

The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Jun 2005/Jul 2005

Pastor's Message

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you..." Gen. 12:1

When I was in seminary, this verse from Genesis took on a whole new depth of meaning for me. I, like Abram, felt like a wandering nomad being led by God to a yet undisclosed location. I found that time to be very difficult. Nothing was permanent, not my housing, not my jobs, not my community. I did not enjoy the feeling of being unsettled.

When I started searching for a call, my prayer was for two things: (1) that I would be near a large body of water, and (2) that it would be a place where I could put down roots, I was tired of not being settled. Well, God answered my first prayer in a big way. I landed 5 blocks from the Chesapeake Bay.

I also believe that my second prayer has been answered. The average length of time for a first pastorate is 18 months. Having been here 3 years, I feel blessed by our healthy relationship, and am reassured about our future. I recently shared with some congregation members that I sincerely love being here with all of you. Through all of the joys and the struggles, I have a sense of contentment and fulfillment serving Christ in your midst.

I share all of this with you to preface the news that I have purchased a house in Harford County and will be moving out of the parsonage. There are many, many dynamics involved in this move for both of us. Part of me is sad because I truly enjoy the parsonage. It is a wonderful house. I show it off to friends and neighbors all the time. I also love the convenience of being so close to the church; not to mention

all the excitement of city living where there is always something happening.

At the same time, having my own home gives me more of a sense of permanence. When I shared this news with my sister she responded excitedly, "You won't be a squatter anymore." Her words struck a cord with the sense of unsettledness I was still feeling by living in the parsonage. Many of the things surrounding this new house: finding it, the price, its setting, the design, all the way down to the lilac bush in the yard; lead me to believe that God is continuing to answer my prayer for the place where I can put down roots.

I am aware that the called Pastor of United has ALWAYS lived in the parsonage, and that this will be an adjustment. My plans are to be physically present at the church as much as I am currently. I also know that during interim periods, a housing allowance was a financial burden for the church. Given the current real estate market in Canton, renting the parsonage may prove to be a more lucrative situation than having your pastor live there.

Whatever the case, it may simply take time living into this new arrangement to relieve any fears or concerns. I am very excited about my first house! I hope that we all will feel like we have arrived at the Promised Land.

In Christ,
Rev. Cathy

Church Council

From Our Council President

The Council has been very busy discussing all options available in regards to the Sunday School Building. We will listen to each developer and then share the information with the congregation as soon as we can. There will definitely be changes coming in the near future and we will need everyone's help and support as we try to do what is best for the continuing mission of our Church.

We held our 1st Pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 14th. In addition to the breakfast, we sold flowers and raffled off a beautiful wreath. It was a great success while we shared food, fellowship and fun. Thanks to Pat and Bill Meyers and everyone who helped them and donated to this wonderful event.

On Sunday, May 15th, we honored the confirmands from the class of 1955. After the Church service, a luncheon was held so everyone could "catch up" on what has been happening in their lives. Special thanks to Elaine Kimos and everyone who helped her in recognizing these confirmands.

In addition to all of these wonderful things, we welcomed 4 new members to our Church congregation and we continue to have visitors with us on Sunday mornings.

Don't forget our Contemporary Service on the first Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm!! Come worship with us and experience God's love.

Thank you,
Lori Betch



Property Report

I hope this letter finds everyone in good health and ready to do their spring cleaning and fixing up. As a church we also have some spring fixing up to do, and I hope you can help. We have some windows and screens that need some scraping and painting-- these are the windows on the East Ave. side of the Sunday School Bldg. If you can help, the date is Sat. June 4th at 9:00 am (wear your paint clothes).

Our sidewalks in front of the Sanctuary and the Church Office will be repaired hopefully before you receive this letter. This will avoid anyone tripping on the old broken concrete, especially our elderly members.

I have been in touch with Elderhorst Bells in hopes to have our bells fixed and back in working order. I don't know about you, but I live in the neighborhood and I love hearing those bells. It let's me know the church is still open for business and all are welcome in.

Art Jones is retiring this month and I for one would like to thank Art for doing such a great job of keeping our church clean. Art always gave of his time and talents to do that extra work that was not part of his job. He was always there to help whether it be the Sour Beef Dinner or decorating the church for the holidays. So when you see Art, wish him a Happy Retirement. I'll miss you Art.

There will be meetings coming up in the future regarding our church school bldg. These meetings will mean a lot to future of our church family. We are all going to have likes and dislikes which we will have to put aside for the good of our church and it's mission.

Have a great SPRING and hope to see you on the 4th of June.

God Bless All of You
Bill Meyers (Property Chairperson)

Church Council

Music Committee

Reverend Cathy, Rob Gundlach and I met to begin discussing the worship music in our church services. We enjoy music from our faithful choir as well as our Contemporary Worship group. Our Sunday School children have now 'joined the ranks' and have been blessing our 10:30 a.m. service with singing about once a month. We discussed the possibility of alternating our worship music between these three groups.

We will be developing a survey to get feedback on our service format along with some other questions to help us determine the desires of our church family. In the meantime, you may notice a few slight changes to our worship format.

Please share your thoughts with us as we continue to grow together with God's love and guidance.

In Christian Faith,
Lynn Sanders

Treasurer's Financial Report

Total income through 4/30/05 \$53,232.00

Total expenses through 4/30/05 \$59,663.00

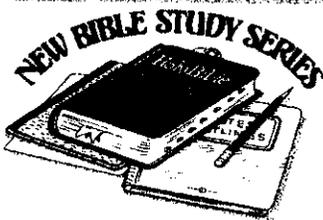
We are 1/3rd of the way through year 2005. Hopefully the summer will not hurt us too much with high air conditioning expenses and our income will pick up as the year progresses.

We collected \$1,960.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing and \$284.00 to send to Homewood Home.

The Pancake Breakfast, chaired by Pat Meyers, brought almost \$700.00 into our Church. It was well received and already Pat is thinking about doing another one in the future.

Harvey Jacob,
Treasurer

Bible Study



"Revitalizing Your Church" Bible Study

Come join us on July 20, July 27, August 3 & August 10
at 6:30 p.m.

(see details in "Revitalization" section of this newsletter)

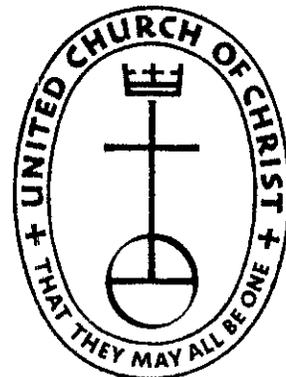
Chesapeake Association Happenings

June 10 -12

Central Atlantic Conference Meeting

Rev. Cathy, Josh Jackson, and Greg Pate will all be attending the annual conference this year.

*The Chesapeake Association is part of the
Central Atlantic Conference of the
United Church of Christ.*



Revitalization

Revitalizing Your Church

Do you come into worship, look around, and feel disheartened by the empty pews? If so, then keep reading.

This summer we are starting two new ministries designed to help revitalize our church. Needed are 8-10 people to commit to a 4-week Bible study on Wednesday nights, from 6:30-9:30 pm, starting July 20th. We will begin each week studying the book of Acts, then we will have a time of neighborhood outreach, followed by reflection and discussion on how all of this affects the life of our church, as we enjoy coffee and dessert.

In addition 10-20 people are needed to commit for one year to pray for our church. In July there will be an all group gathering to kick off the year where "spiritual prayer guide" packets will be distributed. As the prayer needs of the church change, you will receive a new prayer guide packet. Then periodically throughout the year, the group will gather for food and fellowship, and to be refreshed spiritually.



**God...
has appointed
a time for
every matter,
and for every
work.**

Ecclesiastes 3:17

These ministries will be facilitated by Rev. Cathy and Rev. Karen O'Rourke, however the future of your church depends upon YOU! If you care about your church call the office (410-276-0393) and say you want to be involved in one or both of these ministries.

Special Announcements

Spring Spruce Up
Saturday, June 4th @ 9:00 a.m.

C'mon lend a hand!



The windows on the East Avenue side of our building are in need of scraping and painting. Put on your old paint duds and lend a hand. Rumor has it that Bill Meyers is bringing donuts!!!

Kudos to Pat & Bill Meyers
for our very first and
very successful Pancake Breakfast!!!

Not only was it a fun day for flippin' flapjacks, the breakfast raised nearly \$700.00 for our Church.



A hearty thanks to all who helped plan, setup, cook, serve, clean up, etc.

What a team!!!

What More Can You Do?

- I will do more than belong — I will participate.
- I will do more than care — I will help.
- I will do more than believe — I will trust.
- I will do more than dream — I will work.
- I will do more than teach — I will inspire.
- I will do more than earn — I will enrich.
- I will do more than give — I will serve.
- I will do more than live — I will grow.
- I will do more than be friendly — I will be a friend.
- I will do more than talk — I will listen.
- I will do more.

—Unknown

A Message from Pat Hoke (our visiting parish nurse)

Meeting the friendly people at United Evangelical Church has been a joy and privilege. As your volunteer parish nurse, my last blood pressure Sunday will be June 5th. I will be leaving Baltimore on June 17th to work in Connecticut for the summer.

Each of us has special God-given traits. I encourage you to share yours with your church and the community near you. Research has shown that volunteering is a healthy thing to do.

VOLUNTEER and know that God always goes with you.

Pat Hoke

Points to Ponder

The Power of a Minute

by Mary L. Kupferle

Minute prayers are possible for anyone to practice because no matter where you are, you can call upon the presence of God. Take a minute, in the midst of anything, regardless of the place or circumstance.

Practicing the presence of God through minute prayers increases your awareness of God in every detail of life. You find God in your work, in your home, in your body temple, in your family, in your world. You awaken to the presence of God everywhere.

As you begin the minute prayer, visualize the light of God enfolding you. See yourself sitting quietly in the light. See yourself rested and receptive. For just one minute, rest there in the light.

You will be amazed at the power one minute spent like this has to bring you into right perspective; to give you new, rich ideas; to clear away the cobwebs; to relax the muscles; to bring healing to the body. Everything you find to do afterward will carry with it greater drive, energy, power, love, peace, and success.

If you are lonely, rest in the light. You will feel the presence of God as love and companionship. You will be directed into right relationships at the right time.

If you are angry and upset, rest in the light. You will be astonished at the change in yourself. You will become more gentle and forgiving, and you will experience harmony with the people around you.

If you are confused and unsure of yourself, rest in the light. You will find a blessed new awareness of confidence and assurance after the minute prayer.

Take a minute before getting out of bed in the morning. You will get out of bed on the "right foot" for the entire day!

During your morning activities, every so often stop for another minute. Quiet your thoughts, anxieties, and rushed feelings, and again feel yourself enfolded in the presence of God. Everything that seemed pressing will become secondary. An awareness of being in control will fill you, and you will go forward with poise and confidence.

During the noon and afternoon hours, keep faithful with the minute prayer. Stop frequently, and whenever possible close your eyes, looking within to the presence of God, to divine light, to God's quiet reassurance.

The more rushed you are, the more urgent things appear, the more important it is to stop for one quiet minute in which you turn to the inner light, the presence of God within you.

One minute out of every hour of your day seems like a brief time to give to the presence of God, but what a difference it makes in your feelings; in your facial expression; in the effectiveness of working, serving, and living.

The minute prayer keeps you on track. It brings you out of the rush of the world into the kingdom of heaven briefly, but long enough to taste and touch and feel the presence of God to a new degree. It disciplines your mind, feeds your soul, heals your body, and prospers your life.

Take a minute! Give a minute! Experience a minute prayer. Practice the Presence minute by minute. Let your life fall under the control of the minute prayer. It will change everything for the better in miraculous ways.



Listen to the Lord of your being for one minute each hour of the day. As you continue the minute prayers for a week, a month, or longer, the light of God will make itself known to you. The inner gates of perception will open automatically to the kingdom of God within you. Experience the minute prayer! Experience the power of it, the peace of it.

Take a minute—now!

In this moment, dear God, I am centered in Your loving presence. I am healthy, peaceful, and fulfilled.

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

Ladies Organization Trips & Events

Upcoming Events



Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings
All Meetings Begin at 12 noon

- Jun 8 Brown Bag Luncheon
- Jun 15 Thank You Luncheon-Eichenkrantz
- Jul 13 Tully's- Get Together (still in planning stage)
Husbands, wives, friends-pay your own way

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



Special Summer Activities

- June 11th Strawberry Festival—11 am to 3 pm
- June 15th Thank You Luncheon—Eichenkrantz— 12 noon

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

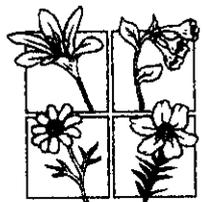
Important Notice

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 June 2005 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 JUNE			1 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	2 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	3	4 Church Spruce-Up 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
5 Communion Sunday Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	6	7	8 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Brown Bag Luncheon 12 noon	9 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	10	11 Strawberry Festival Fellowship Hall 11am-3 pm
June 10-12 Central Atlantic						
12 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education Conference Meeting	13	14 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	16 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	17	18
19 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	20	21 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	22 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	23 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	24	25
26 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	27	28	29 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	30 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	Vacation Bible School in conjunction with St. Brigid & Messiah Lutheran June 27 - July 1	

UEC July 2005 Calendar of Events

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



Sunday, June 5th

Marla Schrader will be our guest preacher on Sunday, June 5th. She is currently a missionary to Israel/Palestine. Please make plans to attend this service and share in her experiences.

United Evangelical Church

Pastor

Rev. Catherine J. Oatman
cjoatman@msn.com
home: 410-276-2200
cell phone: 410-428-1482

Church Office

410-276-0393

e-mail:

uecucc@juno.com

website:

www.united-evangelical.com

Hours

Tuesday - Friday (summer hours)
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Secretary

Peggy Tlasek

Custodian

Art Jones

Director of Music

Robert Gundlach
robert.gundlach@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor

Barbara Matthew
cartbar@earthlink.net



June 15-18
St. Brigid's Annual Carnival



**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...**

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

Special Events

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
AND
BAZAAR**



**LADIES ORGANIZATION
OF
UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH
DILLON & EAST AVENUE**

**SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2005
11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
FRIENDSHIP HALL**

We invite all friends and neighbors to come and enjoy Strawberries and Ice Cream (also Cool Whip) with us as we celebrate the strawberry season. Other foods available will be Crab Cakes, Hot Dogs, Chips, Ice Tea, Coffee and Soda.

Vendor tables available for \$10.00 per table. Please call Olga at 410-444-8088 or church office at 410-276-0393 and let us know if you want a table.

Tables in Friendship Hall will offer for sale Cakes, Crafts, Xmas Table and Raffles.



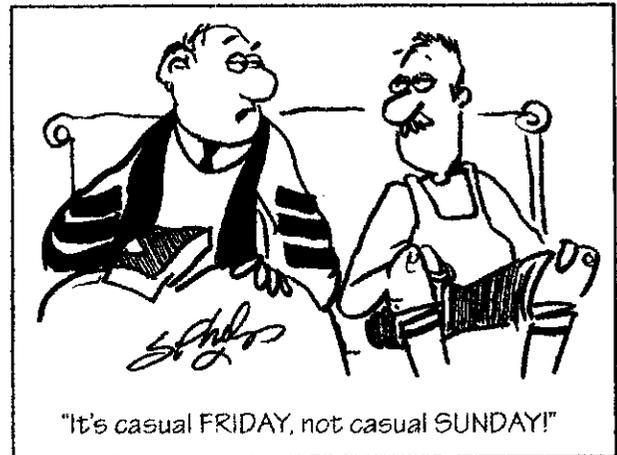
PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP.

Bits & Pieces

And from the Oops File
(from actual church bulletins)

OOps!

From a church bulletin in Lubbock, Texas:
Gospel reading — John 3:1-17
Hymn — Give Us Clean Hanes
Prayers of the Church
It must be a brief hymn.



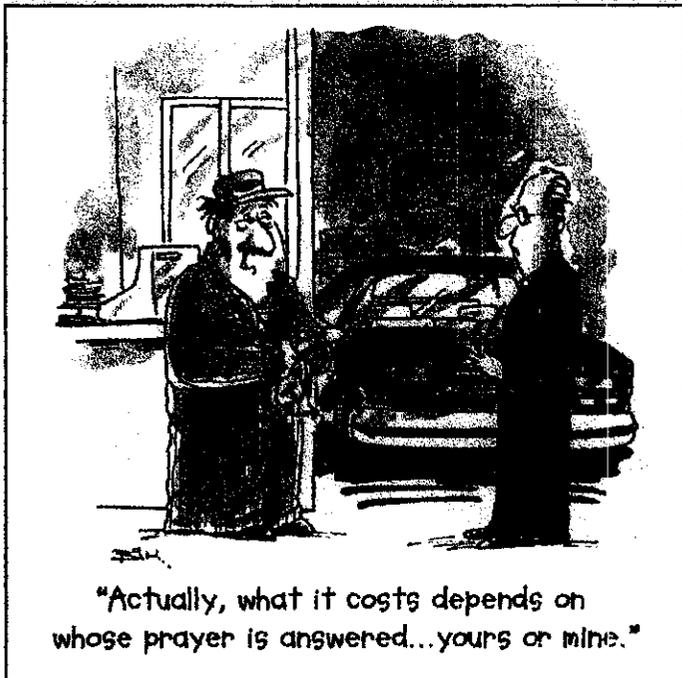
"It's casual FRIDAY, not casual SUNDAY!"

Witty One Liners...

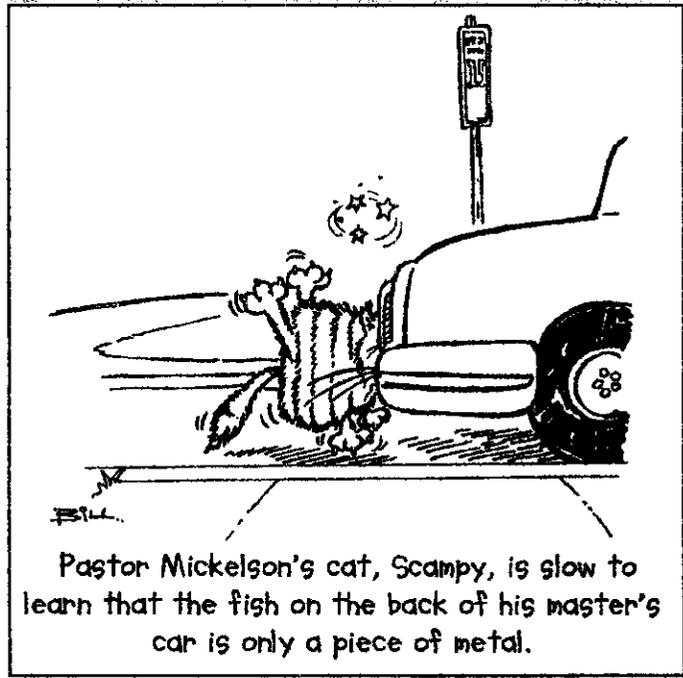
- It's a small world — unless you gotta walk home.
- I'm going to start thinking positive, but I know it won't work.
- I've always wanted to be somebody, but I should have been more specific.



Comics Corner

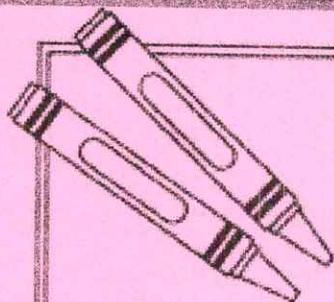


"Actually, what it costs depends on whose prayer is answered...yours or mine."



Pastor Mickelson's cat, Scampy, is slow to learn that the fish on the back of his master's car is only a piece of metal.

Kids Only!!



Just for KIDS

Jesus Traveled to Many Places

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of those places. Can you find all the names on the list?

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|------------|
| BETHANY | EPHRAIM | → | ↓ | ↑ | ↘ |
| BETHLEHEM | GALILEE | | | | |
| BETHSAIDA | JERICHO | | | | NAZARETH |
| CAESAREA PHILIPPI | JERUSALEM | | | | PEREA |
| CANA | JORDAN RIVER | | | | SAMARIA |
| CAPERNAUM | JUDEA | | | | SIDON |
| DECAPOLIS | MAGDALA | | | | TYRE |
| EGYPT | MOUNT OF OLIVES | | | | WILDERNESS |

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

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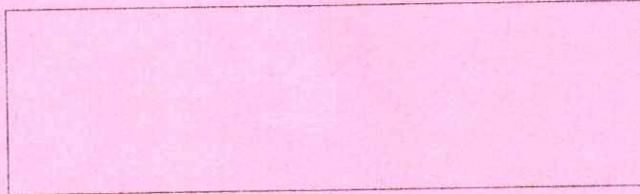
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Click on Action Zone

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The United Endeavor

The *Grace*
of *God* is
with *you!*