or crafters who may want to be considered for the juried show, or musicians who may want to perform for one to two hours, please have them contact me, at jasmb@aol.com.

Thanks for helping us promote this event. I hope you can come join the fun.

Jim Bell

Christ Church
1308 Beason Street
Locust Pt., MD 21230

Comics Corner



"We have child-size wooden chairs, child-size folding chairs and child-size stacking chairs, but not one child who will sit down."



My new low-fat diet is really working!
The fat's hanging lower every day.

New in Church

After the service a young couple talked to a church member about joining the church. He hadn't met the husband before, and he asked what church he was transferring from.

After a short hesitation, he replied, "I am transferring from the Municipal Golf Course."

Bible Lesson

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

