

The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

February/March '04

Pastor's Message



LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

"Journey To Jerusalem"

Ash Wednesday
February 25
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday
March 3
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday
March 10
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday
March 17
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday
March 24
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday
March 31
7:30 p.m.

Following to Jerusalem

It feels odd talking about a journey to Jerusalem when I have barely put my Christmas decorations away. I can feel resistance within me to embark upon this journey. Preparing for the birth of Jesus is easy, there aren't any demands placed upon us. We are simply called to believe that it is the Messiah who is coming into the world. Following Jesus to Jerusalem is more difficult. There are sacrifices required when we follow Jesus.

Jesus spells this out again and again in the Gospels. When a would-be disciple claims he will follow Jesus anywhere, he is warned that the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head. Again Jesus cautions that "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Self-denial, and a willingness to accept the risks that come with a cross, are

...a willingness to accept the risks that come with a cross, are all a part of following Jesus.

all a part of following Jesus.

Following Jesus to Jerusalem, therefore, is not something to be taken lightly. He tells us to first count the costs before embarking on the journey. This reflecting on the costs of

discipleship is what we are called to during the season of lent, to decide how far along the road with Jesus we are willing to go. It is so tempting to stay behind, to linger where there is nothing being asked of us. Yet when we do this, we have stopped being followers of Jesus. In her 1992 book, Kneeling in Jerusalem, Ann Weems describes this place of decision to follow Jesus.

The shepherds have left;
they've returned to hillside
and to sheep.

The Magi, too have gone,
having been warned in a dream,
as was Joseph,
who packed up his family and fled.

If I stay in Bethlehem,
I stay alone.

God has gone on
toward Jerusalem.

This lent we are being invited to go with God to Jerusalem, to risk being known as followers of Jesus. In our Wednesday Lenten series we will look at the

lives of some in the Bible who risked to follow God, and to reflect on the sacrifices they made

in their decision to follow. May it be this Lenten season that we are seen with them traveling the road, following Jesus to Jerusalem.

In Christ,
Rev. Cathy

Comments from Your Church Council

Church Council

As we depart 2003 and enter into 2004, it seems only logical that we reflect upon where we have been and where we, as a church are going. We had a very successful year in many ways, as we celebrated the 130th anniversary of our church. The church picnic, the first in a number of years, was very well received and many think it should become an annual event. All one has to do is look at the end-of-the-year financial report and proclaim, "what a great year we had financially," and we did—our income exceeded our expenses by about \$ 12,000. Unfortunately, this excitement needs to be tempered by the fact that one memorial gift in late December was the difference between a negative financial picture for 2003 and the positive amount of almost \$ 12,000.

This year we are experiencing a significant change-over in the make-up of the church council. We had the most people running for council membership than we have had in many years, and this is the way it should be if we are going to grow. The new members elected in November are excited and anxious about what is before them. As it turned out two of those who had to go off the council were very important and key members dealing with the financial aspect of our church. Those being Calvin Gundlach and Harvey Jacob who have done a great job for a number of years, and it's going to be very difficult to replace them. It may be time for us to look for other ways to deal with the financial aspects of our church operation—possibly in the form of qualified paid personnel to take care of some of the complex financial operations.

As we approach the February 1 congregational meeting, it appears that the anticipated repairs needed to the church school building will be a major item of concern for our congregation; however, one that must be dealt with in the immediate future.

Although the overall picture for our church may look rather bleak, as we have done many times in the past, the people of United Evangelical Church, with the help of God, will rise to the occasion and we, working together, will overcome and survive the obstacles ahead of us.

May God's peace, power, and spirit be with us as we plan for and move toward the future!

Clarence Rowell
Council President

Spiritual Committee

Have you seen it yet? Have you seen our new contemporary worship service? Every Saturday at 5:30 we are experiencing a different style of worship. We have enjoyed the casual atmosphere, the up lifting music, the theme orientated messages. After a spirit filled service, we enjoy a time of fellowship. Our themes have focused on the birth of Jesus and the love of God. Themes coming up are messages of hope and faith.

If for some reason you cannot make it to church on Sunday come join us on Saturday evening or if you want to be part of a worship team just let us know. We currently have four worship teams so no one is committed to every week. We are always looking for singers and musicians or people to be part of the time of worship or with the planning of the service. Come be a part of the new happenings at United.

Let us pray that this New Year brings us a new sense of hope for our community of faith.

George Nassner

Comments from Your Church Council

Christian Education Committee

The Church School staff and the Christian Education Committee continue to combine their efforts in order to develop and provide a quality Christian education program for our youth. It has been our goal to incorporate the children into the overall life of our church by providing opportunities for them to interact with older members of the congregation, especially during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. We believe this interaction benefits both the children and our church members.

Examples of this interaction are the youth services on Sundays, the children singing once a month, the children's program in church on Tinsel Sunday, the Living Cross program at Easter, and the Church picnic. All of these activities have proven to be quite successful and well received by the congregation.

Due to the small number of children in church school, we reconstructed the curriculum during 2003. We now basically have just two departments—the Nursery/Beginners and the Multi-Aged Departments. The Multi-Aged Department is for children from 5 to 12 years of age. This has entailed involving new curriculum materials, and has proven to be quite successful. Also, we have been fortunate enough to involve some of the parents in the presentation of this new curriculum.

We would like very much to increase the number of children involved, and especially be able to offer a quality program for those children beyond 12 years of age. All we need are the children and your help!

Carol Rowell
Committee Member

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee will begin meeting as soon as we get our committee together for the new year. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact me at 410-276-2388. Our visitor's book placed in the Narthex for visitors to sign is being utilized. We continue to deliver small gift packages to visitors who worship with us. This token of our appreciation is to



thank them for joining us in worship.

We are sorry that the Olde Time Christmas Service planned for Sunday, December 7th, 2003 was cancelled due to bad weather. We look forward to the celebration this coming year.

The New Year's Eve Party here at United was a little short on attendance, but those who were there had a good time. Let's see what happens this year!

Cass Young
Chairperson

Ladies Organization

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

Comments from Your Church Council

Property Manager

Greetings and Happy New Year. Each year I keep asking where did it go, and this year is no different—they seem to go by so fast.

We are starting 2004 where we left off in 2003. We have received our report from Gardner Engineering, Inc. regarding the repairs needed on the Sunday School building. The date of our Congregational meeting has been changed to February 1st, so that Mr. Steve Turner of Gardner can address any questions about the work that needs to be done. Please make it a point to attend this meeting because it is important to the future of our church.

In the meantime, you may want to think about nominating someone for a position on a committee which will oversee this work. This committee will be responsible for procuring funds, evaluating bids from contractors, approving changes made during construction along with overall supervision of the project. The committee will represent the congregation and report to the Church Council.

If you know anyone who has experience in finance, construction or supervision and who you think would make a good candidate, please present the Council with his or her name at the Congregational Meeting on February 1st.

We are looking forward to Spring so we can spruce up our buildings with some paint and polish—most of which is needed on the exterior of the buildings. This will also save us some money on the repairs needed on the larger project. Plus, this will also let the neighborhood know that we are still very much open for business.

I would like to personally thank the Church for the great time provided for myself and my family on New Years Eve. The food was good and we en-

joyed game time and the fellowship. The Pastor held a wonderful service and the Inner Harbor fireworks from the fourth floor were terrific.

I look forward to serving all of you for another year and may God bless,

Bill Meyers
Property Committee Chairperson

Fellowship Committee

Tinsel Sunday started out very bleak weather-wise, but got better as the morning went on. We had a nice turn out (about 100 people) in spite of the snow. Many people have asked for the recipe for the potato dish served that day. Here it is:

- 2 lbs. frozen shredded potatoes (thawed)
- 1 can cream of potato soup (undiluted)
- 1 can cream of celery soup (undiluted)
- 1/4 cup milk
- 16 oz. carton of sour cream
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. Pepper
- 1/4 tsp. dill weed
- 1 1/2—2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Mix all ingredients except cheese.
Pour into a 9x13" baking dish.
Sprinkle with cheese. Bake in a
350 degree oven for 1 1/2 hours.
Let sit 15 minutes before serving.



Once again, my thanks to all who helped with the shopping, preparation and cooking, and to those who helped clean up.

Happy New Year to everyone,

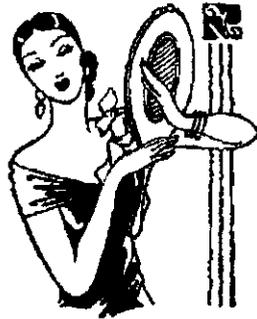
Bob Osburne
Chairman

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

Ladies Organization Upcoming Trips & Events

And Looking Ahead...

Fashion & Jewelry Show Fundraiser April 17, 2004



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



Strawberry Festival June 12, 2004

Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings All Meetings Begin at 12 noon

- Feb 18 Brown Bag Lunch
Mar 10 Corned Beef & Cabbage St. Patrick's Day
Apr 14 Brown Bag Lunch
May 12 Brown Bag Lunch
Jun 12 Thank You Luncheon Eichenkrantz Restaurant
Jul 14 Get Together Lunch Caddy Shack Restaurant Back River Neck Road

Mountain Gate Restaurant in Thurmont, MD & Cabin Fever Festival at the Frederick Fairgrounds February 14, 2004 (Saturday)

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Lunch at 11:30

Bus leaves from UEC

\$ 30.00 per person



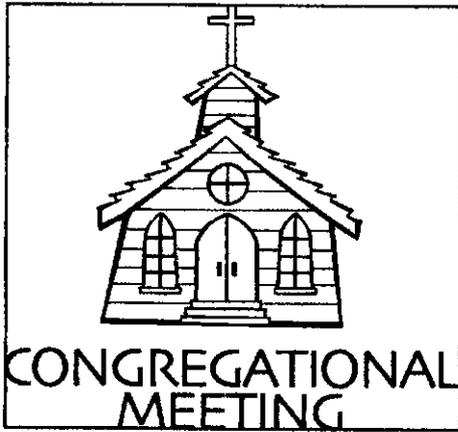
UEC February Calendar of Events

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>9:15 Christian Education</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting (after 10:30 worship)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.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. (make note of meeting time change)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.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>Ladies Organization Bus Trip to Cabin Fever Festival Bus leaves UEC at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.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>Ladies Organization Lunch 12 noon</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>Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.</p>
<p>22</p> <p><i>Transfiguration Sunday</i></p> <p>8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 Christian Education</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Shrove Tuesday</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Worship</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>First Sunday Of Lent</p> 						

UEC March Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	4 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	5 World Day Of Prayer	6 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
7 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	8	9 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. (make note of time change)	10 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Lunch 12 noon Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	11 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	12	13 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
14 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	15	16 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.	17 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	18 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	19	20 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
21 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education One Great Hour Of Sharing	22	23 Membership Meeting 2 p.m.	24 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m.	25 Contemporary Worship Practice 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	26	27 Contemporary Worship 5:30 p.m.
28 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:15 Christian Education	29	30	31 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Lenten Worship Service 7:30 p.m.			





February 1, 2004

**The UEC Congregational
Annual Meeting**

will be held on Sunday, February 1st following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Please plan to attend.

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 Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

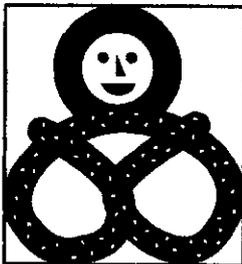
Secretary Peggy Tlasek

Custodian Art Jones

Director of Music Robert Gundlach
robert.gundlach@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor Barbara Matthew
cartbar@earthlink.net

Pretzels for Lent

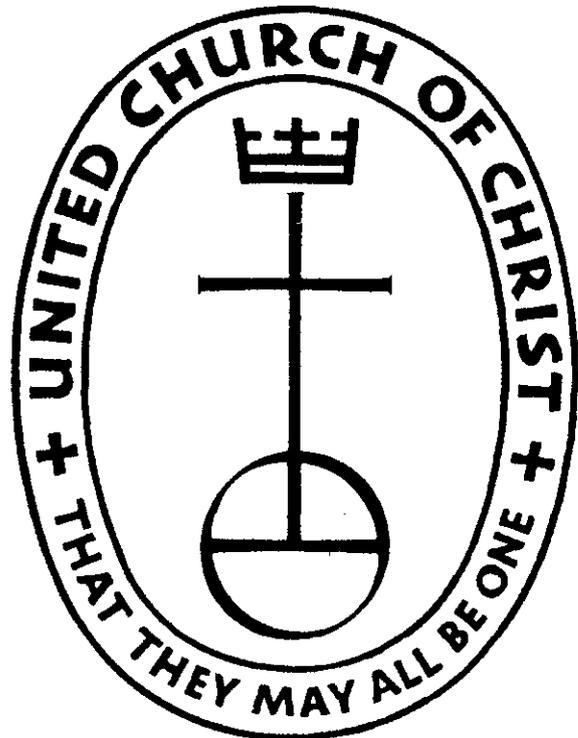


The common pretzel was originally designed for use during Lent. Sometime during the Middle Ages, when Lent was accompanied by strict bans on dairy products and meat, people subsisted

largely on breads, pastries, soups and vegetables.

Bakers in Germany decided to create a food that would even look religious—the pretzel. The crossed arms of a pretzel represent a Christian in prayer.

Place the palm of each hand on the opposite shoulder, so that your forearms cross. That's the shape of a pretzel.



Special Announcements

P.A.C.T.

(Parents and Children Together)

United Evangelical P.A.C.T. is in the middle of a very busy school year. We have finished our annual fund raiser and began drawing prizes in January. Thanks to all who supported this effort.

We are planning a family Valentine's party for P.A.C.T. members. Also, the 4's are going to spend a day at the Maryland Science Center this month.



We are enrolling children for our one day per week program for two-year olds which begins in the fall. Please call Concetta Clark at (410) 995-0118, if you are interested.

You're Invited to Join Us

World Day of Prayer (In Faith, Women Shape the World)

Friday, March 5 @ 2:00 p.m.

Johns Hopkins Bayview Campus
Geriatrics Building
4940 Eastern Avenue

Sponsored by:
Women of Luther Memorial Church

For more information call:

410-254-1907

410-633-6628

410-633-8967



Valentine's Day

There are varying opinions as to the origin of **Valentine's Day**. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that **St.**



Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects of the story say that **Saint Valentine**

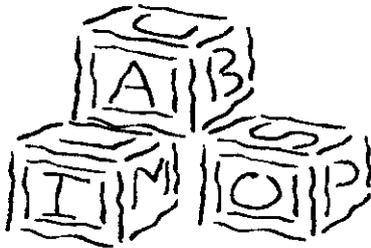
served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor St. Valentine.

Gradually, February 14 became the date for exchanging love messages and St. Valentine became the **patron saint of lovers**. The date was marked by sending poems and simple gifts such as flowers. There was often a social gathering or a ball.

In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first valentine cards. Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's and now the date is very commercialized. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large post office business around February 14. The spirit of good continues as valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange valentine cards at school.

Kids Only!!

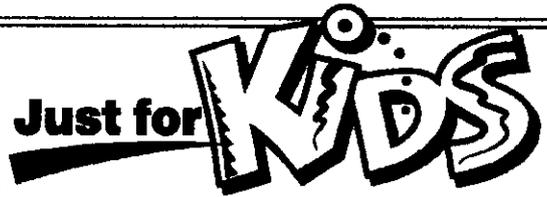
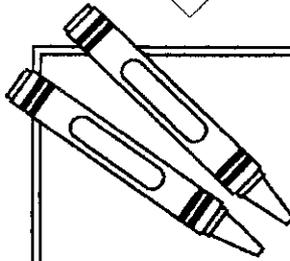
Play an **A-B-C** Game



Number of players:
1 to?
Equipment: none!

As you travel by car or train or bus look out of the window. The object is to find all the letters of the alphabet in order, starting with A. Find them on signs, license plates, trucks, anywhere! The first player to find them all wins. Or work together just for fun!

Another ABC game to play is to find things that begin with each letter. Find things created by God or made by people through God's guiding hands!



Use the code to read some important words to live by.

CODE:	A=1	D=4	H=8	L=12	P=16	T=20	X=24
	B=2	E=5	I=9	M=13	Q=17	U=21	Y=25
	C=3	F=6	J=10	N=14	R=18	V=22	Z=26
	G=7	K=11	O=15	S=19	W=23		

8 1 22 5 14 15 15 20 8 5 18 7 15 4 19

2 5 6 15 18 5 13 5

8 15 14 15 18 25 15 21 18 6 1 20 8 5 18

1 14 4 13 15 20 8 5 18

4 15 14 20 13 9 19 21 19 5

7 15 4 19 14 1 13 5

11 5 5 16 20 8 5 19 1 2 2 1 20 8

8 15 12 25

12 5 1 18 14 20 8 5 20 5 14

3 15 13 13 1 14 4 13 5 14 20 19

Answer: Have no other gods before me. Honor your father and mother. Don't misuse God's name. Keep the Sabbath holy. Learn the Ten Commandments.

Website Alert!

Check out www.spiritseasons.com.

Click on Action Zone

Lenten Insights

A Cross Made by Ashes

The observance of Ash Wednesday, according to the Catholic Encyclopedia, dates from at least the eighth century A.D. The ancient custom was for the worshippers to approach the altar before the beginning of the Mass. A priest would dip his thumb into ashes made from the previous year's Palm Sunday palms and make the sign of the cross on each person's forehead.

Ash Wednesday is a time for repentance and the beginning of Lent. Ashes were used in ancient times, according to the Bible, to express penitence. Dusting themselves with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. An ancient example of one expressing his penitence is found in Job

42:3-5. Job says to God: "I had heard of you by in the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (v. 5, NRSV).



40 Days to Spiritual Health

Lent is the 40-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Traditionally, it has been a time when Christians re-examine their spiritual life and try to discern the quality of their relationship with God.



There are many individual approaches to strengthening the spiritual life, including: choosing to fast, praying more often, reading the Bible and devotional literature,

engaging more often in public worship, serving God more intensely in the world.

We miss the mark if we focus only on our desires. Lent ought to be a time of deeper dedication to God and seeking ways in which we can help to further God's kingdom on Earth.

Shrove Tuesday—Then and Now

The day before Ash Wednesday is Shrove Tuesday, sometimes called "Fat Tuesday." Centuries ago Christians often stuffed themselves with food before beginning the 40 days of fasting for Lent. In those days, many Christians used up all the food containing fat, including dairy products. Because so many foods, including pancakes, used those fat products, many churches had huge feasts. A lot of people ate until they could hold no more—the beginnings of all-you-can-eat dinners.

Today many congregations still keep at least a semblance of the tradition. In communities around the world, churches serve pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. But today the purpose is to have Christian fellowship, not to devour everything in sight.

Special Announcements

On Sunday, March 21, 2004

We will dedicate our offerings to One Great Hour of Sharing, for ministries of the United Church of Christ that reach out with love,

faith, and compassion to people in 90 countries. This year's theme is "God Uses All Gifts for Big Purposes."



The media often show us the drama of war and disaster and document the suffering of millions of people who lack food, water, shelter, and other basic necessities. We know the needs are real.

And we know that Christ points us to lives of love, faith, and compassion.

Please give to One Great Hour of Sharing. Indeed, it's remarkable what your gift can do.

Looking Ahead.....



On Palm Sunday, April 4th, John Pijanowski will be confirmed at United Evangelical.

Words to Ponder...

I have held many things in my hands, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

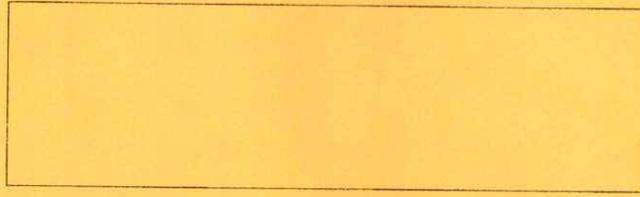
— Martin Luther

Comics Corner



United Church of Christ
3200 Dillon Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

Dated Material



The United Endeavor

