

# The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Aug 2006/Sep 2006

## Special Commentary

### 'Tis a Gift to Be Simple

**Our lives do not consist in the abundance of our possessions.**

*by Jonathan Taplin*

Many of us (Republican and Democrat alike) were drawn during the Ronald Reagan eulogies to the image from our country's Pilgrim heritage: America as John Winthrop's "City Upon a Hill." These lines spoken by Winthrop in 1630 to the 700 colonists about to depart for the New World give a sense of their mission: "We must be willing to abridge ourselves of our superfluities, for the supply of others' necessities." Winthrop believed the secret of America would be that each person

*'Tis a gift to be simple, 'Tis a gift to be free....*

could live a simpler, less wasteful life and the commons would benefit.

But today America sails blithely towards the greatest economic and spiritual crisis of a generation and has gone through a presidential election without once debating one of the most serious issues of our times. Quite simply, America is living beyond her means, spending more than she is earning. We are awash in Winthrop's "superfluities," on a global credit card binge, dependent on the "kindness of strangers" in China and Japan to not call in the loans. As Stephen Roach, chief economist of Morgan Stanley, wrote recently, "In my view, the U.S. economy is an accident waiting to happen."

The crisis is not just economic, but spiritual as well. Modern secular consumer society—embodied by the classic bumper sticker "The one who dies with the most toys wins"—has redefined the meaning of a worthwhile life. The consumption of material goods as a way to define ourselves has left the average family with no savings, high levels of stress, and a gnawing sense that the whole American culture is on the wrong track.

It is that missing spiritual dimension in modern life that has increasingly called people of faith to revisit what is important in their lives. In the Evangelical Environmental Network's Care for Creation statement ([creationcare.org](http://creationcare.org)), we are reminded that "our lives do not consist in the abundance of our possessions, and therefore we urge followers of Jesus to resist the allure of wastefulness and over consumption by making personal lifestyle choices that express humility, forbearance, self restraint, and frugality."

Ultimately the task of tackling the burden of our overconsuming, undersaving economy should come to the forefront of the national dialogue. What is needed is a citizen's movement of simple living that would go on irrespective of which party is in power. It would tap into the power of local experimentation to find solutions to the urgent problems of education, conservation, and a crumbling infrastructure. It would harness the creative power of the digital revolution to increase the efficiency of local government and business.

*(cont'd)*

# The United Endeavor

## Church Council

Whether we think it's morally right to live a simpler life or whether "the market" forces the discipline upon us, we are going to have to get less wasteful. Our challenge is to rebuild this city upon a hill with a notion of stewardship, which is embedded in almost every religion. The notion is simple. We are here for a reason: to be stewards of our culture and our planet. In that sense we must walk as lightly on the earth as the Native Americans who founded this place.

Years after Winthrop asked his followers "to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God," the Quakers started singing a hymn that could be our anthem: "'Tis a gift to be simple, 'Tis a gift to be free. 'Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be."

*Jonathan Taplin, who has produced films and music for Bob Dylan and The Band, George Harrison, Martin Scorsese, and Gus Van Sant, was a professor at the Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Southern California when this article appeared.*

**WHY SPEND MONEY ON WHAT IS NOT BREAD, AND YOUR LABOR ON WHAT DOES NOT SATISFY?**



### Council President

I wanted to update you on some issues that I know you are all interested in! We currently have the Sunday School listed with Federal Realty for the asking price of \$1,200,000.00. JBL Developers are still talking to us with the hopes of us accepting an offer from them (JBL is the company that has wanted the bldg. all along). We are communicating with them but we are also keeping in close contact with Federal Realty to update us as people tour the building in case someone else is interested. Mr. Harvey Jacob, Dick Loving and his son Stephen, Paul Polasky and Carl Price have all been working on various "jobs" within the Church bldg and on the grounds outside. You should have noticed by now that the black gates have been removed, there is now a dead bolt on the door near the ramp, the ramp itself is being repaired, lights in the hall have been fixed, there is "new" furniture in the quiet room and we are attempting to set the hall up with storage cabinets and other things in order to accommodate both Sunday School and the PACT group. (More info. to follow on this later.)

At the time of this article, Rev. Cathy is in Zambia and we are praying that everything is going well for her and also praying for her safe return. Please keep in mind that the picnic is Sunday, September 10th at North Point State Park and then on Sunday, September 24th, we plan to have a get together in the hall in honor of our Church's anniversary and for the beginning of our new visioning study! Another final thought for everyone - please consider joining the council next year. We currently only have 9 members (3 people had to drop off) actively serving the Church but we hope that there will be some "new blood" joining the council in 2007. A few of our terms are up at the end of the year so we will need as many people as possible to fill the vacating positions. Keep in mind that the meetings are held the second Tues. of each month at 7 p.m. and run about 2 hrs. It is the perfect way to share your thoughts on all the important issues as they arise! My thanks to everyone for all the help and support that you are currently showing this year's council. We may not always agree on certain issues but we can all agree that we need to work together in order to help our Church survive!

Be happy and safe for the rest of the summer.

God Bless!

Lori

Mission Moments is a new addition to the Endeavor and 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).

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## Mission Moment

### Are You Afraid?

**W**e live in a country overcome by fear. We fear terrorism and dependence. We fear losing international status and losing face. We fear falling stock values and unemployment reports.

And too often these days, we members of the United Church of Christ are overcome by fears. We fear shrinking membership, lost influence, smaller budgets, and division.

Fear surrounds us. We long for the age-old assurance given when anxiety threatened to overcome God's people: "Be not afraid." These words remind us of God's promise of fullness of life.

In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he wrote about how to gain "life that is truly life." He urged Timothy to help people learn this way of living, which distinguishes between fleeting wealth and lasting treasure.

*"Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage - to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous."*

*1 Timothy 6:17-18 (The Message)*

**God is still speaking,**

# The United Endeavor

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

## Ladies Organization Trips & Events

### Upcoming Events



#### Progressive Dine Around

Harrisburg, PA

Appetizers &

Champagne Toast at Mansion w/tour

Lunch at O'Reilly's Irish Pub

Paddle Wheel Riverboat ride with Ice Cream Social

September 20<sup>th</sup>

8:15 am-5:15 pm

\$ 73.00

#### Faith United Turkey & Oyster Luncheon

Frederick, MD

Stops will be made at:

McCutcheon's Jelly

Baughner's Ice Cream and

Walmart

November 4<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am-6:00 pm

\$ 34.00

Call Arlene or Millie to reserve your seat.

A \$ 10.00 deposit is required.

Arlene Pate 410-327-3211

Millie Wirsing 410-675-3904

#### Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings

All Meetings Begin at 12 noon  
(unless otherwise noted)

Aug. Vacation—no luncheon scheduled

Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Covered Dish Luncheon

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> Brown Bag Luncheon

Fisherman's Deck Crab  
Feast scheduled for Au-  
gust 9th has been canceled.



We needed 30 people and only 15 were interested. We missed a great feast.

#### 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

Millie Wirsing 410-675-3904



### Progressive Dinner

#### **Progressive Dine-Around**

**Harrisburg, PA**

September 20, 2006

8:15 a.m.—5:15 p.m.

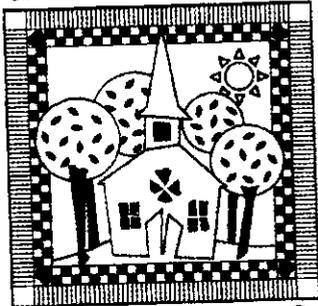
This is a new trip!!!!

We must have 30 persons attending. Please let us know ASAP, if you are interested in this new venture. This is called a Dine-Around because we will be having lunch at 3 different places. This first is the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion for a tour with appetizers and champagne toast. Next, we go to O'Riley's Irish Pub for lunch of Shepherd's Pie or Fish & Chips or Barney Bleu Chicken. (We must know your choice when you pay for your trip). Last stop will be "The Pride of the Susquehannah" for an Ice Cream Social Riverboat Cruise. Contact Arlene or Millie for ticket prices.

The United Endeavor

Special Events

**CHURCH FAMILY**



**PICNIC**

September 10, 2006  
UEC Annual Picnic

Bay Shore  
Trolley Area in  
North Point Park

Mark your calendars!!!!

There will be a small donation for parking (so bring a buddy)

Bring a non-refrigerated dessert

Non-alcoholic beverages only

Need a Ride?

No problem—sign up sheets for drivers & riders  
will be placed in the Narthex

Look for additional details in the upcoming weekly church bulletins

**Our Church's  
Anniversary**



**Church Anniversary Celebration!!**

September 24, 2006

Details will appear in upcoming weekly church  
bulletins

PICTURES PICTURES PICTURES!!!



Needed are pictures of events, people, and pastors of the church's recent past. Please put pictures in a zip lock bag along with a sheet of paper with your name so they can be returned

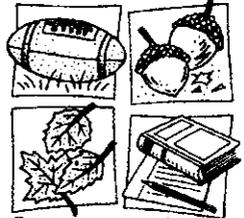
The United Endeavor

UEC August 2006 Calendar of Events

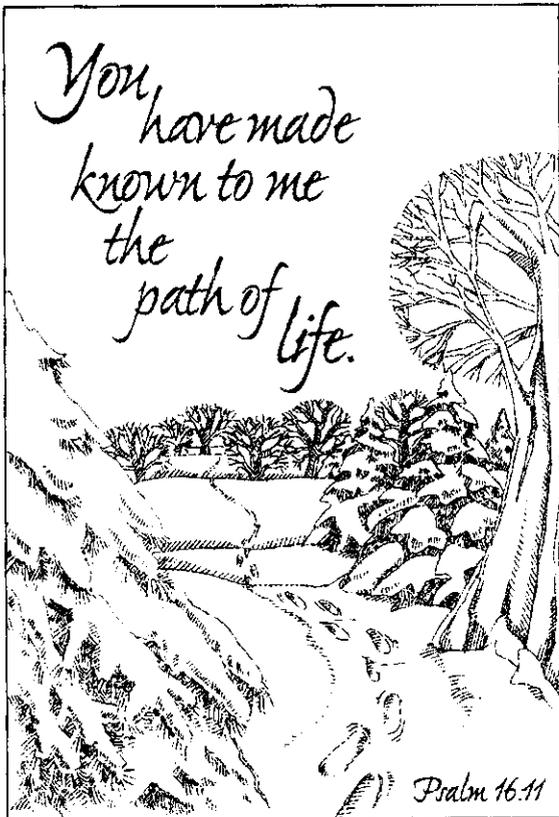
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
<p>6</p> <p>Food Bank Donations</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>Rev. Cathy returns</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. (Subject to change)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	10	11	12
<p>13</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	14	<p>15</p> <p>Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	17	18	19
<p>20</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	21	22	<p>23</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	24	25	26
<p>27</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	28	29	<p>30</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</p>		

The United Endeavor

# UEC September 2006 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p>3 Communion Sunday</p> <p>Food Bank Donations</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>4 Labor Day</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>7 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
					<p>UCC Men's Retreat, Sept 8-10</p>	
<p>10 9:00 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>Sunday School Begins</p> <p>UEC Church Picnic N. Pt. State Park</p> <p>CHURCH FAMILY  PICNIC</p> <p>Grandparents Day</p>	<p>11 Patriot Day (Remembrance of 9/11)</p>	<p>12 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Ladies Organization Luncheon 12 noon</p>	<p>14 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 9:00 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Christian Education</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Progressive Dine-Around Bus Trip 8:15 am-5:15 pm</p>	<p>21 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 First Day of Autumn</p>
<p>24 9:00 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Christian Education</p> <p>UEC Anniversary Celebration Our Church's Anniversary</p> <p></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>28 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
					<p> September</p>	

## The United Endeavor



### United Evangelical Church

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Catherine J. Oatman cjoatman@msn.com home: 410-276-2200 cell phone: 410-428-1482
<u>Church Office</u>	410-276-0393
<u>e-mail:</u>	uecucc@verizon.net
<u>website:</u>	www.united-evangelical.com
<u>Hours</u>	Tuesday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
<u>Secretary</u>	Peggy Tlasek
<u>Custodian</u>	Paul Polasky
<u>Director of Music</u>	Robert Gundlach robert.gundlach@verizon.net
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Barbara Matthew barbmatthew@verison.net

### Patience

Be patient with everyone, but above all with thyself. I mean, do not be disheartened by your imperfections, but always rise up with fresh courage.

-Francis De Sales

### 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)**



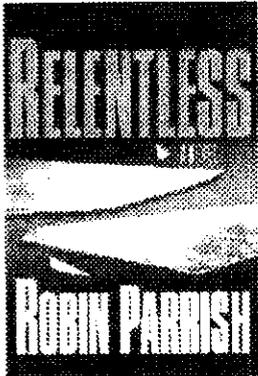
**Just a  
Reminder...**

### 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.

## Christian Fiction Review



### Relentless

By Robin Parrish

Published by:

Bethany House Publishers,  
2006

443 pages



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

I've always been blessed with the ability to read very rapidly. If a book holds my interest well, I read even faster. When a book bores me, I struggle through each page. This can also be a curse, in that when I come across a book that I absolutely love, I have to force myself to slow down or it'll be over far too soon.

Such was the case with *Relentless*, which describes not only the story inside this novel, but the pace at which I devoured it.

Robin Parrish (who founded & runs the Infuze webzine) has brought a fresh voice to Christian fiction, taking it in a direction I never expected to see and am delighted to have experienced.

From the moment protagonist Grant Borrows steps off the bus and sees himself across the street, Parrish had me. His whole life has changed in an instant, and in a way that seems inexplicable and frightening. Someone else is now in his body, living his (admittedly boring) life, and he is now in a different body, one that has more to discover than just the physical differences.

In almost no time, Grant finds himself in a deadly chess match, where he's not only uncertain of who the other players are, but how many there are and even who he himself is, anymore! Pursued by a mysterious assassin, Grant struggles to unlock the secrets both of his own past and his own mysterious new abilities. The clues lead him in a variety of directions, to other people like himself (and yet not), mysterious tech corporations, and a conspiracy that dates back thousands of years.

If you were unsatisfied with this summer's big superhero movies, you need to read this book. It has everything those stories should have had, and didn't. In fact, the serial nature of the story (which was originally done in installments online, actually) and some of the other elements owes a lot to various superhero comic books that I can identify. The exploration of the nature of power is especially fascinating.

Someone who is used to much of Christian fiction's typical fare might look up halfway through this novel and wonder, "Where's the Christian part?" In fact, the storyline is infused (groan) with Christian elements, but they're not blatant. At least... not until one crucial scene near the end... That also gives some promise of the direction things might take in the future of this storyline.

Even without that, the spiritual themes are shining throughout. In other words, this is another great story that just happens to be written by a Christian.

This is the first novel in a trilogy, which gives me great hope, despite the sadness I felt at finishing too quickly. Quite frankly, I can't wait to read more about Grant Borrows and his supporting cast. This could be the beginning of something truly exciting. Highly Recommended.

*Source: <http://www.christianfictionreview.com/Reviews/relentless.html>*

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

Points to Ponder...

How is Wind like the Holy Spirit?

This question brings to mind John 3:8:

The wind blows wherever it pleases.

You hear its sound, but cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.

So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

The word spirit in both Hebrew and Greek means "breath" or "wind." Both a breath of air and a breeze are appropriate images for the Holy Spirit.

Consider several properties of the wind.

1. Wind is moving air, and this fresh air is needed continually for life itself. Even seeds often require wind for their dispersal and subsequent growth. Similarly, the Holy Spirit is the presence of God, the source for all life.
2. Wind has no material shape or form. It is invisible; we cannot see the source or the destination of wind. It is a mysterious, unseen force. Nevertheless, its presence is known by its effects. Likewise, the unseen Holy Spirit can be experienced in a refreshing way. His presence is displayed in the work he does in human lives by transforming, sanctifying, encouraging, and teaching.
3. Wind is a powerful force. It cannot be stopped or controlled by people. Likewise, the Holy Spirit is not subject to human control. The moving of the Holy Spirit is God at work.

There is great variety in the wind. It may be a soft whisper gently rustling the leaves on the trees, or it may be a hurricane uprooting trees. Likewise, the Holy Spirit may gently bring a person to Christ, such as a little child raised in a Christian home, or he may work in some climactic, dramatic way to bring conviction and conversion to the hardened sinner. In Acts 16, contrast Lydia, whose heart the Lord opened (verse 14), and the jailer, who needed an earthquake to jar him to his spiritual sense (verse 30). In both cases, the Holy Spirit did the regenerating work.

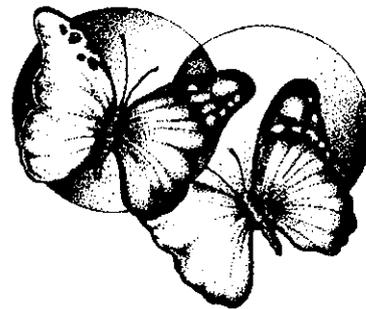


A Life Lesson from a Cocoon

When you are tempted to "rescue" your children or a younger co-worker from a particular trial, remember this story. A young boy was on a camping trip and it was his turn to find some wood for the fire. When he bent down to pick up some kindling he spotted a cocoon.

He watched the struggle inside the cocoon for quite a long time. He really wanted to help the baby butterfly get out. It was working so hard, it had to be very tired. So the young boy pulled out his pocketknife and split the cocoon open.

Now the butterfly could escape and fly away. He watched and waited, but the butterfly never flew out. When he stepped closer to get a better look, he saw that the baby butterfly wasn't moving - not even a tiny flutter. The butterfly died.



He took the wood back to the campsite and told his story. That's when he learned that it's the process of pushing and struggling

against the cocoon that strengthens the butterfly's wing and enables it to fly.

The same is true for human beings. We get stronger as we walk through the trials of life. From the time your children are young until they leave the nest, it's wise to allow them to experience failure and the process of bouncing back from that failure. General Patton said, "I don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs but how high he bounces when he hits bottom."

Remember, strength comes from the struggle.

Bits n Pieces

For those among us over 40 (or even those almost there)  
and all others...  
Check out this newest version of "Jesus Loves Me".

**JESUS LOVES ME**

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow.  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)

Yes, Jesus loves me  
Yes, Jesus loves me  
Yes, Jesus loves me  
For the Bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go.  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

(CHORUS)

Though I am no longer young,  
I have much which He's begun.  
Let me serve Christ with a smile,  
Go with others the extra mile.

(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song.  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.

Calling All Coffee Lovers

How about hosting a coffee hour between Sunday morning services. Nothing fancy, just hot water (for coffee) and a few gnoshes (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.

UEC Bowling League Wants You!!

Come have some fun bowling on  
Monday evenings in August.  
The team plays at:

Pinland Bowling Lanes  
10 Dundalk Avenue

If you would like to join in the fun  
call Holly Raddatz  
410-285-0894



# The United Endeavor

## Comics Corner

**oops!**

From a church newsletter in Knoxville, Tennessee:

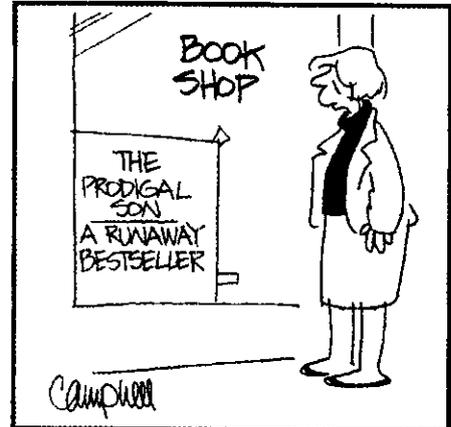
properly considered as most difficult work.

Some of the tasks on the list are:

Widow washing

shabbiness trimming

A new form of baptism, perhaps?

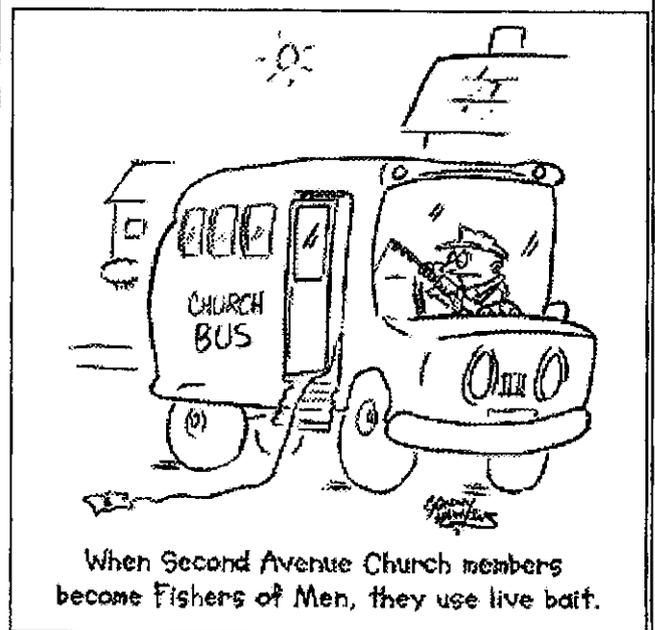
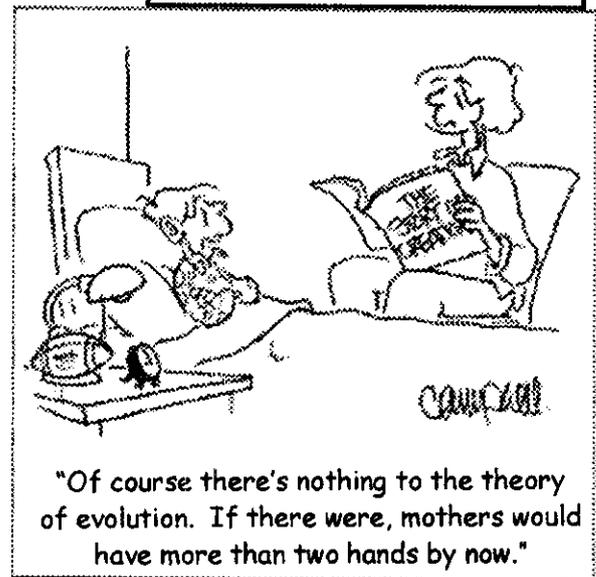


### In the Nursery

This sign was posted at a church nursery:

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

—1 Corinthians 15:51, RSV



# Kids Only!!

ChristianAnswers.Net

## KID EXPLORERS

### Wordsearch In The Beginning

God created a wonderful paradise for mankind. But Adam & Eve didn't obey God, bringing sin into the world. Sin destroyed God's wonderful creation. Find all the words that are hidden in the tree, they are all taken from the first three chapters of Genesis.

Kid Explorers activities,  
[www.KidExplorers.com](http://www.KidExplorers.com)

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O J S B F  
 W H A L E S M  
 T F P D L G E A P  
 E A U O L I I P D N F  
 T A E B O R A N F A E R C  
 O R W W S E B N O E D U G  
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- Adam
- Angel
- Animals
- Beginning
- Birds
- Creation
- Creatures
- Curse
- Death
- Dinosaurs
- Earth
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- Eve
- Evening
- Evil
- Fellowship
- Fish
- Forbidden
- Fruit
- Garden
- God
- Good
- Heavens
- Hide
- Kind
- Land
- Life
- Light
- Man
- Mist
- Moon
- Morning
- Names
- Pain
- Plants
- Rebellion
- Rest
- Seed
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- Sin
- Skins
- Stars
- Sun
- Sweat
- Trees
- Water
- Whales
- Woman

# The United Endeavor

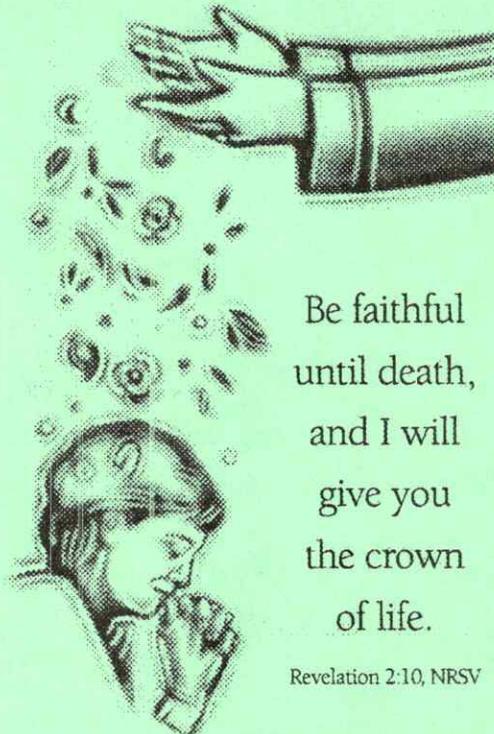
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STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT No. 6326  
BALTIMORE, MD.

United Evangelical Church  
United Church of Christ  
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Baltimore, MD 21224

## Dated Material

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

# The United Endeavor



Be faithful  
until death,  
and I will  
give you  
the crown  
of life.

Revelation 2:10, NRSV