

The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Aug/Sept 2004

Pastor's Message

"Sarah laughed." – Gen. 18:12

Recently I was listening to a Christian comedian who got a big laugh when he said, "When you stand at the head of a trail that has never been walked on, there will be no markers." The inflection in his voice was asking why do we think otherwise. In essence his audience was laughing at themselves because they recognized the absurdity of such behavior. Comedy is always funniest when it points out the obvious things in our lives which we tend not to notice in the day to day. Comedy helps us to step back and look at the bigger picture and find some "comic relief" in our lives.

Everyone knows that an unexplored trail will have no markers, but when we face such a thing in life, we want it to be otherwise, we want the path ahead to be all marked out for us. Traveling such a path can be anything but funny, it can be downright frightening. The first child, a diagnosis of cancer, the death of a parent; are all examples of unexplored trails that we come upon in life.

In Genesis, Sarah finds herself standing at the head of an unexplored trail when she hears that she will give birth to a son. Her response was skeptical laughter. I wonder if she was still laughing when she found herself nine months pregnant at an age well past child-rearing years. All women who have gone through labor know that the prospect of such a thing is anything but funny.

Since my first day as pastor here at United, I have heard story after story of the "golden days" of

Batz's church when the pews were overflowing, and the Church was abuzz with social activities involving the community. I have also heard within those stories a longing for the Church to once again be the center of the community.

As a Church, we have started down the unexplored trail of interfacing with today's community, and the fact that there are no markers on this trail is creating all kinds of

responses from people. Some want to turn around and go back, some want to sit down

and go no further, some excitedly want to take the next step. As I watch some of these responses I wonder if what people were really telling me was not that they wanted the Church to interface with the community, but instead they wanted the community to return to that of years gone by.

As we continue to take steps down this path to be a Church of today's community, I hope that everyone will take a step back and look at the bigger picture. Hopefully you will not only find some comic relief, but also find the relief that comes from knowing that our faithful God, who was with us in days gone by, is with us today. As long as this One is on the trail with us, we have all the markers we need.

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Cathy

Everyone knows that an unexplored trail will have no markers...

Church Council Highlights

Council Highlights

Minister of Music

Council approved the addition of a new minister of music for our Saturday worship service. Interviews are ongoing. The new person will be on staff by September 1st.

Upgraded Computer

Council approved the upgrade of our church office computer for the purpose of maintaining our website.

Church Building Repairs

Going forward on the church building repair is on hold pending conversations with SECO (South East Community Organization).



**LOOKING
TOWARD
FALL**

Canton Home & Garden Tour

United Evangelical Church will be a part of the Canton Home and Garden Tour on September 19th between noon and 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed to show visitors our sanctuary and give a short history of the church. If you are willing to help, please contact Ursula Jacob, 410-679-6163.

If you would like to go on the tour and see some of the best homes and gardens in Canton, tickets are available starting in Mid-August from Long and Foster Realtors, Nouveau, and 2910 on the Square. There will also be a raffle with a grand prize being a night of fun in Baltimore City, valued at over \$ 600.00. For raffle tickets, see Rev. Cathy.

Earl's Place 5K Run/Walk

Council approved UEC sponsorship of the annual Earl's Place 5K Walk/Run.

Council Meeting Minutes

In order to more fully inform members of the congregation, minutes from Council will be available 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 M O M E N T

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Are You Afraid?

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

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

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

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

"Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous." 1 Timothy 6:17-18 (The Message).

In our society, practically every judgment is based on economics. The cost factor of every decision is paramount, and we usually think of cost only in terms of dollars. This leads us to devalue everything else, even life affirming things like dignity, basic human needs, kindness, and love. Such loss of perspective leads to fear, greed, and exclusion.

As Paul noted, money is not where we will find true riches. It is impossible to put a dollar value on what is most precious, those wonderful riches that pile up when we believe God's promise and become rich in reaching out to others.

The United Endeavor

Special Service

9 / 11

A Service of Healing

for Our World

for Our Nation

for Ourselves

United Evangelical
Church

5:30 p.m.

Chesapeake Association Happenings

Are You Concerned About Children...

And public education in the Baltimore urban area? Then come to First and St. Stephens



on Saturday, September 18th, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and hear what we can do as a faith community

to be involved in the future of the children of Baltimore. Jan Resseger, the Minister for Public Education and Witness from the national setting of the United Church of Christ, will be leading the discussion. Please call 410-377-5224 to register, there is no cost for attendance. Child care will be available.

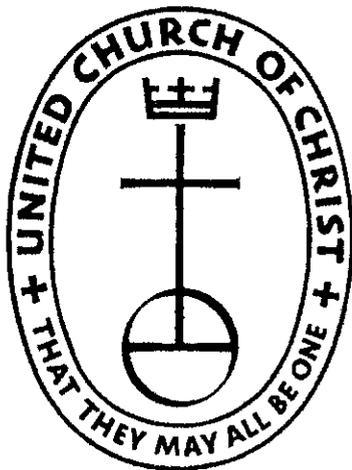
Volunteers Needed



The Chesapeake Association is currently seeking volunteers to assist in answering phones, filing and

general office duties. If you are interested in joining their team, please call

410-788-4190



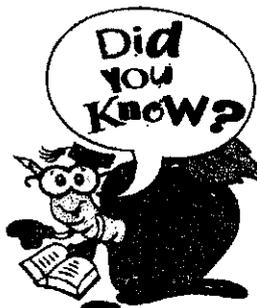
A Service of Installation

For the Rev. Beth Cantrell-Counts

Sunday, September 19, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

Immanuel United Church of Christ
1905 Edmondson Avenue
Catonsville

UCC Facts & Figures



The United Church of Christ was established in 1957 as a union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. With a current membership of approximately 1.7 million communicants located in more than 6,400

congregations in 39 conferences (state and regional organizations), the United Church of Christ is the "youngest" of the major Protestant denominations in the United States. Its roots lie in the teachings of the 16th century reformers, particularly Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli, and in Congregationalism.

The basic unit of the United Church is the local church, which is guaranteed autonomy, or freedom, in the decisions it makes. That freedom is the "freedom of the gospel," however, and every corporate body within the church, whether a local church or a conference or the General Synod, makes its decisions in the light of the gospel and out of a sense of responsibility to the whole fellowship.

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

Christian Education Happenings

Sunday Adult Bible Study

The Sunday morning Adult Bible Study will resume on Sunday, September 12th. It will begin with a 7-week study entitled,



Adult Bible Fellowship

“Sinners: Jesus and His First Followers.” This series is being

taught in conjunction with Lancaster Theological Seminary who will be providing the study guides and leadership support for our class.

Everyone who is interested in attending the class is also invited to an opening lecture and worship to be held at the Seminary on September 11th. There will be a car pool.



No Sunday School classes in August.

Classes resume September 12th.



Sunday School Teacher Training

Saturday, August 21st
9 am - 11am

Quiet Room



Special Announcements

Open Invitation-August 10th

In response to all of the questions by members of the congregation, the housing of Casa de Restauracion at United Evangelical Church will be a topic of discussion at the August Council meeting.

All members who have questions are invited to attend the August 10th meeting and take part in this discussion.

Council meets in Friendship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

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

Ladies Organization Trips & Events



August 4, 2004, Wednesday
10:30 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.
Fisherman's Crab Deck
Grasonville, MD
Boat Ride-Annapolis, MD
\$ 55.00

Seats are available

Ladies Fashion Show
Saturday, September 25, 2004

Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings
All Meetings Begin at 12 noon

- Sept 8 Covered Dish Luncheon
- Oct 13 Luncheon 12 noon
- Nov 10 Luncheon 12 noon
- Dec 8 Luncheon 12 noon

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

Fashion Show
September 25, 2004
Featuring
Weekender Fashions
UEC Friendship Hall
Call Arlene or Millie
for further details
Tickets—\$ 5.00 per person



The UEC Ladies Organization sends a special



thank you to everyone who attended the Caddyshack Luncheon held on July 14th. Good food, good company, and a fun time was had by all.

UCC August 2004 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p><i>Communion Sunday</i></p> <p>Food Bank Donations</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Fisherman's Crab Deck trip & boat ride 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 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</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>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</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>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Sunday School Teacher Training 9:00 am-11:00 am Quiet Room</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

UEC September 2004 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	2 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	3	4
5 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service	6 Labor Day	7	8 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Lunch 12 noon	9 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	10	11 9/11 Service of Healing 5:30 p.m.
12 ANNUAL UEC PICNIC FORT HOWARD PARK 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	13	14 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	16 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	17	18 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
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 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	24	25 Ladies Org. Fashion Show Friendship Hall Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
26 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	27	28	29 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	30 Choir practice 7:30 p.m.	31	
						



FAITH

Faith is a gift of God.

It is not a material that can be seen, heard, smelled, tasted or touched; but it is as real as anything that can be perceived with these senses. One can be aware of faith as easily as one can be aware of earth. Faith is as certain as is the existence of water. Faith is as sure as the taste of an apple, the fragrance of a rose, the sound of thunder, the sight of the sun, the feel of a loving touch.

Hope is a wish, a longing for something not now possessed, but with the expectation of getting it.

Faith adds surety to the expectation of hope.

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> e-mail: website:	410-276-0393 uecucc@juno.com www.united-evangelical.com
<u>Hours</u>	Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
<u>Secretary</u>	Peggy Tlasek
<u>Custodian</u>	Art Jones
<u>Director of Music</u>	Robert Gundlach robert.gundlach@verizon.net
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Barbara Matthew cartbar@earthlink.net

Our Homewood Homes Special Offering



Our special collection to benefit Homewood Homes totaled \$ 263.00.

Thank you to all who contributed.

For
freedom
Christ
has
set us
free.



Galatians 5:1

Points to Ponder

EQUALITY

The equality of all persons, male and female, rich and poor, of any race, class, or caste, is proclaimed in the scriptures of all faiths. This is true despite the conventions of many cultures that discriminate between people on the basis of caste, or class, or race, or sex. Regrettably, such discrimination is also on occasion supported by certain conventional interpretations of passages from sacred texts. Yet with the development of a more refined religious consciousness, all forms of discrimination are being overcome, and interpretations of religious texts which have traditionally undergirded discriminatory attitudes and practices are being shown to be erroneous.

The essential equality of all people is supported by the doctrines of the monotheistic faiths, that God is the parent of all humanity and that all human beings are descended from one pair of original ancestors, Adam and Eve. In Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism, and Confucianism, this equality is grounded in the fact that Enlightenment, unity with the Absolute, or the realization of Goodness is available to all universally. Distinctions among people, therefore, should be based only on their conduct, morality, and level of (spiritual) education, and attainment.

Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us?
Judaism and Christianity. Bible, Malachi 2.10

I look upon all creatures equally; none are less dear to me and none more dear.
Hinduism. Bhagavad Gita 9.29

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Christianity. Bible, Galatians 3.28

I call heaven and earth to witness: whether Jew or Gentile, whether man or woman, whether servant or freeman, they are all equal in this: that the Holy Spirit rests upon them in accordance with their deeds!

Judaism. Midrash, Seder Eliyyahu Rabbah 10

The Law is that which leads to welfare and salvation. It forms conduct and character distinguished by the sense of equality among all beings.

Jainism. Somadeva, Nitivakyamrita 1.1

All the people of the whole world are equally brothers and sisters. There is no one who is an utter stranger. There is no one who has known the truth of this origin. It is the very cause of the regret of Tsukihiko (God). The souls of all people are equal, whether they live on the high mountains or at the bottoms of the valleys.

Tenrikyo. Ofudesaki XIII.43-45

So what of all these titles, names, and races? They are mere worldly conventions.

Buddhism. Sutta Nipata 648

God created the human being in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Judaism and Christianity. Bible, Genesis 1.27

Confucius said, "By nature men are pretty much alike; it is learning and practice that set them apart."

Excerpts from "Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts"

Special Announcements

MEMO

To: All Participants in the "Lord's Supper Tableau"
Fr: Ed Myers and Bill Single
Re: Who were you?
Where are you?
We need you!

Ed Myers and Bill Single are currently planning a reunion of all participants in the "Lord's Supper Tableau."

So if you had a role (or served behind the scenes) during any of the Tableau re-enactments and would like to participate in the reunion, please contact,

Ed Myers at (410) 288-2368
Or
Bill Single at (410) 866-2159

**VISITATION
TEAM**



Visitation Ministry

Anyone interested in being a part of a ministry team to visit our shut-ins, please see Rev. Cathy or call the office at 410-276-0393.

Rally Day Weekend - September 11th-12th

To kick off a new year of programming within the church, many activities are planned for September 11th and 12th.

On Saturday, September 11th

We will resume our weekly Contemporary Worship Service at 5:30 p.m. In remembrance of this historic day, the service will be dedicated to healing for our world, our nation and ourselves. At this service we will be welcoming our new minister of music who will join our staff in August.

On Sunday, September 12th



The Sunday morning Adult Bible Study will resume. It will begin with a 7-week study entitled, "Sinners: Jesus and His First Followers." This series is being taught in conjunction with Lancaster Theological Seminary who will be providing the study guides and leadership support for our class. Everyone who is interested in attending the class is also invited to an opening lecture and worship to be held at the Seminary on September 11th. There will be a car pool. Call the church office at 410-276-0393, if interested.

And of course after the 10:30 service we will have our church picnic at Fort Howard Park, with games and fun for the whole family. Unlike last year, there will be both an 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. service of worship. Christian Education will be held at 9:15 a.m. Be sure to sign up in the Narthex if you are planning on attending.

And speaking of picnics.....

Rally Day Weekend - September 11th-12th

UEC Annual Picnic

Sunday,
September 12, 2004

Fort Howard Park

Tickets: \$ 5.00 per person
Mark your calendars!!!

Calling all Cooks!!

Volunteer grillers are needed

So far 2 people have volunteered, but we're gonna need more. We want everyone to have a relaxing time, so the more grillers we get, the more relaxation they'll get!

Grillers—sign up in the Narthex, and get those spatulas warmed up!!



Annual Picnic

Menu

- Hot dogs
- Hamburgers
- Potato Salad
- Coleslaw
- Condiments

 * Everyone sign up and *
 * participate in a good *
 * time of fellowship *
 * with a great bunch *
 * of people!! *

Please bring:

- ◆ Your own non-alcoholic drinks
- ◆ Any additional foods that you like
- ◆ A dessert to share with everyone
(please do not bring anything that will not withstand the heat)

If you will be attending, sign up in the Narthex
Car pool sign up sheets will be provided in the next few weeks

For any comments, suggestions, or requests, contact
Ursula Jacob at 410-679-6163 or Cass Young at 410-276-2388

Kids Only!!

Make a Picture Frame

Make a picture frame for your favorite summer photo. Hang it in your room or give it to someone special.

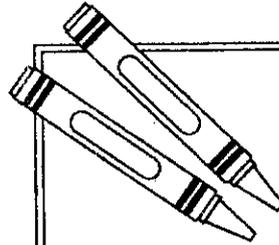


What you need:

- ⊙ Buttons, pasta, sea shells, other small mementos of your summer
- ⊙ Glue
- ⊙ Corrugated cardboard
- ⊙ Scissors
- ⊙ Your favorite summer photo

Directions:

1. Cut the cardboard into two matching shapes. (They can be squares, circles, triangles or some other shape.) Make the frame larger than the photo that you're using.
2. Cut a window out of one piece of cardboard.
3. Glue the two pieces of cardboard together along three sides, but not on the fourth side. The photo will slide into this side.
4. Glue decorations onto the frame.
5. When the glue is dry, slide your photo in.

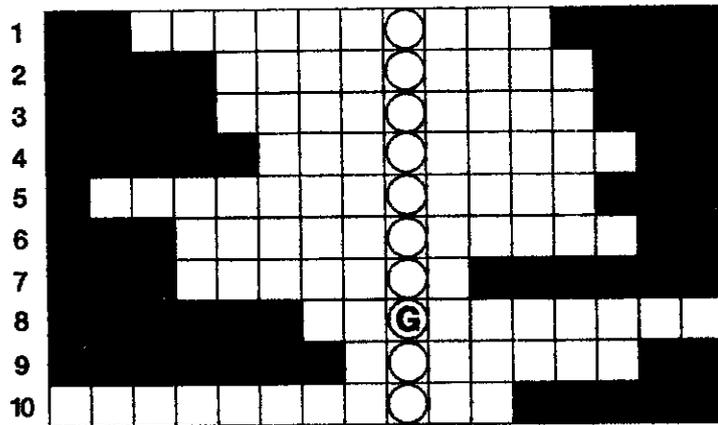


Just for KIDS

Fruits of the Word

Use an NIV Bible to look up the verses below. Find one word in each verse that will fit into the spaces of the puzzle. Use the circled letters (in order) to fill in the missing letters of the Proverb at the bottom of the page.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Matthew 3:8 | 4) Psalm 107:37 | 8) Genesis 1:11 |
| 2) Amos 8:1 | 5) Deuteronomy 33:15 | 9) John 4:36 |
| 3) Isaiah 3:10 | 6) Mark 4:8 | 10) Hebrews 13:15 |
| | 7) Luke 22:18 | |



“ _ _ W O _ D A P _ L Y S P O K _ N I S _ _ I K E A _ P L E S
_ _ F _ O L D I N S E T _ I N G S O F S I _ V E R . ”

—Proverbs 25:11

Answers: REPENTANCE, SOBEREIGN, RIGHTEOUS, VINEYARDS, FRUITFULNESS, MULTIPLYING, KINGDOM, VEGETATION, ETERNAL, CONTINUALLY, A WORD APPLY SPOKEN IS LIKE APPLS OF GOLD IN SETTINGS OF SILVER.

Website Alert!

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

P.A.C.T. Openings!

P.A.C.T. (Parents and Children Together) currently has openings for preschoolers, ages 2 and 3. For information call Concetta Clark at 410-995-0118

The United Endeavor

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The United Endeavor

