

The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Feb 2006/Mar 2006

Pastor's Message

"I will go Lord, if you lead me..."

Recently in worship we sang the hymn "Here I Am Lord." As we sang it, I thought of the many times over the years that I have sincerely prayed the words of that hymn, telling God "Here I am Lord, I will go where you lead me."

God's call in our lives is usually unmistakable. There is a peace that comes when we yield to God's call. This kind of peace doesn't eliminate the turmoil that life holds, but rather it is marked by the absence of restlessness within our soul. Deep within we know we are on the right path, and this gives us peace no matter how bumpy the ride gets.

It is a blessing to see people find this peace in their lives when decisions are made around getting married, or becoming parents, or changing vocations. At the same time, watching others struggle with the restlessness of their souls always leads me to prayers for strength; that they will find the courage to follow after God's call for their lives.

Recently I felt this peace settle upon me when I was asked to be a spiritual director on a medical mission trip to Zambia for two weeks in July. I approached Council with

this "request from God" and they too agreed that God had arranged for a wonderful growth opportunity for their pastor. And so once again I say to God from my heart, "Here I am Lord, I will go where you lead me."

As I prepare myself spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically to go to the third poorest nation in the world, I invite you to go, in a spiritual sense, on this journey with me. As I learn more about the mission, I will hold informational sessions to share with you all that is involved in a mission trip designed to bring hope and healing to the children of a nation devastated by the AIDS pandemic. I also ask that you will join me in prayer for this mission trip over these next several months.

I don't know why God would call me half way across the world when there is so much need in my own back yard. I simply know that I can trust in the One who is Lord of sea and sky, who has heard his people cry, who has wept for love of them, and who asks me, "Will you bear my light to them?" I pray that I can count on all of you to say with me, "Here I am Lord."

In Christ's love,
Rev. Cathy

"There is a peace that comes when we yield to God's call."

Church Council

From Our Council President

In reflecting on my past year as Council President, the first thing I wanted to say is that being on the council (much less being president !) was not something that I had ever planned to do. However, I am honored that enough trust has been placed in me to not only be President in 2005 but again in 2006 and I look forward to working with everyone to help our church grow ! We had a lot of things going on in 2005 - -new things like having to cancel the sour beef dinner, selling the church school bldg. and putting the parsonage up for rent. These issues were very new for everyone of us and they are continuing into 2006. We received a lot of comments and suggestions from each of you to help us in the decisions for these major changes and while all of the comments were not positive, I can say that the good outweighed the bad. I will have more thoughts on this in the annual report which will be available at the congregational meeting on January 29th. One constant thing that we are faced with is meeting the financial needs of our church. This has gotten harder on us due to the rising cost of utilities and also because of the declining membership of our congregation. While the sale of the church school bldg. will indeed help us out - - we do not want to rely solely on this to keep us going. I ask that you continue to support your church so that we can continue to teach the word of the Lord. Last year we received a great gift from the Kellner family when they bequeathed their house to us. At this time the house is currently up for sale.

The parsonage is also sitting vacant but we have had more people inquire about the possibility of renting it in the past few weeks. Please say a prayer that everything falls into place so that our beloved church can be here for many years to come. This year, let's open our arms and our hearts to new members and new suggestions. We need to be a welcoming congregation and I know that we can be ! We may end up being smaller but we will definitely be stronger because of this . Thanks again for everyone's help and support. God Bless !

Lori Betch
Council President

"As I live,
says the Lord,
every knee shall bow
to me, and every
tongue shall give
praise to God."

Romans 14:11, NRSV



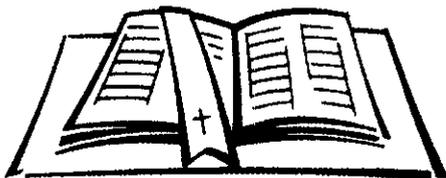
Church Council

Christian Education Committee

Once again, Tinsel Sunday was a huge success. Beginning with a new program presented by the Church School and directed by Diane Borkman, sharing a fabulous luncheon in the overflowing Fellowship Hall, participating in crafts in the Church School and Fellowship Hall, decorating the church tree, singing carols in the church, and having a birthday party for Jesus, everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. Thanks to everyone who worked to make this day so successful.

On January 14th, twenty-four people gathered in the Church School to help with packing up the Church School materials and move them to a location where they will stay until it is determined where the Church School will be

meeting
once we
need to
move. Every-
one worked
very hard



sorting through materials (many of which had been in the Church School a long, long time), deciding what materials should be saved, and moving them to the gym for storage. We sincerely thank all of those who came and spent several hours working very hard.

While there is a lot happening regarding the Church School at this time, Bible learning and fellowship are still happening there and we welcome new students in the children's classes at 9:15 on Sunday, the adult class that meets in the Quiet Room on Sunday at 9:15, and the Bible Study Group that meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Carol Rowell

Financial Manager Needed



At age 74, and with a burning desire to spend his retirement on the waters of the Chesapeake, Harvey Jacob will step down as treasurer at the end of the year. Harvey is very willing to work with someone

this year to help them learn the ins and outs of the position. If no one comes forward we will have to consider hiring someone as our financial manager. Please seriously consider the gifts you have to offer your church.

Thank you,
Church Council

United Evangelical Church

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

Special Announcements



WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
for
LENT

*Our Lenten Theme is
"Spiritual Practices in Lent"*

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wed. March 1 st | Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m. |
| Wed. March 8 th | Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m. |
| Wed. March 15 th | Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m. |
| Wed. March 22 nd | Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m. |
| Wed. March 29 th | Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m. |
| Wed. April 5 th | Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m. |
| Wed. April 12 th | Tableau 8:00 p.m. |



**Sunday, May 21, 2006
10:00 a.m. Worship Service**

Come join us at UEC on Sunday, May 21st at 10:00 a.m. for a special musical treat. The Maryland Heritage Vocal Ensemble will be our guests during worship service. Our own Jim Kimos and seven singers are part of this wonderful group. Don't miss it!!

Remember, May 21st, there will be only one worship service held at 10:00 a.m.



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.

Mission Moments

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).

Mission Moment

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Making Room for God

Lent is a good time to reflect on the deep meaning of the word "sacrifice." The root words for sacrifice are "to make sacred," and that's exactly what we do with our lives when we choose to give up, or to offer, one thing for the sake of another. When we share our time and our love generously, our families grow stronger. When we share our talents and our wisdom generously, our churches and our communities grow stronger. When we share our treasure and God's gifts generously, the relationships we have even with strangers grow stronger, and the world is transformed.

The words "self denial" have a negative connotation in a consuming society, but the irony rests in the truth that we are most human when we choose to offer, rather than to cling to, our blessings. The generous outpouring of gifts during a time of natural disaster illuminates the human capacity to share those blessings, just as the quiet, faithful support of our churches, week in and week out, turns on the lights, warms the sanctuary, and strengthens the ministry and witness of our United Church of Christ congregations. Real hospitality makes room for each new person, and in that sharing of blessings and space, we make room for God's own hand at work in the life of the church. Perhaps the "sacrifice" and "emptiness" of Lent are ways of making room for God in our lives.

God is still speaking,

March 2006

Just What is OCWM?

At the November congregational budget meeting, a question was raised about OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission). 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



- Apr. 1 Oyster & Turkey Dinner \$ 34.00
Faith Church—Frederick, MD
10:00 am-6:00 pm
Deposit needed to hold seats
- Apr. 20 Toby's Dinner Theatre \$ 38.00
"Beauty and the Beast"
Travel Plaza
Best Western-O'Donnell St.
Doors open 10:30 a.m. for matinee

Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings All Meetings Begin at 12 noon

- Feb. 8 Luncheon \$ 5.00
Mar. 8 Luncheon \$ 5.00
*Apr. 5 Luncheon \$ 5.00

*Meeting moved to 1st
Wed. because of Holy
Week trips planned



2006 Ladies Organization Officers

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| President | Arlene Pate |
| Vice President | Ursula Jacob |
| Treasurer | Millie Wirsing |
| Secretary | Darlene Waters |
| Recording Secretary | Gloria Single |



Dear Ladies of the Ladies
Organization:

My heartfelt thanks to
each of you for the help
and support you gave me
while I was president of
the Ladies Organization.

Now that Arlene Pate has become our new
president, I hope that everyone gives her the
same help and support that was shown to me.

Also, I thank everyone for the lovely corsage
and monetary gift that was presented to me at
the Christmas party. It is a good warm feeling
to know that you are liked and appreciated.
Once again, I thank you, and may God bless
you always.

Olga

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



The United Endeavor

Contemporary Worship

Spiritual, but not so religious?

Try something new!

First Saturday Worship at

United Evangelical Church, UCC

Casual dress, down-to-earth message, modern music

This month:

Love and Relationships:

What's God got to do with it?

February 4th at 5:30pm

Next month:

Coming in from the Cold

March 4th at 5:30 pm

3200 Dillon Street

Baltimore, MD 21224

Need more info?

www.united-evangelical.com



God
is still
speaking.

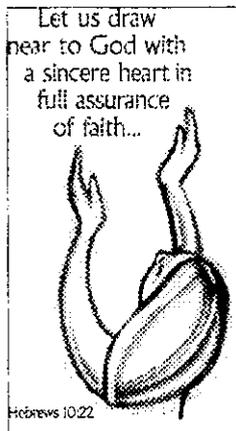
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Points to Ponder

Only Human

You are a man, not God; you are human, not an angel. How can you expect to remain always in a constant state of virtue, when this was not possible even for an angel of heaven, nor for the first man in the Garden?

—Thomas à Kempis, *Of the Imitation of Christ*



Repent—A Worthy Word for Lent

What pops into your mind when you hear the word "repent"? Is it a dark and somber word for you, perhaps reminding you of John the Baptist's shouting for people to repent and be baptized? What does the word "repent" mean anyway?



Literally, it means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and shallow living and to begin walking through life following God's direction.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1, 2006), is an opportunity to check our spiritual condition, to repent (if needed) and to walk more faithfully with our Lord.

If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life – a more joyous way to live. Lent can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the Christian life passionately.

EXPLORE YOUR FAITH EXPLORE YOUR FAITH

How can I live the life of faith?

By offering yourself to God. Ideally we do this day by day. But sometimes we can't. Sometimes it is just too difficult or we are too distracted by all that is going on around us. At those times, we ask God to be patient with us until we can get back to offering ourselves to God.

I have a good friend who is a monk at a monastery in the middle of a large city. One day a woman was walking by the monastery. The monastery is enclosed so that all one sees is the chapel and a fence that separates the monastery from the outside world. On this day the woman saw my friend sweeping the steps of the chapel. She stopped and said, "You know, I have lived in this part of the city for years and have passed by this monastery for years, and I have always wondered about it." Pointing toward the cloistered buildings, she asked, "What is it that you all do in there?" He looked at her with the kind eyes that he has and said, "We fall down and we get up."

That is what the life of faith is about. We offer ourselves to God, for the glory of God. And we fall down and we get up.

--The Reverend John B. Fritschner

UEC February 2006 Calendar of Events

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | <p>1</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.</p> |
| <p>5</p> <p><i>Communion Sunday</i></p> <p>Food Bank Donations</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 Christian Education</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Ladies Organization Luncheon 12 noon</p> <p>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>9</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Kitchen Clean-Up 9:00 a.m.</p> |
| <p>12</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 Christian Education</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p> | <p>15</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>16</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> |
| <p>19</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 Christian Education</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p>Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p> | <p>22</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> |
| <p>26</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 Christian Education</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> | | |  <p>FEBRUARY</p> | |

UEC March 2006 Calendar of Events

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:30 p.m. | 2 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir practice 7:30 p.m. | 3 | 4 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m. |
| 5 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. | 6 | 7 | 8 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Luncheon 12 noon Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m. | 9 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir practice 7:30 p.m. | 11 | 12 |
| 13 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. | 14 | 15 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. | 16 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m. | 17 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir practice 7:30 p.m. | 18 | 19 |
| 20 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. | 21 | 22 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m. | 23 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m. | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. | 28 | 29 | 30 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m. | 31 |  | |

Thank You

We have received several thank you letters recently from Hoffman Homes for Youth for our support. Below is a synopsis of these letters

Thanks
for your
participation

"Thank you for a magical Christmas. More than 36 families, clubs and churches participated to supply holiday gifts for the children living at Hoffman Homes for Youth.

Not only did you brave crowded stores (and early snowfall) but you also provided exactly what our children wished for, from hiking boots to computer games.

We believe every child should receive a new toy in December. In fact, our children benefit from your gifts in many unexpected ways. Your actions show them that they are loved and that their hopes and dreams are worthwhile. Boys and girls at Hoffman Homes for Youth are given the opportunity to learn that there are in fact, many caring and thoughtful adults in our community who wish them health and happiness. These are all valuable gifts.

You must know that the children are grateful! Please allow me to pass along gratitude from the staff as well. Your participation encourages us and reminds us of the many supporters we have who want to meet the special needs of children with mental illness."

"Thank you for your generous gift of \$77.28 to Hoffman Homes for Youth. Your restricted gift will be used to fund the holiday gift program.

You are a part of a growing community of friends and neighbors who understand the importance of mental health and wellness for our youth. Your gift will go directly to therapy programs and activities proven to be beneficial for the children that call Hoffman their home."

"We gratefully acknowledge receipt of your unrestricted gift of \$200.00 dated December 11, 2005. Your gift will be used to supplement programs proven to be beneficial to children battling mental illness."

"Thank you for sending us your labels. Since 1998, Hoffman Homes for Youth has been participating in the Campbell's Labels for Education Program and the General Mills Box Tops Program. We owe our success to you!

The program provides us with one point for every label redeemed. The teachers can then use these points to shop in a catalog of school supplies.

The General Mills Box Tops program reimburses Hoffman Homes for Youth ten cents for every Box Top logo redeemed. In the past year, we received checks totaling \$1,237.70. Please know that your participation in these programs directly benefits our boys and girls."

Bits n Pieces

Dear Ladies of United Evangelical Church,

This letter is to ask you to think about joining our Ladies Organization of United Evangelical Church. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 12 noon.

Our main purpose is to help support our Church. The second purpose is to enjoy the fellowship of our members. We wish you would join us.



Our meetings consist of a luncheon, which we charge a fee of \$ 5.00 to offset the cost. We also hold a business meeting to discuss upcoming activities and events. During the year we have 2 or 3 bus trips and a Strawberry Festival. Other

events could be planned if the interest and participation were available.

We would also like to include other activities such as guest speakers, fun days, etc.

If you have a friend or family member who would like to join us even though they are not members of the church, you may also bring them with you.

Our summer get-together and our St. Patrick's luncheon are usually open to our spouses and friends.

Remember, we wish to welcome each and everyone of you to our group.

Sincerely,

Ladies Organization President-elect
Arlene Pate

Kitchen Cleanup

**Saturday,
February
11,
starting at
9:00 a.m.**



Kitchen Help

It's nearly spring, and you know what that means - kitchen spring cleaning!!

So grab your apron and your rubber gloves and join us in "spiffing up" our church kitchen. Rumor has it that you will be enticed with donuts, cakes, or other assorted goodies.



**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

Bits and Pieces



St. Valentine

St. Valentine was a Christian priest and martyr who lived about A.D. 270. The Roman emperor at the time was Claudius II. Claudius had been a successful general. He would not allow his

soldiers to marry, because he wanted to make sure they could go to battle quickly. He thought family ties would make the men reluctant to leave home. Because Valentine promoted marriage and family life, he was jailed and later convicted of going against the orders of the emperor. He was martyred on February 14, the day we remember him and our loved ones.

While he was in jail, the jailer's daughter befriended him. He wrote her a letter of appreciation and signed it "Your Valentine." The tradition of exchanging valentines grew out of that heartfelt gesture.

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

Last Supper Tableau

It is January already, and time to begin the preparation for this year's Last Supper Tableau.

A meeting will be announced within the next several weeks to discuss the Tableau, but for now we will begin making telephone calls to last year's participants to determine who is taking part this year and what roles may be opened to new disciples, etc.

If you would like to join this year's Last Supper Tableau, either as a disciple or the many "behind the scene" people required to make this happen, please call Arlene Pate, 410-327-3211.



We appreciate all of you and we anticipate this year's Tableau will be as rewarding and memorable as in the past. The reunion is also still being planned.

Please let us or Mr. Ed Myers know if you are interested.

Thank you,

Arlene & Janet Pate

Comics Corner



Campbell

"Don't worry. Jesus cast out the unclean spirits. Not the unclean."



Campbell

"Then God said, 'I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, the apple had zero cholesterol.'"

Comics Corner



"I just set up a worship site on the internet. Now I'm an E-vangelist."

Us

There is so much good in the worst of us,
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it hardly behooves any of us,
To talk about the rest of us!!

oops!

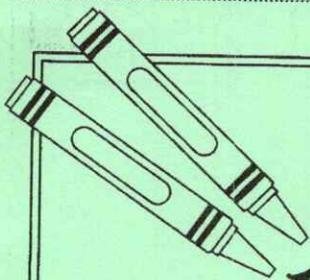
Psalms 1, according to a church newsletter in Newton, Kansas:

but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water.

No mention of dosage.



Kids Only!!



Just for **KIDS**

LOVE IS...

In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul writes about love. He tells us what love does and does not do. Let's find out about love!

Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks.

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
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

LOVE IS 16 1 20 9 5 14 20

LOVE IS 11 9 14 4

LOVE 18 5 10 15 9 3 5 19 WITH THE TRUTH

LOVE 16 18 15 20 5 3 20 19

LOVE 20 18 21 19 20 19

LOVE 8 15 16 5 19

LOVE 16 5 18 19 5 22 5 18 5 19

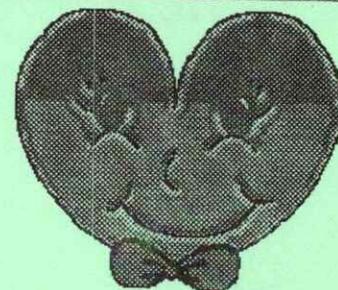
... THESE THREE REMAIN: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS

12 15 22 5

ANSWER: PATIENT, KIND, REJOICES, PROTECTS, TRUSTS, HOPES, PERSEVERES, LOVE

Website Alert!

Check out www.spiritseasons.com.
Click on Action Zone



Website for Valentines

www.akidsheart.com/holidays/valentine

You can mix colors, paint on-line and print out your personalized valentine cards. You can even send an e-Valentine card.

Check it out!!!

Valentine Jokes

What kind of flowers do you never give on Valentine's Day?

Cauliflowers!!!

What did the pencil say to the paper?

"I dot my i's on you!!"

The United Endeavor

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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BALTIMORE, MD.

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

Dated Material

Rev. Catherine J. Oatman
[REDACTED] Road
Churchville, MD [REDACTED]

The United Endeavor

