

The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Dec 2005/Jan 2006

Pastor's Message

Following Orders

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." ~ Matthew 28:19-20

At the special congregational meeting held on October 9th, a historical decision was made to sell part of the church school building. While this was recognized as a necessary step for us as a church, it wasn't a light-hearted decision. We all understand that this decision carries many repercussions.

Some of the concerns voiced were "What happens next? What are we going to do to address the issues of dwindling resources and people? Or are we simply going to continue to sell our property in a process of self-cannibalization?"

These concerns show an awareness that the selling of our property cannot be the only step we take as a church. We need to be intentional about reaching those who are missing from our church on Sunday mornings; those in their teens, 20's and 30's.

We need to be intentional about reaching those who are missing from our church...

Our Saturday service was created to be an avenue to reach these populations. Unfortunately there were some unforeseen setbacks soon after the service began which have hampered our efforts. I am grateful for the congregation's continued support of this service and for the commitment of those who have stayed involved over these two years. I am grateful for the vision and desire to reach the younger generations for Christ. Yet everyone knows our efforts need to be augmented.

Currently there is a proposal before the Chesapeake Association for a multi-church commitment to young adult ministry in Baltimore City. Part of its intent is to help revitalize inner-city churches. Amy Sens, a young ministerial candidate, is the author of this proposal. While Jim Bell, myself, and other pastors in the association work to make this proposal a reality, Amy has been offering her time and talents to our Saturday service. She is excited by the potential this service has to reach the unchurched of her generation, and is actively working to get the word out about what is happening here at United on the first Saturdays of every month.

(cont'd)

Church Council

Just as selling our property can not be our only step; reaching people cannot be our last step. Once people come there must be something that keeps them involved; opportunities for them to explore, and grow in their faith. We need only to look as far as our confirmands to understand this. Every year we have a captive population of young people in the confirmation class. Opportunities for youth activities are plentiful; however we have very little in place to keep these young people involved.

Not only do we need venues to nurture the spirituality of young adults, we also need an intentional youth ministry working within and without our church. I have proposed to council that one way to address these needs is to restructure the way we approach Christian education. That instead of continuing with the structure of the Sunday School, we hire a Director of Christian Education who would help us design and implement faith nurturing ministries in order to address the specific needs of our congregation. Approaching Christian Education in this way allows us to adapt our educational offerings as the needs of our congregation change, and would help us add to what we already provide in the way of education.

Obviously this proposal needs the support of the whole congregation as it would require a financial commitment to staff. It would also require us to see Christian Education as the mission of the whole church, and not just the Sunday School.

Jesus spelled out our mission as disciples in the Great Commission quoted above. Before leaving earth he gave us imperatives to **go, make disciples, baptize, teach and remember**. We have been given our marching orders, may we be faithful to the commands of our King as we **remember** his faithful presence with us.

In Christ's love,
Rev. Cathy

From Our Council President

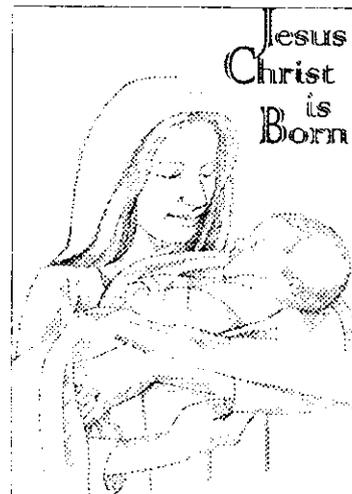


Our Deep Thanks to the Kellner Family

The Church Council would like to gratefully acknowledge the wondrous gift we have received from Calvin Kellner. The fact that he thought enough of his Church family to bequeath his house on Lombard Street to us is overwhelming. We have never received such a meaningful and generous gift and it just goes to show you the love of God in action! We truly thank Calvin and Myrtle Kellner for this gift of love and the proceeds from the sale of the house will help us to continue to share the word of the Lord with everyone!! God bless and thank the Kellners!

This kind act will never be forgotten.

Lori Betch
Council President



Church Council

From Our Council President

Wow, what a year we have had. It's hard to believe that 2005 is coming to an end. It has been a very busy year for all of us. We have faced all of our challenges head on so that we can continue to carry out our Church's mission here in Canton for many years to come! I wanted to thank each and every member of our congregation for all of your ongoing support to myself and the entire council. Your comments and suggestions have helped us in many ways and we truly appreciate your input. I look forward to a new year of working together and facing new challenges as they arise. Our Council is losing some great members at the end of this year so I wanted to thank Rose Marie Jefferson, Ursula Jacobs, Bill Meyers, Julie Hovermill and Elaine Kimos for all of your dedication and support. You all helped to "keep me straight" in my first year of being a council member and WE WILL ALL miss you very much! God Bless !!!!!

In closing, on behalf of our Church Council, along with my husband Mark and I - - - - we would like to wish you a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Best regards,
Lori Betch
Council President



Music Committee

The Contemporary Group recently had a discussion about the future of our Saturday night worship service. Thanksgiving weekend will mark the beginning of our third year of worship on Saturday evenings. Our current worship format offers worship in an informal setting on the first Saturday of each month. We discussed the possibility of presenting our service during one of the Sunday morning service times to allow folks who have not been able to attend on Saturdays the opportunity to experience how we worship during the 'Contemporary' service. Our Music leader (Allison Housley), shared the results of a survey that was done by Canton Baptist as they went out into the neighborhood to ask folks when they worship; the types of worship they'd be drawn to, etc. The consensus of the folks surveyed was that many people work or have demands upon them approximately 6 days per week. Sunday is the only 'free' day for many and most indicated that they do not want to be required to rise early for church. If they attend church, they like to do so on a Saturday evening. So, realizing that our original intent of starting our Saturday service was to reach out to offer the community a time to worship other than Sunday morning and to hopefully reach the unchurched who may be looking for a place to worship, we have decided against 'advertising' our service during a Sunday morning worship time. Our immediate church family already knows of the Saturday evening service. Some attend the first Saturday service and the Sunday morning service the next day.

It is unfortunate that we have not attracted more people from the community, but we realized that we have done a poor job of advertising our Saturday service. Pastor Amy Sens has joined our group with some new ideas – one of which was

(cont'd)

Church Council

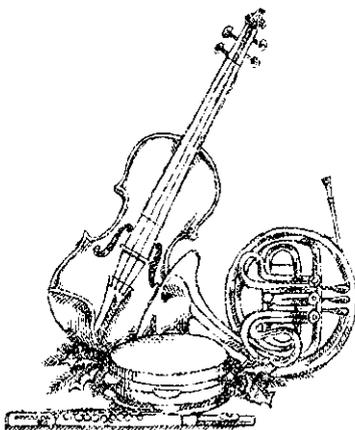
to start placing signs throughout the neighborhood telling folks of our service and the time, place, etc. Weather-permitting, we have been leaving the church doors open so any one walking by can enjoy the worship sounds coming from our sanctuary. Our services were originally held weekly but preparing for any type of worship service requires practice and commitment, in addition to commitments outside of our church. Our thoughts of having enough folks participate to create teams so that preparation would not fall upon the same people week after week has not come to fruition just yet. So, we reached a commitment to increase our visibility for the next year and remain a monthly Saturday evening worship service, on the first Saturday of each month.

Won't you join us for one of our Saturday evening services, on the first Saturday of the month at 5:30pm? Perhaps you'll find yourself singing, clapping and worshipping our Lord in a non-traditional setting, but one that still lifts your spirits and allows you to come together with others in Christ's name. Or, do you have a friend, neighbor or a younger relative who might enjoy a more casual, contemporary worship service? Be sure to let them know about the Saturday service. Maybe you can help be our advertisement to our community. We are committed to continuing our service for the next year to see what God

has planned for us and we are hopeful that we will soon be offering the sign of peace to many new friends.

The Music Committee wishes every one a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

Lynn Sanders



Christian Education Committee

Church School Update

On Tinsel Sunday, a day we fondly look forward to as we prepare for Christmas, there will be a new program presented by the church school children entitled, Baby Jesus Prince of Peace, based on a book by the same title. There will be dinner after the service followed by crafts in the Church School and the Fellowship Hall. Then we will sing Christmas carols in the sanctuary, light the tree, and return to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a birthday cake for Jesus in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to spend the day with us in worship and fellowship. (See flyer)

It was decided that there will be no Church School on Christmas Day or New Year's Day to give families the opportunity to enjoy their blessings on Christmas and New Year's at home with their families and friends.

In the New Year many changes are anticipated, both with sadness at the loss of much of the Church School building with the sale of the top three floors recently but with the joy of soon having a whole new church school facility that will be located on the first floor and will adjoin the church. We look forward to being able to plan a space that presents opportunities for Christian growth of both children and adults of all ages.

At present the Christian Education Committee consists of the church school staff, a member of the Council (Becky Orendorff), and Rev. Cathy. As we look to the future, there will be changes that we pray will help our church continue to grow in fellowship and the word of God for those of all ages. We look forward to seeing the congregation take a larger part in the development and participation of new programs.

We wish you the blessings of the Christmas season.

Carol Rowell

The United Endeavor

Contemporary Worship

Looking for a little Peace on Earth?

First Saturday Worship at

United Evangelical Church, UCC

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

This month:

Jesus is Coming – Look Busy!

(Practical Tips for Surviving the Holidays)

December 3rd at 5:30pm

Next month:

Making a New Start

January 7th at 5:30 pm

3200 Dillon Street

Baltimore, MD 21224

Need more info?

www.united-evangelical.com



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).

9 Mission Moment

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

"God can draw straight with a crooked line and ride a lame horse." – Martin Luther

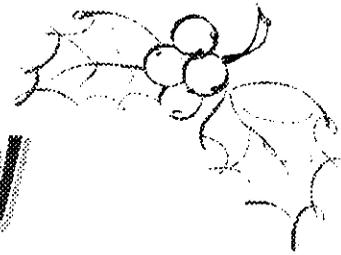
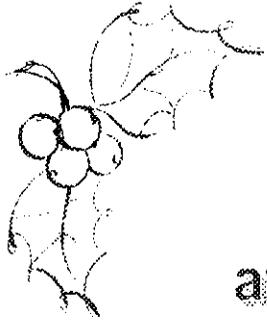
In just a few weeks during this season, we move from expectation to incarnation. Individually and collectively, what we feel or face right now may seem to be beautiful or ugly, tragic or fortunate. Yet all of this is the grist of grace – the cradle of Christ.

All of life is not a giver, it is a gift. What God makes is good, twisted and distorted though it may become. In the light of Bethlehem, everything betokens God-with-us. Everything acquires the quality of "gift."

In the birth of Jesus, creation itself is seen as redemption. In all that is, including everything we feel and face, precisely there is a gift waiting to be recognized as such. It is the saving presence of God, deeper and wider than all that is contrary. Living out of that sense of life, we give accordingly, no longer handling what we have as ours alone but as something of God. And when we share that sense of life with others, divine goodness is made known all over again. For us, too.

– Rev. William C. Green
Stewardship and Church Finances
United Church of Christ

God is still speaking,



Tinsel Sunday

at United Evangelical Church

Sunday, December 11, 2005



Come see the Children's
Christmas Program at the
10:30 Service

Enjoy a scrumptious
dinner with friends in
the Fellowship Hall.



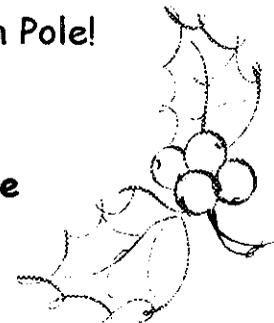
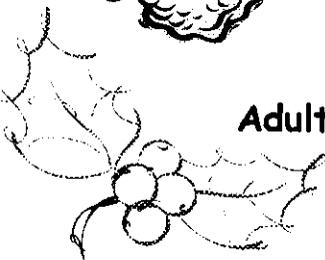
Children and adults enjoy
making crafts after
dinner.

Carol singing and a birthday cake for Jesus!



Plus.....a special visitor from the North Pole!

Adults: \$5.00 Children under 18: Free



The United Endeavor

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

Ladies Organization Trips & Events

Upcoming Events



- Dec. 7, 2005 Timonium Dinner Theatre
"Miracle on 34th Street"
11:30 serving
- Dec 14, 2005 Christmas Luncheon \$27.00
Williamsburg Inn-12 noon

Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings All Meetings Begin at 12 noon

- Dec. 14 Williamsburg Inn Luncheon
- Jan. 11 Installation of Officers
Pizza Party (\$5.00 each)
- Feb. 8 Luncheon



Ladies Organization New Officers to be Installed

President	Arlene Pate
Vice President	Ursula Jacob
Treasurer	Millie Wirsing
Secretary	Darlene Waters



This is an open invitation to all the ladies of the congregation of United Evangelical Church. We would like to have you join us on the second Wednesday of the month at 12 noon at our meetings. The Ladies Organization plans activities, trips, helps with suppers and church affairs. The profits we make from these activities are used to keep a small amount in our treasury for working money and to donate the balance for the ongoing work of the church.

Arlene Pate

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

UEC December 2005 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
4 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Olde Time Christmas Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	5	6	7 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Org. Trip T monium Dinner Theater Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	8 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	9	10
11 <i>Tinsel Sunday</i> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service <u>(One Service Only)</u>	12	13 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	14 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Williamsburg Inn Xmas Luncheon 12 noon Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.	15 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	16	17
18 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	19	20 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	21 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	22 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7:30 p.m. Worship Service
25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10:00 a.m. Worship Service <u>(One Service Only)</u> <u>Please note 10:00</u> <u>time</u>	26	27	28 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	29 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	30	31 
Rev. Cathy is on vacation from Dec. 26 thru Jan. 2						DECEMBER

The United Endeavor

UEC January 2006 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>New Years Day Communion Sunday</p> <p>Food Bank Donations 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Worship Service (One Service Only) <u>Please note 10:00 time</u> 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 Christian Education</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>11</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>12</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pack Up Day for Sunday School Building 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 Christian Education</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 Christian Education</p> <p>Chesapeake Assoc. Leadership Banquet Overhills Mansion 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 Christian Education</p> <p>Congregational Meeting following 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				



What's in a Name?

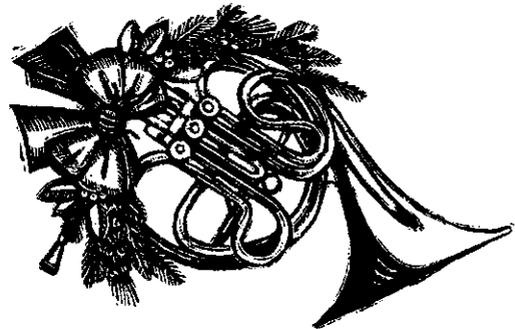
Every year during Advent, we generally see a sign reading "Merry Xmas!" Some Christians have been offended by the word Xmas. They say the letter X should not be substituted for Christ as though it were a modern insult to our Lord.

However, it really isn't. Xmas has ancient origins. The letter X in Greek — the original language of the New Testament — is the first letter of the word Xristos, which translated into English is the word Christ.

So X is simply an abbreviation for the word Christ. And the letters mas are an abbreviation of the word mass. Therefore, Xmas really means Christ mass or Christ worship.

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@juno.com
<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 cartbar@earthlink.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



**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.

Special Holiday Announcements



Tinsel Sunday (One Service Only)	Dec. 11	10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24	7:30 p.m. Worship Service
Christmas Day (One Service Only)	Dec 25	<u>10:00 a.m.</u> Worship Service (note the earlier start time)
New Years Day (One Service Only)	Jan 1	<u>10:00 a.m.</u> Worship Service (note the earlier start time)

OLDE TIME CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 4, 2005

On Sunday, December 4th, 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.

Everyone is invited. Please make plans to attend.



Join us for Tinsel Sunday, December 11th



Please note that there will be only one Worship Service (10:30 a.m.) on Dec. 11th.

Tickets will not be sold at the door. So see Ursula Jacob, Lori Betch or Lynn Sanders to purchase your tickets.

Christmas Party

\$ 5.00 for Adults

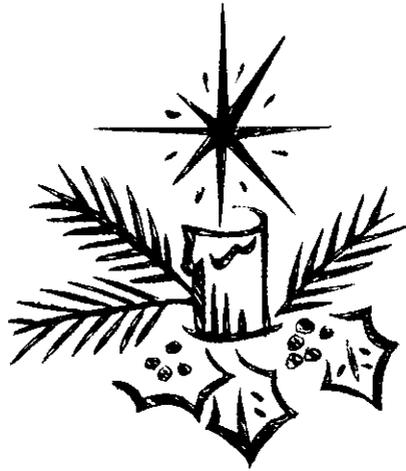
Children under 18 are free!!

Rev. Cathy will be on vacation from December 26th through January 2nd.



Bits n Pieces

Christmas Prayer



Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

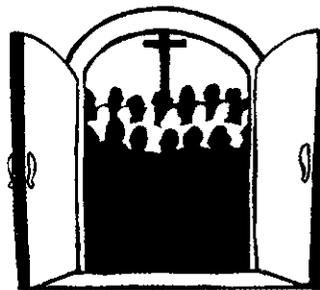
—Robert Louis Stevenson

The Legend of the Christmas Tree



Back in the 7th century a monk from Crediton, Devonshire, traveled to Germany to spread the Word of God. Legend has it that he used the triangular shape of the Fir Tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to the German people. The German people started to revere the Fir Tree as "God's Tree". In the next 5 centuries, the tree became a symbol of Christianity, and was being hung upside-down from the ceiling as a sign of Christianity.

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 29th



Congregational MEETING

Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, all organizations of the church will present their accomplishments for the past year.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Points to Ponder

*If you look for Me
at Christmas,*

*you won't need a special star --
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.*

*You may not be aware of Me
amid the celebrations --
You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.*

*But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do
And listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.*

*You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
And you'll find Me in the stillness
as I'm whispering your name.*



*Love,
Jesus*

The Blessedness of Receiving

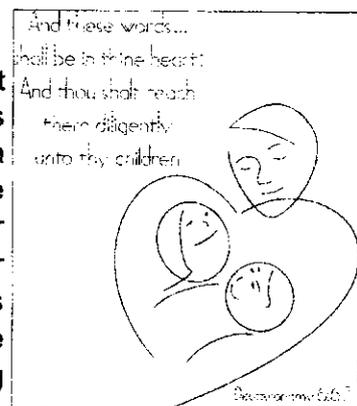
St. Paul reminded some visiting friends from Ephesus that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35, NRSV). Apparently, Jesus did not say that receiving was not blessed. He just said the greater blessing comes from giving. Jesus was one who both gave and received.

Jesus was often the recipient of gifts, invitations and acts of kindness. He enjoyed attending weddings, being an overnight guest in someone's home or being a guest for a meal. He allowed Mary to anoint his feet with costly perfume, and did not object when she wiped his feet with her hair (John 12:2-3, NRSV). He even asked for and received a drink of water from the Samaritan woman, although Jews and Samaritans usually had nothing to do with one another (John 4:7, NRSV).

The bottom line is this: Be a giver, but also be a grateful and happy receiver. Giving and receiving both bring blessings. We have a good example of both in the One whom we follow and serve.

Caring for the Little Ones

In the Italian painter Barocci's rendition of The Rest on the Flight into Egypt he portrays Mary sitting serenely with a silver cup of water. Behind her is Joseph who is smiling down at the young child Jesus and extending a branch to him with cherries on it. Jesus is looking up at Joseph with a smile of delight as he takes the treat. That image is a wonderful one not only for adoptive or foster parents but for any who care for children who are not their own. Joseph understands that because this child is God's own Son, he has a special charge to care for him. As we understand that all children are God's children then we have a special charge to care for them and bring them up in the knowledge and love of God.



And these words...
shall be in thine heart:
And thou shalt teach
them diligently
unto thy children.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

More Bits & Pieces

**Pack Up Day
Saturday, January 14th
starting at 10:00 a.m.**



In preparation for the sale of our Education Building, we need volunteers to help pack up the Sunday School and other church belongings. So wear your packin' duds and come help.

Chesapeake Association Leadership Banquet
Overhills Mansion

January 22nd
5:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in going is welcome



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.



Some Thoughts on Courage

You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face...

You must do the thing which you think you cannot do.

— Eleanor Roosevelt

Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.

— Anais Nin

Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out.

— James B. Conant

Excerpts from *Abounding Grace* by M. Scott Peck

Comics Corner

The Old Family Bible

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he held in his hand was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found!" the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" asked his mother.

The young boy answered in a voice hushed with awe, "I think it's Adam's underwear."

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



http://thebackpew.com

So once the Inkeeper realized the Son of God was born in his stables he revamped his humble establishment into a tourist trap ironically called GRACELAND.

Comics Corner



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
[REDACTED] Road
Churchville, MD [REDACTED]

The United Endeavor

