

# The United Endeavor

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT No. 6326  
BALTIMORE, MD.

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

*"The child to be born  
will be holy;  
he will be called  
Son of God."*



Luke 1:35, NRSV

**Kids Only!!**



## The Son of the Highest

A new baby brings joy and the anticipation of what he or she will grow up to become. Jesus' birth was miraculous, but His life was prophesied and planned by God.

Unscramble the words below, matching them to their correct spelling. Then use the numbers to fill in the correct words to complete Luke 1:32-33 (NIV).

12. taerg	he	2. no\$	forever
8. eh	Jacob	11. seouh	end
13. gHhi	father	5. northe	Son
7. aDvid	give	1. roevfr	house
10. bocia	great	6. dirgmok	throne
3. reafth	High	9. dan	kingdom
4. vieg	David		

"He will be \_\_\_\_\_ and will be called the \_\_\_\_\_  
12 2

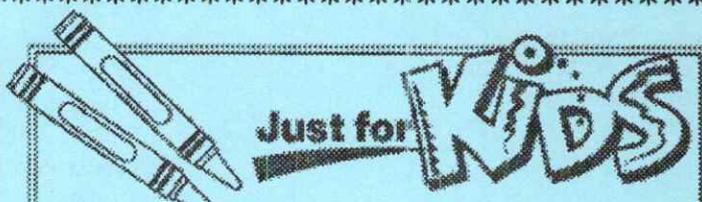
of the Most \_\_\_\_\_, The Lord God will \_\_\_\_\_  
13 4

him the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_,  
5 3 7

and \_\_\_\_\_ will reign over the \_\_\_\_\_  
8 11

of \_\_\_\_\_; his \_\_\_\_\_ will  
10 1 6

never \_\_\_\_\_."  
9 *Luke 1:32-33, NIV*



## The Birth of Jesus Foretold

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. Isaiah knew that Jesus would be called a peacemaker, but that He would also be called by other names.

Use the code to find out what Isaiah said Jesus would be called.

CODE:  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

\_\_\_\_\_ Z M W \_\_\_\_\_ S V \_\_\_\_\_ D R O O \_\_\_\_\_ Y V

\_\_\_\_\_ X Z O O V W \_\_\_\_\_ D L M W V I U F O

\_\_\_\_\_ X L F M H V O L I \_\_\_\_\_ N R T S G B

\_\_\_\_\_ T L W \_\_\_\_\_ V E V I O Z H G R M T

\_\_\_\_\_ U Z G S V I \_\_\_\_\_ K I R M X V

\_\_\_\_\_ L U \_\_\_\_\_ K V Z X V

*Isaiah 9:6, NIV*

Answers: 1. forever 2. Son 3. father 4. give 5. throne 6. kingdom 7. David 8. he 9. end 10. Jacob 11. house 12. great 13. High

Answer: And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

• What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinselitus!

• What did Adam say on the day before Christmas ?

It's Christmas, Eve!

• What do you call a snowman on rollerblades?

A snow mobile!

• What do you get when you cross a vampire and a snowman?

Frostbite!

• What does Rudolph want for Christmas?

A Snowy Sleighstation!

• What do you call Santa Claus's dog?

Santa Paws!

Comics Corner

How's That Again...

Now it is well known how much Jesus loves little children, so today I will share with you a message that I have received from one of our Subscribers. For we know that out of the mouths of babes' come amazing things!

Now if you know the Bible - even a little - you'll find this hilarious! It comes from a Christian elementary school; kids were asked questions about the Old & New Testaments. Hopefully, this was a Kindergarten Class!

The following statements about the Bible were written by the children; they have not been retouched or corrected (i.e. incorrect spelling has been left in etc.)

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah s wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals come on in pears.
3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with the unsympathetic Genitals.
5. Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
7. Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients .
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten ammendments.
9. The first commandment was when Eve told adam to eat th e apple.
10. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
11. Moses died before he ever reaches Canada. Then Jcshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
12. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and they obeyed him.
13. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
14. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
15. When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.



"The Sunday school teacher says this'll be a true test of my acting ability. What does she mean by that?"

16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manager.
  17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
  18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
  19. Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. He also explained, a man doth not live by sweat alone.
  20. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
  21. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
  22. The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
  23. One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
  24. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
  25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.
- In HIS Love & Service,  
 Pastor Allen at: <http://www.godsminute.com>  
 Apostle Paul Ministries, P O Box 55996, Hayward,  
 CA 94545



## Boo Humbug

By: Rene Gutteridge

Publisher: Water Brook Press (2007)  
180 pages



*Reviews are written by  
the webmaster, Tim Frankovich.*

Christmas in Skary, Indiana? The site of the three previous *Boo* books? Oh, imagine the possibilities! Or don't. Pick up *Boo Humbug* and see them for yourself.

Oddly enough, Skary, who used to be the Halloween capital of the country, takes Christmas just as seriously. These delightfully insane residents think anyone who doesn't have their Christmas lights up by the day after Thanksgiving must have something wrong.

The Skary theatrical team is going to perform *A Christmas Carol*. But with Lois Stepaphanopolis in charge, it's going to be something far, far different than Charles Dickens ever imagined. New fathers Wolfe Boone and Lois' brother Oliver eagerly join up to avoid baby duties, but when their motivation is discovered by their wives, it leads to serious consequences. Meanwhile, Alfred Tennison agrees to help Lois market the play, but his own naiveté about rural people leads to a massive misunderstanding about exactly what Christmas program is going to be performed...

As usual, the characters of Skary are completely and utterly eccentric beyond belief, but in a way that makes them enjoyable to read about and love. The focus this time is primarily on Lois and Alfred, so most of the other characters get very little to do, especially in such a short book. But it's good to see them all again, anyway.

The baby sequences are more than a little perplexing. I think it's safe to assume that Rene Gutteridge has taken every stereotype that fathers have to deal with regarding new babies and thrown them all together, even though those stereotypes don't all happen at the same time (not sleeping through the night, eating solid food, etc.). This bothered my wife a lot. She had trouble getting past the inaccuracies to enjoy the humor.

My only *real* complaint is the format. Unlike the other *Boo* books on my shelf, this one has been turned into one of those annoying little Christmas hardbacks. Not only is it too short, but the size doesn't match the other books on the shelf. That knocks a point off the rating, but it's still very Highly Recommended!

# UCC January 2008 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Ladies Org. Luncheon 12 noon	3 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	4	5
6 <b>Communion Sunday</b>  Food Bank Donations  8:00 a.m. Worship Service  9:15 a.m. Bible Study  10:30 a.m. Worship Service	7	8 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	10 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	11	12
13 8:00 a.m. Worship Service  9:15 a.m. Bible Study  10:30 a.m. Worship Service  Youth Group Meeting 12:30 p.m.-United UCC	14	15 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	17 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	18	19
20 8:00 a.m. Worship Service  9:15 a.m. Bible Study  10:30 a.m. Worship Service	21	22	23 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	24	25	26
27 8:00 a.m. Worship Service  9:15 a.m. Bible Study  10:30 a.m. Worship Service followed by Congregational Meeting  Youth Group Meeting 12:30 p.m.-Zion UCC	28	29	30 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	31 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.		

The United Endeavor

# UEC December 2007 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent 9:00 a.m.
2 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> <b>Food Bank Donations</b> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	3	4	5 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	6 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	7	8
9 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <b>Tinsel Sunday</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	10	11 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	12 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Org. Christmas Luncheon 12 noon Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	13 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	14	15
16 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <b>Olde Time Christmas</b> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study Youth Group Meeting 12:30 p.m.-Zion UCC	17	18 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	19 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	20 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	21	22
23 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	24 <b>Christmas Eve Worship 7:30 p.m.</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26	27	28	29
Rev. Cathy on vacation from Dec. 25 - Jan. 1						
30 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Bible Study	31 <b>New Years Eve</b>					

Consider This...

Advent



In an Advent speech in 2002, Pope John Paul II said, "The liturgy of Advent helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of

Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come and who comes continuously."

A Prayer for Expressing Gratitude

Gracious God, in the busy-ness of my day, I sometimes forget to stop to thank You for all that is good in my life. My blessings are many and my heart is filled with gratefulness for the gift of living, for the ability to love and be loved, for the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation, for sleep and water, for a mind that thinks and a body that feels.

I thank you, too, for those things in my life that are less than I would hope them to be. Things that seem challenging, unfair, or difficult. When my heart feels stretched and empty and pools of tears form in my weary eyes, still I rejoice that you are as near to me as my next breath and that in the midst of turbulence, I am growing and learning. In the silence of my soul, I thank you most of all for your unconditional and eternal love. Amen.

A Mighty Message

When Charles Wesley wrote "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" in 1739, he had the angels proclaim: "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

And what did Wesley think should be the consequences of that message?

*"Joyful, all ye nations, rise."*

The Prince of Peace had come.

*"Light and life to all he brings."*

*"Born that we no more may die; born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!"*

When Wesley wrote that hymn, England was going through a desperate, hopeless time. Unemployment, poverty, illness, alcoholism and crime were widespread. Wesley and his brother, John, believed the answer for their nation was Christ's life-changing message. Changed lives would bring a changed nation.

Wesley's Christmas song rang true: "Light and life to all he brings." Some historians have written that England didn't have a revolution (as did France) mainly because of the message the Wesleys preached and sang.



Bits n' Pieces...



# Join the Choir

Gotta voice? Want to raise it?

Well here's your chance. Join the church choir and let your voice be heard. If you are confirmation age or older, you can join the choir and sing your heart out!!

See Rob Gundlach, he will be happy to see you and keep you on key!!



## UEC Building Fund Raffle

Our annual Building Fund Raffle drawing was held on November 25th. The winners are as follows:

\$ 300 First Prize

Kristina Brzozowski

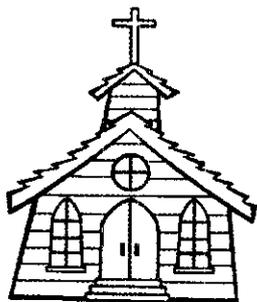
\$ 200 Second Prize

PACT

\$ 100 Third Prize

Irvin Smith

Congratulations to all the winners and a hearty thanks to all who participated!!



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 27<sup>th</sup>  
following  
10:30 a.m. worship

**This is your church, participate!!**

## Altar Flowers



The chart for requesting altar flowers is in the Narthex. The offering is \$ 15 per vase.

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



## Calling All Coffee Lovers

How about hosting a coffee hour between Sunday morning services. Nothing fancy, just hot water (for coffee) and a few noshes (donuts, cake, etc.) We could sure use a few more volunteers to step up and volunteer to host. You could even buddy-up with someone else and together host an hour.

Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.

## Mission Moments

Mission Moments is a way of highlighting our congregation's connection to the wider church. Our church is a vital part of the United Church of Christ, and it is not alone! Each Mission Moment will help inform members of what they make possible through their gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).

# Mission Moment

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

### Resolutions

**M**any of us mark the New Year by making resolutions, which is really a very Christian thing to do. The Christian faith holds out to all people the continuing possibility of redemption. As church-goers, we are offered the opportunity for new life every Sunday. At worship, the ritual goes like this: confession of sin, assurance of forgiveness, promise of obedience.

In resolving on New Year's Day to do better in the future, we may not be aware that we are recapitulating a rite of Christian worship. But that may be due to the kinds of resolutions we make. Instead of resolving to be punctual for a change, or to forego second helpings of dessert, why not adopt John Wesley's Rule this New Year's Day?

Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.

**God is still speaking,**

### Just What is OCWM?

Just what is it and how is it different from OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing)?

### OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)

Right now, Our Church's Wider Mission is bringing the UCC message to more and more people:

*No matter who you are  
or where you are on  
life's journey...you're  
welcome here.*

Without OCWM, there would be no United Church of Christ. OCWM is who we are.

### OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing)

OGHS works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, emergency relief, and resettlement aid for refugees. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster response and relief.

# The United Endeavor

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

Our plans for 2008 include two bus trips to Faith Church in Frederick for their Oyster & Turkey Dinner in the Spring and Fall.

We also hope to have our Spring Tea, St. Patrick's Day luncheon in March, Strawberry Festival in June. Other activities are also planned.

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



Upcoming Ladies  
Organization Meetings  
All Meetings Begin at 12  
noon  
(unless otherwise noted)

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> Christmas Luncheon  
Williamsburg Inn  
\$32.00 per person

Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Brown Bag luncheon  
(2008 activities will be discussed)

The next issue of The Endeavor will include lunch meeting dates for February and March.

New members are always welcome!

Dues are \$ 10.00 per year

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

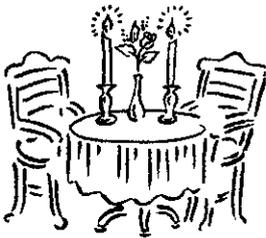
If you must cancel your seat you need to find someone to take your seat to receive your money back.

Persons to contact:

Arlene Pate 410-327-3211 or Millie Wirsing 410-675-3904



### Ladies Organization Annual Christmas Luncheon Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>



All ladies of the congregation are invited to join the Ladies Organization for a Christmas luncheon at Williamsburg Inn on Wednesday, December 12th at 12:00 noon.

The cost per person is \$ 32.00. Bring a friend.

The menu for the luncheon is a choice of roast prime rib of beef au jus or baked shrimp stuffed with crab meat. It will be a full meal with fruit cocktail, salad, entrée with two vegetables, bread, dessert, coffee and tea.

RSVP to

Arlene Pate 410-327-3211  
or Millie Wirsing 410-675-3904



Give us, O God, the vision which can see your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

—Frank Borman, Apollo 8 commander

## United Evangelical Church

**Pastor** Rev. Catherine J. Oatman  
cjoatman@msn.com  
cell phone: 410-428-1482

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

**Hours** Tuesday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Secretary** Tiffanie Dufour

**Custodian** Paul Polasky

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

**Newsletter Editor** Barbara Matthew  
barbmattthew@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](http://www.hungersite.com)



### General Mills Boxtops for Educa- tion

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

# The United Endeavor

## December Special Events



### Christmas Party

#### TINSEL SUNDAY DECEMBER 9TH

Come join us for the annual Tinsel Sunday celebration. Our Sunday School children will be giving a special presentation to welcome the holiday.

Tickets are \$ 5.00 each for adults, children under the age of 18 are free. Dinner is included.

See Ursula Jacob or Cass Young for tickets by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Please note:  
There is only one worship service at  
10:30 am on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**



#### Christmas Memorials due by December 9<sup>th</sup>

The church office is now accepting memorial requests for the 2007 Christmas Memorials Booklet.

All requests are due by December 9th.



#### Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

#### Hangings of the Greens

Everyone is invited to come on Saturday, Dec. 1st at 9:00 a.m. to

help decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons.



#### Olde Time Christmas December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007

On Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be dedicating our 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services to honor those on our caring and responsibility list. A small Christmas tree, The Tree of Blessing, will be placed on the altar. An angel tag, bearing the name of each person on our caring and responsibility list, will be placed on the tree. Pastor Cathy's sermon will be dedicated to those on the list also.

#### Sunday School Advent Project

Starting in Advent, the children of the Sunday School will be collecting money for Heifer International.

Heifer works to end hunger and poverty by increasing self-reliance through gifts of livestock and agricultural training.

The children's goal is to fill an ark which is two of every animal that Heifer provides.

There is a container in the Narthex for donations.



Thank you for supporting our Sunday School children!!

#### Give a Gift



to GIVE

#### Hoffman Homes Gifts

As in the past, we will be purchasing gifts for children at Hoffman Homes. Gifts will be displayed, and cash donations will be accepted to help with

the expense.

Please see Cass Young or place your contribution in the offering plate and designate it for Hoffman Homes.

New News

Tiffanie DuFour



We are pleased to welcome Tiffanie DuFour to our church staff. Tiffanie lives in Dundalk with her husband and two young children.

Church office hours will remain Tuesday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Be sure to say hello and extend a warm welcome!



Have you ever noticed the "Adopt-a-Highway" projects along the interstate? Well, here at UEC, we are thinking along the same lines.

Upcoming Endeavor issues will include a list of "Adopt-a-Project" opportunities in the church. Each "project" will be listed along with the approximate cost to complete. Perhaps you, as an individual, or as a family would consider "adopting" a project to support the care of your church. It is a great opportunity to see a tangible result of your generous donations. It's a great way to stay involved with your church. Think about it!!

The Youth Booth

Attention All Youth – Ages 12 and up



Our Church Youth Group invites you and all your friends to come, hang out, have fun and live your faith.

Upcoming Youth Group meetings are listed below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	12:30 p.m.	Zion UCC	Christmas Caroling/Christmas Party
January 13 <sup>th</sup>	12:30 p.m.	United UCC	Prepare for Souper Bowl
January 27 <sup>th</sup>	12:30 p.m.	Zion UCC	Laser Tag

Church Council

UEC "To Do" List

- Seek out suitable non-profit organizations to occupy school building
- Explore grant money and funding sources for school building conversion—submit applications
- Design and produce flyer for space available in the school building
- Clean up school building—sell or haul away items no longer needed
- Develop schedule for school building modification and renovation—design spaces
- Act as liaison person between Church and Nonprofit Center Network
- Attend Canton Community Association meetings and report back to Council
- Further develop and maintain church website
- Update church membership list—categories: active, inactive, shut-ins, friends
- Inventory all locks in buildings and match up with keys
- Change and maintain outside church and school building signs
- Find someone to repair cracked windows in Fellowship Hall & kitchen
- Check heating & A/C thermostats periodically for correct settings and programming
- Host weekly practice sessions for aspiring musicians and combos
- Disconnect, disassemble and clean ice making machine
- Do monthly walkthrough of buildings & make list of maintenance & repair items required
- Maintain flower pots in front of church—water, weed & clean weekly or more frequently
- Research and lead effort to update to working condition the tower clock and bells
- Paint and replace steel decorative trim on front doors of bell tower
- Re-varnish oak window sills in church sanctuary and office
- Seek & list ways congregation can attract and serve people in local community – implement
- Replace church sign's plastic windows—explore acquisition of affordable LED sign
- Seek and implement ways to prevent birds from roosting on church buildings
- Study feasibility and cost of installing elevator in school building—elevator company listing available

***This is a list in process; please do not hesitate to offer suggestions, additions, comments & constructive criticism***

## Church Holiday Schedule



### **Tinsel Sunday**

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>

10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
(One Service Only)

### **Olde Time Christmas**

December 16<sup>th</sup>

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship Services

A service dedicated to those on our caring and responsibility list

### **Christmas Eve Worship**



**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 p.m.

Communion and Candlelight  
Worship Service

With Children's Message



## Christmas Music

### Choir Anthems for December

Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10:30 a.m.

For the beginning of the season of Advent, the choir will be singing a selection entitled, "Something Which Is Known." The lyrics are taken from John 1. The composers, Norbert and Callahan, may not be known to you by name, but they composed, "With Broken Bread in Our Hands," a favorite of a beloved pastor, the late Robert Armstrong.

Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 a.m.

If you know anyone who sings in a choir from a liturgical church, he or she has probably sung many anthems written by Don Besig and Nancy Price. Don and Nancy met while teaching school in the same building and have been collaborating for about 20 years. "Will We Know Him?" is an anthem written for the Advent season. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the choir to sing 4-part anthems. If you would like to sing with us on this day, or for any of these anthems, visit us any Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. or see Rob Gundlach for a rehearsal CD and music.

Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> - 10:30 a.m.

"The Birthday of a King" has been a standard of choirs for many years.

Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 p.m.

The music of Natalie Sleeth needs no introduction. Married to a professor of homiletics, she has over 180 published works, one of which appears in the New Century UCC hymnal. "Were You There on that Christmas Night" has become a standard for the Christmas season.

December 30<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 a.m.

"Softly the Stars Were Shining" was written by Adolf Torovsky who was the organist at Epiphany Anglican Church in Washington, DC for over 50 years, and led the Naval Academy band from 1916-1919. Because of the limited size of our choir, we had to re-arrange this anthem for unison voices. If you would like to sing with us on this day, or for any of these anthems, visit us any Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. or see Rob Gundlach for a rehearsal CD and music.

Church Council

**THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
OF BALTIMORE, MD**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Operating Revenue and Expenses  
1/01/07 through 10/31/07**

Revenue: Proceeds from Donations, Rent & Interest	\$ 138,768.00
Expenses: Operating Expenses	\$ 162,266.00
<u>School Building Conversion</u>	<u>2,295.00</u>
Total All Expenses	\$ 164,561.00
Amount under (deficit)	(\$25,773.00)

**Operating, Investment & Endowment Funds Balance 10/31/07**

Operating Funds on Hand	\$ 49,097.00
Investment & Endowment Funds on Hand	\$ <u>195,226.00</u>
Total All Funds	\$ 244,323.00

**Stained Glass Window Report as of 11/24/07**

Amount Received to Date	\$ 55,690.00
Committed Future Receipts	\$ <u>3,000.00</u>
Total on Hand & Committed	\$ 58,690.00
Funds Paid for 10 Windows	\$ <u>43,915.00</u>
Funds Available to Apply to Front Windows	\$ 14,775.00

Property Committee

Any concerns regarding the janitorial maintenance of the church or school building should be directed to Dale Sanders. With Dale acting as the liaison between the congregation and the custodian, any concerns can be quickly addressed.

Dale Sanders can be reached at (410) 679-1452.



## Church Council

### President's Message

We have a huge maple tree in our side yard, right next to the driveway. It is one of the largest trees in the neighborhood, with a trunk about three feet in diameter at the base it towers above everything around. The other day as I was looking at it thinking how beautiful it was with all of its foliage orange and yellow I thought of Joyce Kilmer's poem:

#### "Trees"

That begins: *I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree*

and ends: *Poems are made by fools like me  
But only God can make a tree*

(Alfred) Joyce Kilmer, was a man who wrote this short, simple, well known poem in 1913 when he was 27 years old. Nice poem, look it up and read it again sometime.

Today, the day after Thanksgiving, and several days of high winds, the lovely maple stands almost bare most of its leaves laying in our yard and driveway waiting for Ursula and me to rake them up. I am not feeling quite so poetic now, with the prospect of raking, bagging, and hauling off several pickup truck loads of leaves. Remember when everyone would just rake them out in the street and burn them, the whole neighborhood choking on the smoke? Our glorious tree, now devoid of its foliage, is still beautiful, handsome in a different way as it gets ready for winter, another season of its life. Our church also is going through different seasons in its life, as we move toward Advent, Christmas, and the New Year. In case you were wondering how I was going to get from "Trees" to "Church", so was I, but there, I did it!

As I look back on year 2007, Spring, Summer & Fall, I reflect on the past eleven months, and some of the events and things that have happened at our church:

- Peggy, our church secretary, left us and moved to Delaware, as her husband retired.
- The Visioning Committee, meeting regularly, coming up with some good ideas.
- Assistance given to immigrant family from Liberia.
- Active Youth Group with innovative leadership went on trip to New York.

- Sponsorship of Jerry Leggett, "Sing Out for Peace," arriving with his "Peace Bubble."
- Advertising campaign, "Connect First," mailing cards to neighborhood new arrivals.
- Another successful church picnic, good turnout, fine time had by all.
- Participation by church in Canton Garden Tour, welcomed many visitors into church.
- Planters placed at sides of East Ave. church entrance and Dillon St. office entrance.
- North side and south side sanctuary stained glass windows cleaned and restored.
- Several families joining church as new members – A hearty welcome to them!
- Three great young people currently receiving instruction as year 2008 Confirmands.
- Upper Room (Choir Room) painted, new shades, redecorated and refurnished.
- Pastor's Office redecorated with painting, new blinds, chairs and file cabinet.
- Seminarian Intern, George Swift, joined us in September, other asset to our church.
- Church and school building cleanup underway, real progress being made.
- Sokol Baltimore, a gymnastics group, is interested in renting space in school building
- Tiffanie DuFour has joined our staff as Church Secretary, a welcome addition as well.

The above list is surely not complete, as I am running out of space, however it will give some idea of the many happenings in our great church during the past year. None of these things could have taken place without the participation of many of our members. Many thanks are due to all. The year is not over yet, another month and more to happen. Merry Christmas!

Harvey

# The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Dec 2007/Jan 2008



## Pastor's Message

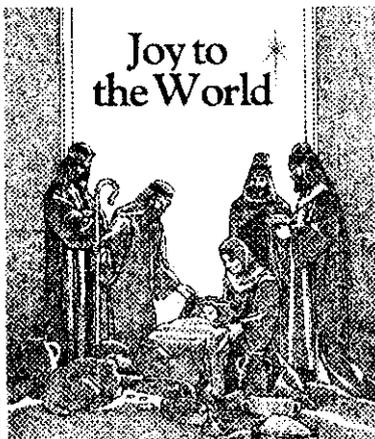
*"And the Word became flesh and lived!  
among us..." John 1:14 (NRSV)*

In *The Message*, a contemporary rendering of the Bible, the author Eugene Peterson rephrases John 1:14 to say "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." His choice of words is a little startling when I think that Jesus has moved into my neighborhood.

In all the decorating and preparing for Christmas we sometimes treat the story of Christ's birth like a fairy tale, a story of long ago and far away. We lose sight of the implications which the incarnation has for our life everyday, implications such as Jesus being in our neighborhood. As the church we are people who still today seek

*...seek to know Christ, not simply to know about him,  
but to know him.*

to know Christ, not simply to know about him, but to know him. We seek to encounter him just as the wise men from the East did so many years ago.



The dinner groups, which the visioning committee is forming, are meant to help us encounter Christ within each other and within our neighbors. Soon you will be receiving a phone call from a member of the committee asking you to participate in a group. As we enter the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, I encourage you to see this invita-

tion like the star of Bethlehem, a sign leading you to where you can find the presence of Christ.

Scripture tells us that upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds went out rejoicing for all that they had experienced. May your holiday season be one filled with joy over encounters with the Word made flesh.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Cathy