



Graduations and Farewells ...

- All who seek and serve the love of God are ministers of Union Church
- Rev. Kent Gilbert, Pastor
- Mark Pettis, Intern Associate Pastor
- Jean Boyce, Moderator
- Joan English, Church Secretary
- Carla Gilbert, CE Director
- Jennifer Durham, Youth Director
- Loretta Mountjoy, Woman's Industrial Director
- Jennifer Shelton, Childcare
- Erik Reinhart, Custodian

Sunday Mornings
Christian Ed., 9:30 am
Worship, 10:30 am

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From the Intern Associate Pastor



What I have learned from those I serve...

As you know, my final Sunday with you will be May 17th. I want to begin by expressing my deep thanks for the opportunity

to be a part of this amazing community of faith for the past nine months. During my time at Union Church, I have been honored to be a part of your lives and have been blessed to have you as a part of my life and seminary experience.

When I embarked upon my seminary education, I had no intention of serving a congregation as a pastor/minister. As I am sure I have mentioned, I

grew up a PK (preachers' kid), and congregational ministry was simply not on my radar. However, having followed a call to seminary and ministry, and having experienced Union Church as a wayside member for a year, I realized the short-sightedness of my resistance to parish ministry. I could think of,

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From the Youth Group Director

One of the greatest perks of being the Youth Director over the last year and a half has been the opportunity to work with the 6 oldest members of our Youth Group. These fine young adults, Danielle Spencer, Ben Livingston, Miles Pulsford, Neil Mecham, Riley Ambrose, and Silas Montgomery, have brought laughter, challenge and insight to our group that will be missed as they leave us and go on to colleges and universities across the nation. I am so proud of what they do, but mostly...I'm proud of how they think. I can't wait to see what they do with their lives; I know they're going to change the world.

Looking back over that last year and a half as I've come to know them, I'd like to share some of my favorite memories of each of them!

Danielle Spencer—Danielle was, for a long time, the lone girl in a large group of rambunctious boys—a position I think she relished! Kent, Melissa and I can always count on Danielle to steer our group con-

versations away from peace, love and Jesus to more controversial topics we'd sometimes rather not talk about in youth group!

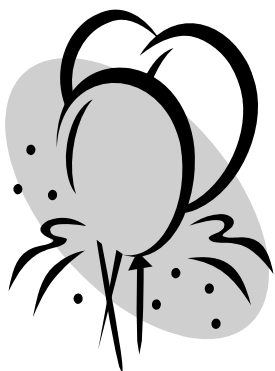
Ben Livingston—Ben is that quiet, reserved kid that you have to keep your eye on at all times! I'm especially impressed with his duct taping abilities! After receiving much razzing about bringing two large rolls of duct tape with him to Costa Rica, he saved the day by taping Janet's suitcase together. Most remarkable, however, was the sheath he created out of duct tape to cover the 28 inch machete the boys bought in Puerta Jiminez (oh my word...!)

Miles Pulsford—Kent and I were sure we would never make it to the Osa Peninsula with Miles! A 10 hour bus ride turned into 12 after all the stops we had to make along the Pan American Highway for Miles. We quickly learned to limit his liquid intake during the bus rides and we made it back in record time! Miles was always the youth

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May Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

5	Steve Rhodes	23	Rachel Lakes
6	Ann Butwell	24	Todd Bolster
7	Annriette Stolte	25	Al White
8	Christian Neal	26	Mary Lou Pross
11	Linda Parsons	26	Camryn Shaffer
12	Neil Mecham	26	Carter Brownrobie
13	Demetrius Semien	27	Aaron Shaffer
14	Debbie Brown	28	Elizabeth Orwig
15	Betty Hibler	28	Lisa Abbott
16	Caroline Gooden	28	Hazel Morris
16	Doug Hindman	29	Yvonda Center
19	Miles Maxson	30	David Vaughn
20	Courtney Dillon	30	Jim Orwig
20	Hanna Spencer	31	Sean Perry
21	Steve Gowler		
21	Mike Panciera		
22	Ann Rhodes		

Anniversaries

12	Sean Perry & Laura Wick
18	Marvin & Nora Ruth Jenkins
18	Sarah & David Vaughn
19	John Butwell & Connie Esh
22	Patti & Paul Smithson
23	Bob & Leslie Berger
24	Mike & Anne Panciera
28	Pat & Jim Barrett
31	John & Dorothy Chrisman



If we don't know your birthday or anniversary, we want to! Or if we've made a mistake please call or email the office.

News of the Family...



Union Church is a place where your faith can grow and deepen. We are actively looking for those who would like to explore discipleship with Jesus in this congregation.

"Union Church welcomes all followers of Christ and works with all who work with Him; respecting each person's conscience; working by love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

Jane Sexton has moved to Sayre Christian Village Nursing Home, 3840 Camelot Dr., Lexington, KY 40517.

Mark Pettis, our Intern Associate Pastor, will graduate from Lexington Theological Seminary, with his Master of Divinity degree, on Friday, March 15, at 10:00 am. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to car pool, meet at church at

8:15. The caravan will leave **promptly** at 8:30.

Our prayers surround the Browner and Pulsford family in the sudden death of Stephanie Browner's mother, **Isabella Harty-Hughes**, in Miami.

Lois Morgan is in our prayers in the death of her brother in Louisville.

Congratulations to **Amanda Ginn**, who will graduate from Berea College on May 24th.

Megan Purcell is the College of Education recipient of the Golden Apple award, a student-generated award for excellence and dedication to teaching and overall student success at ECU.

Ben Neal will attend The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science at Western Kentucky University for his final two years of

high school. This is a residential program for bright, highly motivated Kentucky high school students who have demonstrated interest in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Congratulations!

Deborah Payne returns from 26 months of Peace Corps Service in Uganda at the end of the month!

Bob Berger has had his third knee replacement and is recuperating at home.

John Courter had cancer surgery for a tumor in his throat. Surgery went well and he is taking radiation treatments as follow up.

Jennifer Durham announced her intention to return to the classroom and will be moving to New Orleans mid summer. ☺

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Dear Church family,

This month we sadly say farewell to our Intern Associate Minister, Mark Pettis. After 3 long years of seminary at Lexington Theological Seminary and 9 months of internship at Union Church, Mark will graduate on May 15th and preach his concluding sermon here on May 17th. Mark brought a wealth of skills with him, and he leaves with some new ones he found here. For our part, without a doubt the church has grown and benefited from his theological reflection, his humor, and his passion for justice in our ministry. As a colleague, Mark has been tireless in assisting with every aspect of serving and leading this diverse community of faith. He will make a fine full-time pastor and Union Church can be justly proud to say "we knew him when..."

Our experience with interns may remind you as it does me, that there is more than simple "duty"

or "personal satisfaction" in playing the role of mentor or teacher. It is very important that our church help prepare succeeding generations of servant leaders. Because we don't participate in denominational support systems, we don't support new pastors through traditional means like scholarships, or systems of ordination review, etc. It is a joyful duty to contribute to the education of new pastors. And it is very satisfying to hear the growth of thought and confidence, to see new skills emerge as a result of working in our church.

But more than both of these is the gift that every intern has brought TO us: to enable us to see ourselves through new eyes that are can ask the questions "why do you do that?" and "why haven't you thought of..." To understand and incorporate additional energy, perspective, and preferences that might have missed is critical to remaining vital.

We have been so blessed to have had two exceptional eyes who have seen us with their hearts and have offered their gifts so

powerfully. Mark's insight and abilities have taught me and inspired me as Chrissy Cataldo's did in her time. In different ways, waves of refreshment wash over us by our open reception. And isn't that exactly what Jesus meant by wanting us to see with the eyes of love? Isn't that what we hope to teach Confirmands and new members and even previous members every Sunday?

We are a teaching congregation, to be sure. But more importantly I pray we will always be a **learning** congregation, constantly open to God's service in new persons and new ways. As the Easter Season blossoms around us into Pentecost, and as we consider the vision for our community in mission statements and new goals, I will be so grateful for the eyes and heart of those who have come to minister among us. They are telling us, O Union Church what is good: To love kindness, to do justice, and to walk humbly with our God.

In peace and grace,

Rev. Kent

Feeling our way through the Bible

by Debbonnaire Kovacs

I had an idea a couple of years ago - wouldn't it be interesting and enriching to take a Bible that is arranged chronologically, such as my Narrated Bible in Chronological Order, and "act out" all the stories as you came to them? "Such a project would probably take about five years," I laughed at the time. But it's stayed in my mind, and even grown. What if, instead of just acting out the stories, you responded to them in other creative ways as well - through music and song, through art, through sacred dance? What kind of soul-deep insights might you uncover? In other words, what if you felt your way through the Bible, instead of thinking your way through, the way we normally do?

I'm an intellectual. I love to think. I love to talk, too. (Shocker, isn't it?) But faith is more than thinking. The Greek words rendered "believe" in English actually include "believe in, adhere to, trust in, and rely on," most of which are much more deeply based in our hearts and souls than in our intellects. As for Hebrew, we all know what that word we translate as "to know" really means. It's all about experience at the deepest levels of our beings.

A few weeks ago, a small group of people began meeting at my place to attempt to experience both God and His Word in this deeper way, through sacred arts as well as talking and thinking. We're going to let the Spirit lead, and let the project take as long as it takes. I fully expect us to take

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The Acoustic Eidolon Concert netted \$527.50 as a fundraiser for the church, and the performers were delighted by their reception at the church. They send their love and many thanks for a wonderful concert.

A Conversation with ... Bob Berger

It is said that everyone has a niche in this world, it just needs to be found. After living for forty-one years in the Tampa, Florida, area and enjoying a successful career as a commercial insurance underwriter, Bob Berger feels he has found his niche in Berea and at Union Church.

Born in Chicago, Bob was raised by his mother and grandparents in Baltimore. He has fond remembrances of traveling on the train alone, from age 7, each summer to visit his father in Chicago. These trips were probably the basis of his ongoing love of trains.

As a cradle Episcopalian, Bob welcomed his stepfather, who was

an Episcopal priest. The family moved to Erwin, NC, at the beginning of his senior year in high school. Bob had no trouble making friends, especially girls, as he has long been an excellent dancer! After graduation he joined the Marine Corps, spending most of his service in Panama. Deciding against a Marine Corps career, he enrolled at the University of Richmond, in Richmond, VA. Graduating in 1963 with a major in Political Science and a minor in History. During his college years, Bob was an apprentice gunsmith. He developed a vast knowledge of guns and has been a collector for a number of years. Also a Biblical scholar, Bob has a very large library of Bibles and commentaries. Any written material that Bob does is easily recognizable for his beautiful handwriting, which he attributes to his fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Johnson. Bob has also been a calligrapher and illustrator.

Travelling often in Europe and the Caribbean, Bob developed an ear for languages as well as the exposure to and love of fine art. In 2002, his wife, Leslie, and a

neighbor convinced Bob to take a watercolor class at the Pasco Arts Council. He had never done watercolor and this opened a new career and artistic outlet for him. It also led to moving to Berea in 2006.

Bob feels very fortunate in being able to develop his artistic ability and to share it with members of the watercolor class he teaches on Monday evenings.

Having a strong religious foundation, he enjoys teaching Bible classes and delving into the deeper aspects of Biblical writings. On one trip to the Dominican Republic with church members, to build a church and school he was pressed into service giving a sermon .. in Spanish!

Bob and Leslie married in 1998 and have a combined family of five adult children and four grandsons ranging in age from five to twenty-four!

His niche found, Bob continues to enjoy and feel blessed with his Union Church family and Berea neighbors.

by Leslie Berger

(Continued from page 3)
Feeling Our Way ...

years getting through the entire Bible, spending more time on some stories which especially speak to those in the group, less on others. I also expect that we will grow astoundingly in our understanding of the Word and work of the Spirit of the Lord in our lives and in our world.

So far, ages range from 2 to 72, and familiarity with the Bible is quite varied, as well. Adults and children can meet together, because what we do speaks to the inner self, which as far as we can see, never does really grow up! We want to meet outside whenever weather permits, and so far, that's been every week. Note: We meet in the

woods, so only those who can manage rough terrain will be comfortable.

The meetings are 6/10 mile down Prospect from Union Church, at 773 Big Hill Rd - the red house on the right, in the curve. When you see the labyrinth on your right, slow down for the turn into the next driveway. We meet at the house a little before 11 am, and we bring our own sack lunches unless we plan in advance for a potluck brunch. We're generally through somewhere around 1 or 1:30, but people may come and go as necessary. Some stay later, too.

*We appreciate prayers and encouragement! Debbonnaire –
- debbonnaire@debbonnaire.com*

*(Continued from page 1
from Mark Pettis*

no better place than Union Church to learn and serve in my first exposure to such ministry. Witnessing the work of this church, and the life you share as a community of faith has helped me understand more deeply my own call to ministry. I can not begin to explain how great a gift you have given to me in this contribution to my own discernment.

As I finish my time with you, I want to commend the incredible commitment you exhibit, as followers of Christ, to living out the call to love God and neighbor. Your commitment to and love of

God is evident in the worship life of the community, as well as in the manner in which themes of worship are lived out in your daily lives. Your commitment to loving all people is evident through your tireless work for justice, and in the sincere welcome you offer to each person touched by this church. I know that in Union Church I have witnessed a true embodiment of what it means to be “church.”

A few months back, I mentioned in a sermon that I had heard Union Church described as “that weird church.” Having been a part of this community for the past two years, I can only assume that a “weird church” is one that

welcomes without hesitation, works tirelessly for justice, and expresses boundless love for others. To me, this is what we are called to be and do in this world. I encourage each of you to embrace such weirdness, and be proud of the distinctiveness it represents. And once again, I want to thank each of you for allowing me to be a part of Union Church.

Shalom and God Bless...Mark

(Note: Mark will graduate from Lexington Theological Seminary on Friday, May 15th. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. and all who wish to attend are welcome. For more specifics, see p. 2)

Mark Pettis

*(Continued from page 1)
from Jennifer Durham*

trying to make compromises with me, “Okay Jennifer, we’ll help serve at that potluck if we can have a lock-in after...” I’ll miss Miles giving me a hard time!

Neil Mecham—What a young man of SO many talents! It seems like every time I turn around Neil is doing something new! Tennis, singing, dancing, and playing the piano...the list goes on and on. I am most grateful for Neil’s loving spirit. I’ve personally seen Neil anguish over others’ hurts and step between two conflicting people to make peace. Neil always brings joy to the groups he is in and I appreciate him so very much.

Riley Ambrose—As long as you keep Riley fed...things are good! One of the funniest things I’ll remember about Riley is from the long bus ride in Costa Rica. I had a secret stash of cookies in my backpack that I was quietly sharing with Brooke. I stealthily

handed her a cookie and in between the seats of Brooke and out comes Riley’s hand as fast as lightning and steals that cookie. Riley never has too much to say, but you can bet that when he does—it will be hilarious!

Silas Montgomery—Each night in Costa Rica before we would go to bed we would meet together and share our thoughts, feelings, joys and frustrations from the day. Silas—when we could get him to stop writing in his journal!—would always be the first to share his insights. The one I’ll remember the most was, “I can’t believe we’re here, doing the work we’re doing! It seems surreal that this morning I woke up in Kentucky and tonight I’ll go to sleep in Costa Rica. What a small world.”

Please join us in the Community Room after church on Sunday May 31st to celebrate these young people as they move forward in their journey.

From Carla Gilbert, Director of Christian Education

Living and Learning

Dear Ones,

We've entered the time of Easter in the church calendar and many of the post resurrection stories are told "that we may believe". This piece came to me and others via Peggy Pollard, and in this season of the awe and wonder of Easter, it is a priceless reflection by Danny Dutton, an 8 year old who lives in Chula Vista, CA who wrote his third grade assignment to "explain God Enjoy!

EXPLANATION OF GOD by Danny Dutton

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to talk up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off. God sees and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church".

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and

kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K. His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God! Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around when you're scared, in the dark, or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But you should just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And....that's why I believe in God.

I think he's covered most of the important things: God's power and Jesus' work, prayer, forgiveness, community, and trust. What else would you add to the list? I wonder what our kids would write. Why not ask them?

Peace and Blessings

Carla

Christian Education News

We welcome Hazel Morris back from her CE "sabbatical" and welcome new CE Board Members, Mia Shaffer and Jessica Spencer. There is still one position open, and **we need you!** As you are aware, Rev. Carla is retiring as Director of Christian Education June 15 and Jennifer Durham as Youth Director is moving to New Orleans in July, so there is ample opportunity to continue to support the educational ministry of Union Church by your presence, your service and your advocacy. If you or if you know of someones who are interested in filling the Board positions, the DCE and/or the Youth Director, please be in touch with Megan Purcell and Hazel Morris who are co-chairs of the CE Board. Please check Union Church Web page for DCE Job Description and further information.

May Schedule as follows:

Sunday School

There will be **no Sunday School on Graduation Sunday, May 24th**, but we will conclude on Pentecost Sunday with an open house to show our studies and projects. In addition, there will be a reception for our **Confirmation Class** so be sure to come by Room 101 and 104 to visit during that time.

Children's Church

The last day of Children's Church will be Sunday, May 10th, as the following Sunday the kids will be part of Mark's last Sunday with us, the following Sunday is Graduation Sunday and church is at 9:30 am followed by services at Berea College for all who wish to attend.

Child Care will be continue to be available for children 5 and under for worship times except May 24th. Clipboards will be provided for all those over 5 so they may stay in the worship service and our

"littlest ones" will receive the attentive care they and their parents can be assured of. We are also in need of "back up" child care workers for the very busiest times. Please give names/info to the church office who will forward them to the CE Board.

Wednesday Night Live will continue through May 27.

Vacation Bible School will be different this year. Because we are in a transition time, it has been decided by the CE Board that we will not be able to commit to providing leadership for the ecumenical VBS normally held the first week in July and shared by St. Clare and White's Memorial. It has also been decided that Union Church will provide an intergenerational VBS opportunity, model and date yet to be determined. And which, of course will be open to the community. In the meantime, you may wish to check out VBS weeks by the United Methodist, Christian Church and St. Clare's.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Our Acoustic Eidolon Concert was wonderful. Thank you to Hazel Morris, Joyce Henderson, and Kevin Burke who helped with tickets at the door....to Joe and William Spencer who donated their sound expertise, and to the many who bought tickets for themselves and their friends to help make this fundraiser a success.. As well as Berea folks, we had folks from Somerset, Danville, Richmond, and Lexington. In total about 90 folks came. Our net to the church after expenses was \$527. They are great-- I told you so! It was especially rewarding for me to introduce Hannah and Joe whom I love to the folks here in Berea whom I also love. They loved Berea as well, and I think we can look forward to seeing them again as calendar will allow, In the meantime, visit their web page: www.AcousticEidolon.com ...

Thanks again,

Carla Gilbert

Union Church is seeking an enthusiastic Progressive Christian to be our next Director of Christian Education. Please see the church website or contact Megan Purcell for more information regarding the position expectations and job description.

Here is an update in response to several questions about our advertising with WEKU and how our contributions to the church for that purpose can keep us in good standing as "members" of WEKU.

Joy Frazer has received a letter from WEKU explaining the difference between contributions for **membership** (tax deductible) and our advertising which is considered **underwriting** (not tax deductible). WEKU representative wrote:



The church does not send us your check, so it would be impossible for us to track and credit these gifts properly. Rather, the church writes us one check from all the gifts received. This helps us to credit the underwriting and also keeps your gift tax deductible. One suggestion is that the underwriting donation be an additional gift above and beyond their membership gift. If that is not feasible, you can always split the amount between the two interests, sending a portion to WEKU for membership and giving a portion to the church as an underwriting donation.

Board Vacancies -- There remain several openings on the Board of Deacons and Board of Christian Education. While these are three year positions, we would welcome members willing to serve one year if that makes the commitment easier for you. Please contact Bob Boyce or Lois Morgan on the Nominating Committee, or contact the Board Chairs directly: Teresa Gowler for Deacons and Hazel Morris or Megan Purcell for Christian Education.

From the Trustees

The Board of Trustees welcomed three new members at their April meeting. Joining in our endeavors are Joe Spencer, Steve Boyce and John Payne. We would also like to thank Merlin Kindel for his donation of a 16-gallon ShopVac, for which we will find many uses.

Several repair needs of the church were addressed, including the ramp door, chapel roof and repair of the soffits on the main church building. Plans were made for the correction of these problems.

A review of the usage policy for the church, other than weddings, will be done in the near future.

On the calendar for July will be a mother-daughter (or granddaughter) tea sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. Please watch for more information. Our monthly work project, to maintain our church building and grounds, remains scheduled for the fourth Saturday of the month. Please join in fun, work, and fellowship in maintaining our building and grounds.

A final reminder: May 4 is gas turn-off day, as usage is decreased in summer months and this will afford a financial savings for the church.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Union Church has a covenant relationship with Bread for the World, a Christian political lobbying organization that works to end world hunger and poverty through progressive political initiatives. As part of our covenant, each year we participate in an "Offering of Letters", when we gather to write our elected representatives to

urge favorable legislative action aimed at ending hunger. This year's focus will be on modernizing and updating US foreign assistance legislation, which dates from 1961 and has become cumbersome, duplicative, wasteful and incredibly complex. Join us after church on the 3rd of May where we will share light refreshments and fellowship while we write our Congressional representatives. The Mission Board will provide all needed materials.

Union Church Bazaar Planned for October 10!

The Bazaar, a longstanding fund raiser at Union Church, will see some changes this year as a result of decisions made by recent Bazaar planners and the Mission Board. One such change is that the Bazaar will move from early May to October 10. So mark you calendars!

However, much about the Bazaar will not change – the basic structure, the purpose, and, hopefully, the spirit of the effort. Here's some background for the benefit of new and/or forgetful people.

What is the Bazaar?

The Bazaar is actually not easy to describe. It's like a giant yard sale with raffles, auctions, entertainment (games for children, musicians, dancers . . .), food (baked goods, grilled hamburgers and hotdogs . . .) all made to work by much generosity, advanced planning by a core group, and what's been described as a virtual beehive of volunteers on Bazaar day.

In its 2004 review of the Bazaar, the Mission Board affirmed two principal benefits in recommending that the Bazaar – despite the hard work required by many – be continued. One such benefit was social for the extent to which the Bazaar provides “an occasion when many Union Church people work together in ways that foster friendships and a sense of accomplishment.” The other benefit cited was financial.

Who benefits? By how much?

All of the proceeds from Bazaar sales go to support Union Church

mission giving, the various projects and organizations that are part of our mission outreach program administered through the Mission Board. Many wonderful organizations - from Habitat For Humanity to BUURR and the Berea Food Bank, to Bread for the World, Witness for Peace, and Heifer Project International – all benefit from funds raised by the Bazaar. In recent years Bazaar proceeds have typically totaled around \$6,000 representing about 30% of the total funds available for mission outreach gifts.

Where do we get items sold at the Bazaar? What do we want?

We get them from you! Many people donate items throughout the year, some small and some large in both size and value. Some have donated their own creative works including paintings, quilts, photography, wood and metal works, baskets, temari thread balls, hand smocked dresses, hand made greeting cards – arts and crafts in many media created and donated by congregational members and community friends of the church.

Others donate items from their own collections of “special things” or items no longer needed at home (furniture, antiques, new and old tools, toys, lamps, wheel chairs, walkers, cameras, good linens and bedding, special books, prints, paintings, glassware sets, collectibles . . .). The possibilities are endless. Almost anything that is beautiful, interesting and/or functional is welcome.

What are changes in the Bazaar are planned?

- Two additional changes are planned for this year's Bazaar. One is to make greater use of auctions, silent and otherwise,

both before and during Bazaar day.

- The second is to work toward making the Bazaar less of a rummage sale by encouraging higher quality items and lowering the quantity. As part of the second change, we want to discourage some electronic items, such as old telephones and various pieces of abandoned computer equipment (mice, keyboards, monitors, cables. . .) Experience shows that old electronic equipment of this sort rarely sells, is hard to price, and takes up considerable storage space. Electronic equipment, except for telephones, is welcome if it works as is (i.e., no need for repair or for integration into a larger system). Such items, for example, as clock radios, television sets, laptop computers are encouraged.

What can I do?

We are beginning now to accumulate the items that will be sold at this year's Bazaar. This is a good time to plan to make something – either on your own or by pulling a work group together for that purpose – or to leave donated items in Room 204 along with any information of special interest that may help us know how to price them.

Many volunteers will be needed both before and on the October 10th Bazaar day. If you have a traditional role, please plan to come out and help again this year. If you have not been involved before but would like to join the effort, or if you have questions or suggestions, please call either of this year's Bazaar co-chairs, Dottie Blackburn and Steve Boyce.

Bible Reading for May**May 3, 2009**

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18**May 10, 2009**

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8**May 17, 2009**

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17**May 24, 2009****Acts 11:15-17, 21-26**

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

May 31, 2009**Acts 2:1-21**

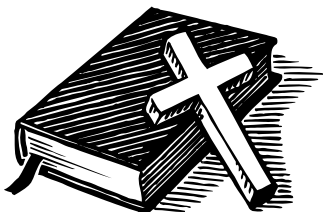
or Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

Romans 8: 22-27

or Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**Deacons' April Meeting**

With twelve members in attendance the Deacons met on the 14th and discussed activities of the three task forces: Worship, Membership and Nurture/Care.

Our thoughts were with John Courter as he went into surgery; we will have asked the Treasurer to send the Board an itemized accounting of budget expenditures; four members will be respon-

sible for the pot luck on Sunday evening the 26th where Joe Spencer will be in charge of the program (a panel discussion).

We also had a lengthy discussion concerning the possibility of splitting a group of six from the Board of Deacons or possibly supporting a constitutional amendment to create a new fifth church board (Parish Life) whose responsibilities would be:

pot lucks, bereavement, summer lemonade-on-the-porch, the kitchen and Wednesday Nite Live food, set up and clean up ---among other possible responsibilities. Discussion will continue.

We also received a duty-Sunday responsibilities roster which was explained.

Notes & Notices

Thank you to all who helped make the Lenten and Easter season so special at Union Church.. Many people, both visible and behind the scenes, gave of their time and talents by cooking meals, washing dishes, cleaning and decorating the church;, ironing banners, washing table cloths and dish towels, serving as lay leaders, washing feet, arranging flowers, providing music and liturgical dance, decorating the altar, taking care of the sound board and video, and welcoming our many visitors. I'm sure I have forgotten something here, but you get the idea. It takes a lot of work and a lot of dedicated people to be the church and Union Church has those people. Also, thanks to our staff, Kent, Mark, Joan, Jennifer, John, Eric, Carla and Gina, for all their extra work.

The Worship Team

Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who took altar cloths home to hem them. The response was incredible! We have a lot of nice cloths, and having them ready to use

makes it easier for those who decorate our altars so beautifully.

Help Needed

On Fri., May 22, John Courter will be hosting the Lexington Chapter of the American Guild of Organists annual meeting, and he has asked us to provide a meal for them that evening. There will be 25-30 people and they will pay a fixed amount, probably \$15 per person. The proceeds, after the costs for ingredients are deducted, will go into the general fund. This is a good opportunity to earn a little money for the church, while at the same time doing something for the person who provides us with such wonderful music.

John has requested a menu of lasagna (both meat and vegetarian), salad, garlic bread and sin cake. We will need volunteers to help with the shopping, cooking, decorating the tables, serving, and clean up. If you are willing to help in any of these areas, please contact Dorie Hubbard at 986-0839.

The Church of Christ, Union

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Joan English, our church secretary, is going to visit her parents May 14—20. Is anyone able to answer the phones & staff the office for a full —r half day? Please call the office at 986-3725.

Taize is an ecumenical service and all are welcome.

We invite musicians to participate by bringing instruments to a short rehearsal at 5:30 just before the service at 6 p.m. which usually lasts about 45 minutes. Music will be provided.

You're invited to join us for a meditative service of prayer, silence and music at Cowan Chapel on May 3.

Sunday, May 3, 6 p.m. Cowan Chapel



Taize Service