

The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Aug/Sept 2003

Pastor's Message

"For every season...turn, turn, turn..."

As I sit here enjoying the beautiful summer weather, the August on my calendar reminds me that soon we will be turning the corner for fall. As we look forward into the fall months, there are many things that will be happening here at United. We have our 130th anniversary celebrations planned, as well as our new alternative worship service on Saturday evenings that will be starting.

Much of this activity is hoped to help United Evangelical Church turn the corner as well. We are all aware of the decline the church has experienced over the last several years. The truth is, we are not who we once were. While it is also true that we are still a viable worshipping community, we need to take steps now to make sure that this will continue to be the case ten years from now.

People who study church dynamics publish all sorts of information that is helpful for church leaders as they guide

...it is through us that God will work to turn United Evangelical toward the future...

churches through periods of transition such as what we are experiencing here at United. What I think can be most helpful for us as a congregation to be aware of, are the factors which lead churches to close. Being aware of these factors will enable us to take steps to remedy them as we see them in our church.

Gary L. McIntosh of Talbot School of Theology publishes a list of 10 questions for congregations to ask themselves when evaluating the danger of closing. I have listed these

questions below for each of you to do your own assessment. Answer each question either "Yes" or "No". 8-10 "Yes" responses indicates that the church is in excellent condition with great potential. 4-7 "Yes" responses indicates that the church has an unclear direction as to whether it will grow or decline. 1-3 "Yes" responses indicates a church that has a limited future.

Dr. McIntosh warns those using this assessment tool that ultimately the future of any church lies with our God who is notoriously known for bringing life out of death. As you answer these questions and find yourself saying "No," think of what you can do to *turn* that answer to a "Yes," for it is through us that God will work to *turn* United Evangelical Church toward the future that awaits us.

In Christ's love,
Rev. Cathy

- Does this church have an average worship attendance of over 50 adults?
- Does this church have 25 faithful giving units?
- Does this church have at least one competent lay leader for every 10 adults?
- Does this church have at least one ministry for which it is known in the community?
- Does this church have a positive growth rate over the last 10 years?

Comments from Your Church Council

(Pastor's Message - cont'd from page 1)

- Does this church demonstrate a healthy spiritual life? (A healthy spiritual life is characterized by a climate of peace, happiness, and love versus one of anger, bitterness, and discouragement.)
- Does this church have an average membership tenure of less than 20 years?
- Does this church talk about its future goals of ministry?
- Does this church actively spend 5% of its budget on outreach to the local community?
- Does this church have hope that God can renew its growth and vitality?

Church Council

As we approach the 130th anniversary of our church, I would like to urge and encourage all members and their families to take part in the festivities being planned to commemorate this special occasion.

Information has been provided on the church picnic to be held at Fort Howard Park on Sunday, September 14. I am certain that most of you remember the church picnics of years past and cherish those memories of the

fun and enjoyment experienced by you and your family members, especially the children. We hope to renew this tradition and continue the church picnics as yearly events in the life of our church.

You are also aware that Sunday, September 21st is our Anniversary Sunday, highlighted by a

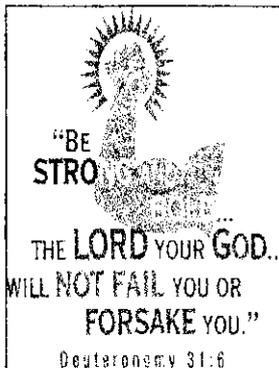
special service to be followed by a dinner and dance to be held at North Point Gardens.

Since Rev. Cathy's arrival, a concerted effort has been made to involve the children and youth in all aspects of church life. They have taken an active part in the 10:30 service each Sunday and we feel very strongly that both the children and the congregation have enjoyed and benefited from this interaction. The Christian Education program has adopted a new curriculum. "Seasons of the Spirit" which we feel will provide a much more beneficial and exciting experience for our children. In conjunction with this new curriculum, we are conducting a workshop for teachers and any interested in learning about it on Saturday, August 16th. If you are interested in becoming a teacher, or would just like to know more about the curriculum, please plan to attend this workshop. If planning to attend, please contact Carol Rowell or Rev. Cathy.

The Spiritual Committee of the Council, chaired by George Nassner, had been very active investigating and preparing for our first contemporary service to be held sometime this fall. This is just another positive action being instituted in an effort to help our church grow and expand its ministry to the younger generation.

As you can see, many exciting projects are underway that will impact the future of our church. If you really desire to take an active part in this future - become involved! A nominating committee, consisting of Ursula Jacob, Darlene Waters, and Julie Hovermill has been appointed to solicit candidates for the Church Council to be elected at the November Congregational Meeting. This committee is assisted by Rev. Cathy. When you are approached by a member of this committee, or if you are interested in serving on the Church Council, I hope you will give serious consideration to this opportunity to serve and help to direct the future of our church.

Peace and joy,
Clarence Rowell



Comments from Your Church Council

Christian Education Committee

United Evangelical will host the:

Central Atlantic Conference
Partners in Education
Christian Educators' Workshop
August 16, 2003

This seminar is designed to enrich the teaching experiences of teachers and leaders involved in Christian Education, and to assist churches in the use of the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum.

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. The program is from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch is provided. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

This seminar is for anyone involved in Christian Education, not just those using the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum. Topics to be covered include:

- Multiple Intelligences in the classroom - how to reach all you teach
- Igniting Wonder in Religious Education
- Introducing Seasons of the Spirit Multiage Curriculum
- Integrating Congregational Life with Sunday School curriculum

For questions or to register, please call the church or Carol Rowell.

phone: 410-866-3522
email: cbrow38@yahoo.com

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.

Ladies Organization Upcoming Meetings

Sept 10	Fall Meetings begin Covered Dish Meeting 12 noon
Oct 8	Brown Bag Meeting 12 noon
Nov 12	Brown Bag Meeting 12 noon

We would like to thank everyone who took part in or visited our Strawberry Festival in June. It was a special day. Food, fellowship and fun was had by all. Our organization made a profit of \$ 962.00 at this event.

On July 9th, 19 members, friends and spouses attended our luncheon at Vinny's Cafe. Food was outstanding and friends continued to enjoy each other's company. Two door prizes were given and everyone enjoyed their time spent together.

Arlene Pate



Comments from Your Church Council

Property Manager

Property Report

Well it's that time again. This month finds us looking at the parsonage; the pastor has had a problem with rust in her drinking water since she moved in. Looking into the problem we found the water pipes in the parsonage were old galvanized pipes and should be replaced. Council agreed and we are waiting on estimates to replace the old pipes.

The pastor has purchased new ceiling fans and light fixtures for the parsonage, These are being installed and the old 1936 light fixtures are being removed.

Again I would like to mention the problems we are having with our school building. We are in need of extensive repairs to the brick work. This is going to be a very expensive project and we going are to need the help of the congregation over the next couple of years in order to finance the necessary work to make the building a safe and useful part of the Church. We are planning to present a more detailed plan of action at the annual congregational meeting. We are already waiting on some estimates to perform this work.

Just some food for thought - the fourth floor of the school building is not being used as in the past and the Boy Scouts are no longer meeting there. It was suggested we use it for a Fourth of July affair and also possibly holding a non-alcohol New Years Party there. The overview of the Inner Harbor and the fireworks displays are beautiful.

It was suggested at the council meeting that we make our Church more accessible to the community by allowing community groups to meet here. If you know a group who would like to use our school for meetings or other functions please let someone on the council know.

That's it for another month, please finish the summer safely and GOD BLESS.

Bill Meyers

Spiritual Committee

Serve the Lord with Gladness:
Come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:2

We are trying to put the final pieces together for our new Saturday evening service, and we need your help. We are looking for people to help in a number of areas. We are looking for singers, musicians, technicians, greeters, readers, worship planners, and help setting up and taking down equipment. We must never feel that we have nothing to offer. We have all been given a talent as a Gift from God. What we do with that talent is our Gift to God. If you or someone you know might be interested in helping, we are having our next meeting on Sunday, August 17, 2003, immediately following the 10:30 service. Lunch will be served. Hope to see you there.

George Nassner



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

Ladies Organization Upcoming Trips & Events

Suicide Bridge
Boat Ride & Crab Feast



August 13th
\$ 63.00



A Few Seats are Available

Bus leaves from UEC 10:00 a.m.
Returns to UEC 7:00 p.m.

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

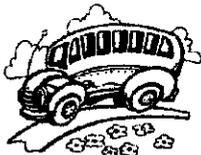
Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings

November 1, 2003 (Saturday)

Bus Trip to
McCutcheon's & Walmart
\$ 30.00
(with Turkey & Oyster Luncheon)

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Faith UE Church



Sept 10 Fall Meetings begin
Covered Dish Meeting
12 noon

Oct 8 Brown Bag Meeting
12 noon

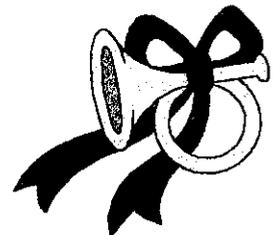
Nov 12 Brown Bag Meeting
12 noon



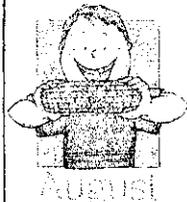
Christmas Show
American Music Theatre
Lancaster, PA

Lunch at Shady Maple Restaurant
\$ 55.00

December 3, 2003 (Wednesday)
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
(Bus is filled)



UEC August Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
Reminder on Communion Sundays: As Christ feeds us at his table, let us help to feed the less fortunate through non-perishable donations for the Canton Food Bank						
3 Communion Sunday Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:30 Christian Education	4	5	6 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	7	8	9
Rev. Cathy will be on vacation August 4-11. Max Hoffman will lead us in worship and will be available for pastoral emergencies the week of August 4th, 410-256-3722.						
10 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:30 Christian Education	11	12 Church Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.	13 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Suicide Bridge Trip	14 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	15 Christian Educators Workshop 9:30 - 2:30 UEC	16
17 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:30 Christian Education Spiritual Committee Saturday worship meeting 12:00 noon	18	19 Christian Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.	20 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	21 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	22	23
24 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:30 Christian Education	25	26	27 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	28 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	29	30
31 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:30 Christian Education						

UEC September Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	4 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	5	6

Reminder on Communion Sundays: As Christ feeds us at his table, let us help to feed the less fortunate through non-perishable donations for the Canton Food Bank

7 Communion Sunday Food Bank Donations 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:30 Christian Education	8	9 Church Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.	10 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Ladies Organization Meeting 12 noon	11 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	12	13
14 Rally Day Worship Service 10:30 a.m. (Come to church dressed for the picnic & bring a dessert!!) UEC Anniversary Picnic 12 - 8 p.m.	15	16 Christian Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.	17 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	18 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	19	20
21 Worship Service 10:30 a.m. UEC Anniversary Dance 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.	22	23	24 Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	25 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	26	27
28 8:00 & 10:30 Worship Service 9:30 Christian Education Youth Group trip to Brad's Produce Churchville, MD 1:00 p.m.	29	30				

Senior Spot

Hatton Center News



COOL NEWS!!

In response to **CODE RED** conditions in Baltimore City, the Commission on Aging and Retirement Education (CARE) will distribute fans to seniors and caregivers of older adults in Baltimore City. Distribution sites are designated senior centers located throughout Baltimore City. The CARE call center will identify nearest centers for fan pick-up.

FANS WILL ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED DURING CODE RED ALERTS.

- Recipient must be a senior or caregiver living in Baltimore City
- Seniors and caregivers must register by calling CARE's call center at 410-396-2273
- Recipient may identify the senior center nearest to their residence through the call center
- Delivery of fans to homebound individuals will be made on a case by case basis



Attention Readers!!

The Hatton Book Club's next selection is Anna Shreve's *Sea Glass*, a story about life on the New Hampshire coast at the beginning of the Great Depression. If you'd like to join us, the next gathering is set for Wednesday August 6th at noon.



Bus Trip

There are only a few seats left on Hatton's upcoming bus to Fisherman's Deck on Wednesday, August 20th. Please call 410-396-9025 if you would like to reserve a seat.

Joseph Center Happenings 430 S. Broadway 410-732-5000

Got Balance?

- Free Balance Evaluation!
- Change your life!
- Improve Your Balance and Lower Body Strength!

■ The next Fall Prevention class starts Aug. 13, 2003 at the Joseph Center

This 10-week program, designed by Boston University, will teach you ways to reduce falls and will give you specific exercises to be used in the prevention of falls. Classes are held each Wednesday from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. In addition, you must also attend a Balance Exercise class on Monday or Friday. Free transportation is provided within the Canton, Highlandtown and Fells Point areas. Call Laura Szita at 410-732-5000 to reserve your place in class!



Walkers Welcome Every Step Counts !!

The Joseph Center is off and running - with eight teams totaling 52 participants plus staff. The Center abounds with posters from different teams taunting each other.

Those who are not currently on teams will have the opportunity to join the program in August when we begin a new cycle. If you are interested, call the Center to put your name on the list. If you would like to get a step counter now, the start-up packs are available to members for \$12.50. We are now selling the start-up packs to non-members for \$ 15.00.

For the Garden of Your Daily Living

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

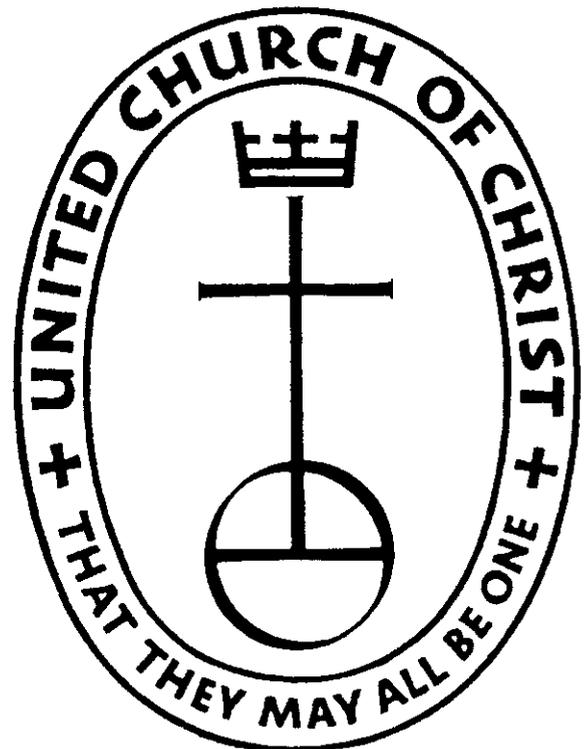
TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE. THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

United Evangelical Church

<u>Church Office</u>	410-276-0393
<u>Hours</u>	Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Catherine J. Oatman cjoatman@msn.com home: 410-276-2200 cell phone: 410-428-1482
<u>Secretary</u>	Peggy Tlasek
<u>Custodian</u>	Art Jones
<u>Director of Music</u>	Robert Gunlach robert.gunlach@verizon.net
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Barbara Matthew cartbar@earthlink.net



Special Announcements

Our Church's Anniversary



Got a Favorite Hymn?

Then let us know.

Fill out the form below and drop it off at church. The September 21st worship service will include hymns that you have selected as your favorites.

MY FAVORITE HYMNS

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

YOUTH GROUP

Attention
All Youth !

Mark Your Calendars
for September 28th at
1:00 p.m. for a trip to

Brad's Produce in Churchville, MD where we will explore their CORN MAZE. We will have fun and give some thought to how we as Christians struggle through life's maze.

More information will follow but in the meantime you can check it out at
bradsproduce@cornmaze.com

Rehoboth/Lewis, Delaware

Do you know anyone who has relocated to the Rehoboth/Lewis, Delaware area who is looking for a UCC church? A newly formed UCC congregation meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evening of each month and is looking for new members. Consider visiting them during your next trip to the beach. For more information, please call Barba Merriweather, 302-226-8008 or Rev. Jim Bell, 1-800-441-1965.

Advice from a Loving Pastor

A young woman was troubled about all the problems in the world, and by other problems involving family members and friends. She wondered what she could do to help solve as many of the problems as possible. She asked her pastor for advice. He wrote her an insightful letter, a small portion of which follows:

"Life is difficult. It is sometimes like a mindless boot camp. We seem to be rehearsing for something that is beyond our present knowing. We come from a beginning that we cannot remember, and we move toward a destiny that we cannot see. Only imagination, faith and a friend here or there give us the strength to go on."

"When Jesus said that we would always have trouble in this world, he added an encouraging word that we should never forget: 'Take courage, I have overcome the world.'

"I cannot fix you. You cannot fix you. Do not put your ultimate faith in me, or in yourself, or in any human being. Trust the Lord of the Harvest. He will fix you when he comes."

- Excerpted from a letter by Dr. Thomas Lane Butts

Special Announcements



Our UEC congregation received the following letters in response to our recent gifts.

From Homewood Foundation, Inc.

Dear Congregation:

On behalf of the Trustees and our residents, I wish to express our sincere and deep appreciation for your gift of \$200.00 to the Benevolent Endowment Fund of the Homewood Foundation, which we have received through the Central Atlantic Conference.

"The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion." - Thomas Paine (1737-1809)

The support from your church is important to us as we continue to work hard for our residents. Your generosity is appreciated.

Sincerely,
John W. Warren, Sr.
Vice President of Funds Development

From Hoffman Homes, Inc.

Dear Friends:

Pope John Paul II has said "An act of merciful love is only really such when we are deeply convinced at the moment that we perform it that we are at the same time receiving mercy from the people who are accepting from us." We thank you for your act of merciful love towards the children of Hoffman Homes. It is more than a simple act of charity. I pray that you will be blessed, as you have been a blessing.

We acknowledge your gift of \$200.00 dated 6/30/03, and received recently through Central Atlantic Conference. It has helped us to improve the facilities and program so that we can keep pace with the needs of serving abused, neglected, and ill children. The therapeutic horsemanship program is growing by leaps and bounds, and is helping the children make significant strides in their treatment. The kids are involved in barn management, care and grooming of the horses, and riding instruction. The program improves self-esteem while teaching discipline and patience.

The campus has never looked better, because of the love showed by friends like you. You are always welcome to visit, and please remember that we provide speakers for your church or civic group. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and compassion.

Sincerely,
Rev Kim Blocher
Director of Special Ministries

130th UEC Anniversary Celebrations

130th UEC Anniversary Picnic

Sunday, September 14th
Fort Howard Park
12:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Food: Catered by Jerry D's - 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Menu Hamburgers, Hot Dogs with all the fixings
Potato Salad and Cole Slaw
Soda, Lemonade, Chips and Watermelon

Tickets: \$ 5.00 per person
Children 5 and under free
May be purchased from the church office
from Sunday July 13th thru Sunday, August 31st



Recreation: Games 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Nature Walk 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.



Transportation: Car pools are being organized to provide rides for all.
Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Please sign one of the sheets in the Narthex:

- If you can provide transportation to the picnic, please sign the CAR POOL sheet, and list how many people you can transport.
 - If you need a ride, please sign the NEED-A-RIDE sheet, and list how many in your party
- Car pool drivers may pick up directions in the Narthex on the day of the picnic

Desserts are needed - so please bring cakes, cookies, etc. for our dessert table.

NO ALCOHOL!

Please note: There will be only 1 worship service at 10:30 am. on September 14th. Come to church dressed in your picnic outfits!!

In the event of rain, the picnic will be celebrated in Friendship Hall

For more info, please call Darlene Waters, 410-675-3932 or Cass Young, 410-276-2388

130th UEC Anniversary Celebrations

UEC Anniversary Dinner Dance

Sunday, September 21, 2003

North Point Gardens

1:00 - 6:00 p.m.



Menu: Hors d'oeuvres - Cheese Tray
 Sit down dinner:
 Tossed Salad
 Roast Prime Beef
 Stuffed Boned Breast of Hen
 Green Beans and Carrots
 Mashed Potatoes
 Sheet Cake

Drinks: Tea, Coffee, Open Bar
 (Bar will be closed during dinner hour)

Tickets: \$30.00 per person 12 years of age and over

Entertainment: Music by the Impacts

Tickets will be on sale until Sunday, September 7th.

Check or money orders only!!
No Cash!!

Make checks payable to UEC and mail to either:

Cass Young
620 S. Dean St.
Baltimore, MD 21224
phone: (410) 276-2388

or

Darlene Waters
3709 Hudson St.
Baltimore, MD 21224
phone: (410) 675-3932



Please note: There will be one worship service on September 21st. Worship will be held at 10:30 only.

Guests are asked not to enter the hall until 12:45 p.m.



Kids Only!!

Coloring Corner

Our Church's Anniversary



P.A.C.T.



P.A.C.T. begins again on 9/15/03. There are openings available in the program for children ages 2 and 3.

