

# The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Aug 2005/Sep 2005

## Pastor's Message

### How are we furthering the Gospel?

I've entitled this article with a question because I have lots of them these days and I am looking to all of you for answers. In the last Endeavor, there was an announcement about a Bible Study happening over the summer intended to help revitalize our church. Needed were 8-10 people to commit to 4 Wednesdays. By the beginning of July, only 1 person had expressed interest.

The lack of interest in revitalizing this church has left me with many questions. I wonder, "Why do I have so many people tell me that it is a shame that the church isn't full like it used to be, and yet next to no one wants to help change that situation?" I wonder, "Why do so many people point fingers at those who don't go to church as the reason why the church is dwindling, when the finger pointers don't show much interest in the church either?"

My questions go on and on, but the question everyone needs to ask themselves is: "Do we *really* want our church to grow, or do we just want to have the financial resources to maintain things as they have always been?" The answer to this question is crucial for the future direction of this church. One of the ways this question is answered is in the way new opportunities for ministry are embraced or rejected.

Growth **NECESSARILY** means new people with new ideas and new life experiences, i.e. not things as they have always been. If you remember in the Feb/March Endeavor, I listed traits of growing churches. As some of these have been introduced into the life of the church, I have witnessed strong resistance. These indications are not of a church that wants to grow, but of a church that wants to maintain the status quo.

I know that my call is to revitalization ministry; maintaining the status quo is not in my blood. Therefore, my energies have been, and will

*Growth necessarily means new people with new ideas and new life experiences....*

continue to be, focused on

growth. This focus may cause some people to be uncomfortable and to question if new ideas, new experiences, new people, and new ministries are to be embraced. Ultimately, we must pass all of our questions through the one I started this article with, "How are we furthering the Gospel?" If we do this, I am convinced we will choose to reach out and grow.

In Christ,  
Rev. Cathy

Church Council

**From Our Council President**

Greetings and I hope everyone is enjoying their Summer. Our council has been busy with the ongoing meetings in regards to developers for the Christian Education Bldg. We are also discussing options for the rental of the parsonage. Please remember our Contemporary services are the 1st Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm- - stop by and share an hour of fellowship. Also, please mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 11th. We will be holding our picnic on this day at North Point State Park (formerly Bay Shore Park in Edgemere/Millers Island). Thanks to everyone for donating their used glasses. We were able to send over 20 pairs of glasses for this cause.

Thank you,  
Lori Betch  
Council President

**Music Committee**

We hope every one is enjoying the summer months so far. The Music Committee will be meeting to develop the questionnaire that was mentioned in our last Endeavor article. The questionnaire will be asking for your comments on possible changes to our worship format. We would appreciate our church family taking a few minutes to complete the questionnaire for us. We hope to have it out before the end of the summer. If you have any questions, please see Reverend Cathy, Rob Gundlach or me. Thank you.

God Bless,  
Lynn Sanders



**Property Report**

Greetings, I hope all of you are staying cool in this heat wave we are having. Well we have several things going on. First, the contractor will finally be here to do the concrete work on our sidewalk. He informed me that he had too many larger jobs and also that the weather made him so late getting to us. I found it very difficult to get another contractor because it is such a small job. Second, Fick Brothers Roofing will be here this week to give us an estimate on installing rain gutters over the office building. We hope this will stop the water leak in the choir room. Third, we are getting an estimate to replace the lights that are 30' high above the sanctuary. These lights are very difficult to replace. Needed are three men and a 40' ladder. Finally, we still need to scrap and paint the front windows of the Sunday school building. We could use some help on this project for those of you who like to paint, but we need cooler weather to get to that project.

Last Friday evening I asked the council members if they could help with the preparation for the lead paint inspection we have coming up at the parsonage, which involved cleaning the window sills with a TSP solution. I would like to tell all of you how grateful it made me feel to see so many council members show up with bucket and sponge in hand. These folks don't just show up once a month to have a meeting. With all that is now going on in council they still find time to roll up their sleeves and help. I for one would like to thank you all, God Bless.

I am informed by our Council President of things which need repair and it takes time for her to pass these things on to me. Just a thought—it may make things move a little faster if you could explain the problem to me directly. For those of you who do not know, my phone number it is (410) 276-6585. If I am not there please leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. The President has enough to do her job, she doesn't have to do mine too. Thank you.

God Bless All Of You,

*Bill Meyers*

The United Endeavor

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

Ladies Organization Trips & Events

Upcoming Events



- Aug. 3, 2005      Suicide Bridge & Boat Ride  
\$ 65.00            Crab Feast
- Nov. 5, 2005      Faith Church, McCutcheon's,  
Walmart, Baugher's Ice Cream
- Dec (date-yet      Christmas Luncheon  
to be decided)      Williamsburg Inn

Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings  
All Meetings Begin at 12 noon

- Aug. 10            Brown Bag
- Sept. 14           Brown Bag



This is an open invitation to all ladies and their friends to join our group at 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

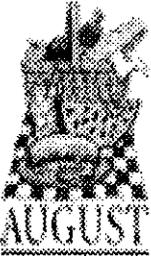
All trips MUST HAVE DEPOSIT TO HOLD SEATS

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 August 2005 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2		4 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.	5	6 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
7 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service	8	9 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.		11 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.	12	13
14 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	15	16 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	Rev. Cathy is on vacation August 15-22			
21 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Rev. Cathy is on vacation	22	23		25 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	26	27
28 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	29	30				

# UEC September 2005 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 September				1 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.  Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	2	3 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
4 Communion Sunday Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	5	6	7	8 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.  Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	9	10
11 UEC PICNIC	12	13 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	14 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Ladies Organization Luncheon 12 noon	15 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.  Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	16	17
18 RALLY DAY 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
25 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	26	27	28 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	29 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.  Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	30	

## New Pink & White M&M's

The maker of M&M candies has teamed up with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to raise funds through the sale of their new "pink & white" M&M candies.

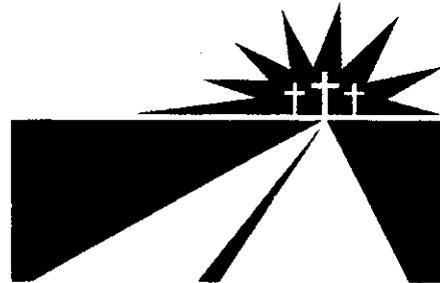
For each 8-ounce bag of the special candies sold, the makers of M&M (Masterfoods) will donate 50 cents to the foundation. The next time you want a treat, please pick up a bag (now sold in stores nationwide) - you will be donating to a great cause and satisfying your sweet tooth.

Please pass on to all your family and friends. --

Thank you.

## United Evangelical Church

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Catherine J. Oatman cjoatman@msn.com 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 (summer hours) 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](http://www.hungersite.com)**



*Just a  
Reminder...*

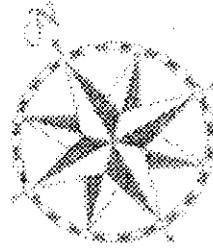
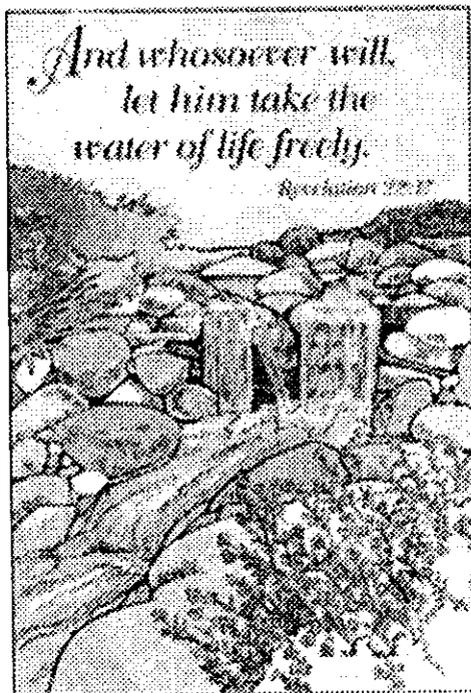
Don't forget to bring in your General Mills Box tops for Education and leave them in the display in the Narthex.

## Points to Ponder

### The Purpose of the Church

He works on us in all sorts of ways. But above all, He works on us through each other. [People] are mirrors, or "carriers" of Christ to other [people]. Usually it is those who know Him that bring Him to others. That is why the Church, the whole body of Christians showing Him to one another, is so important. It is so easy to think that the Church has a lot of different objects — education, building, missions, holding services. ... The Church exists for no other purpose but to draw [people] into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose. It is even doubtful, you know, whether the whole universe was created for any other reason.

—C.S. Lewis



### Reflections for Your Journey

#### Radical Trust

It is far more challenging and rewarding to place our trust in Jesus than merely to believe that doctrinal statements about him are objectively true. For what does it really mean to simply say, "I believe that Jesus died for my sins, that he is my savior, that he is the second person of the Trinity and the only way to God"? Perhaps nothing. Just because one believes that these things are true does not necessarily mean that one is any different, any more loving, any more connected to God than if one didn't believe these things.

By contrast, if you place your trust in Jesus, if you open your heart to his life-giving presence, you will enter into a relationship of faith that will change you. You may be more likely to try to forgive instead of holding onto resentment like a security blanket; you may look at that homeless person at the freeway on-ramp a little differently; you may start to awaken to the quiet joy of just being alive in God, even when things are not going so well for you. Like any relationship, you will be asked to risk the experiment of living as he lives. This relationship will make you, by your efforts and by the grace of God, a more healthy, loving, courageous, and faithful person. You will, in fact, become more like Jesus himself, taking on his own character.

--Brian Taylor

from "Trust in Jesus," reprinted with permission  
from *Becoming Human*

Special Announcements



**New Staff Member**

Paul Polasky has joined our staff as custodian. When you see Paul, be sure to welcome him and introduce yourself.



Casa de Restauracion will be celebrating their fourth year anniversary on Saturday, August 13th at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 14th at 2:00 p.m. here at UEC. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Samuel Rodriguez - pastor, evangelist, author and leader. All members of UEC are invited to join Casa de Restauracion as they celebrate this special event.



**Church Anniversary**

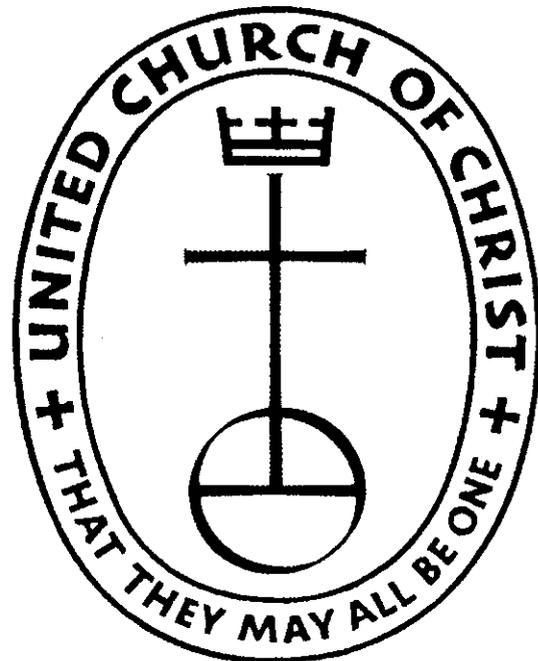


Sunday School  
Classes Resume

August 14 at 9:15 a.m.



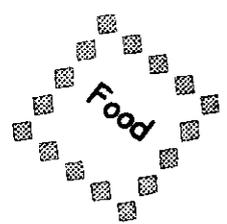
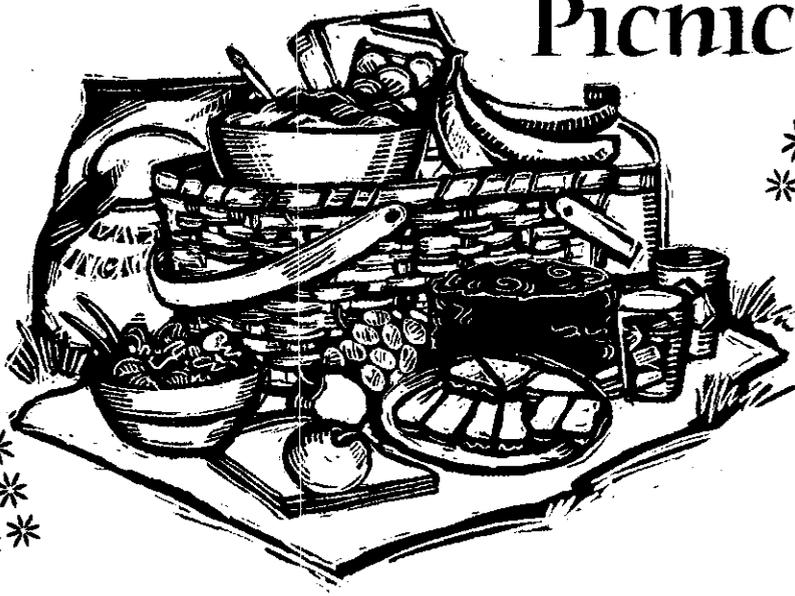
Rev. Cathy will be on vacation from August 15th thru August 22nd



UEC Church Picnic  
September 11, 2005

Bay Shore Trolley Area in North Point Park

Annual  
Picnic



\$ 3.00 per car fee for parking (so bring a buddy)

Bring a non-refrigerated dessert and beverage

(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

# The United Endeavor

## Bits & Pieces

### And from the Ops File (from actual church bulletins)

From a worship bulletin in Fillmore, California:

ANthem

"Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Been"  
performed by the Handbell Choir

Prayer

That's what you think.



"I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL PRETTY BAD ABOUT  
SKIPPING CHURCH FOR A PICNIC."



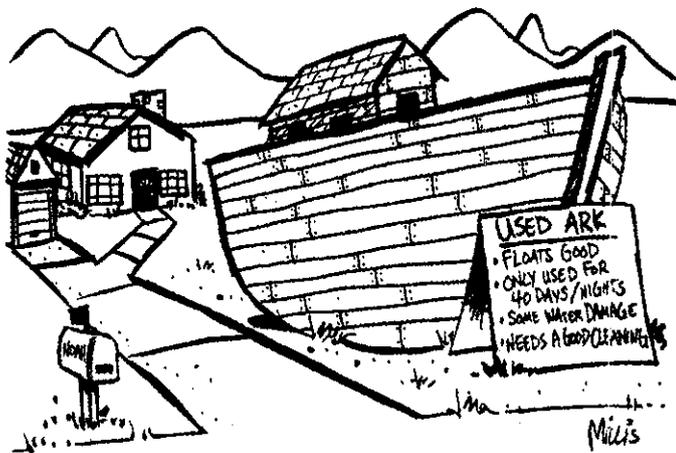
### T-Shirt Slogans...

If They Don't Have Chocolate in Heaven, I Ain't Going

(Seen on a "well-tattooed" man): No, It Doesn't Hurt.

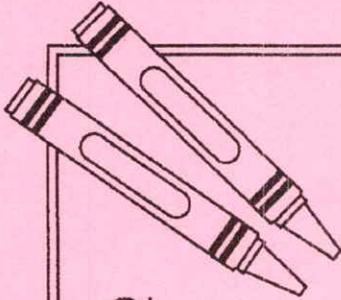
I'm Going to Graduate on Time, No Matter How Long It Takes

### Comics Corner



"I don't think Haskins wants to make the  
Crusades come alive for the kids. I think he's  
just afraid of the kids."

Kids Only!!



Just for **KIDS**

# Search for Wisdom

It's the start of a new school year! You'll learn many things and read many books. There's an important book in the Bible called the book of Proverbs. It tells us to learn about God and to search for wisdom.

Read Proverbs 2:1-5 (NIV) below, and then search the puzzle for the capital words.



"... if you **ACCEPT** my words and store up my **COMMANDS** within you, turning your **EAR** to **WISDOM** and applying your **HEART** to **UNDERSTANDING**, and if you call out for **INSIGHT** and cry aloud for understanding, and if you **LOOK** for it as for **SILVER** and **SEARCH** for it as for hidden **TREASURE**, then you will understand the fear of the **LORD** and find the **KNOWLEDGE** of **GOD**."

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

Website Alert!

Check out [www.spiritseasons.com](http://www.spiritseasons.com).

# The United Endeavor

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

## Dated Material

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# The United Endeavor

