

Sixtieth Anniversary

German United
Evang. Church
Baltimore, Maryland



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Dedication

To Those of Yesterday

the fathers and mothers of the faith who
organized or preserved for us our beloved
United Church

To Those of the Present

who are carrying on the duties and perpetu-
ating the influence of the work of those who
have preserved us in faith

And to Those of the Future

our children, and the strangers that shall come
into our gates and merge their interests with
those of others, and thus become living links
in the chain that binds our hearts in Christian
love

These Pages are

Affectionately Dedicated

to the first in loving
memory;

to the second in grateful
recognition;

and to the last in hopeful
expectation of what shall
be done to the glory of
God by members and
friends of United Church



Jubiläums-Gruß

„Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren,
Lob' ihn, o Seele, vereint mit den himmlischen Chören,
Kommet zu Haus, Psalter und Harfe macht auf,
Lasset den Lobgesang hören!“

„Lobe den Herrn, meine Seele, und vergiß nicht, was er dir Gutes getan hat.“ Psalm 103, 2.

Zum Loben und Danken wollen wir uns, geliebte Glieder und Freunde der Deutschen Vereinigten Gemeinde, auffordern lassen. Der Herr hat Großes an uns getan, des sind wir fröhlich. In seiner großen Güte und Barmherzigkeit hat Gott das Werk seiner Kinder hier gesegnet, so daß aus dem kleinen Bäumlein, das vor sechzig Jahren hierher verpflanzt wurde, nun ein starker Baum geworden ist. Es ist unmöglich, alle die Segnungen aufzuzählen, welche Gott durch diese Gemeinde den einzelnen Seelen zuteil werden ließ. Sein Name sei gepriesen für alles.

Ehrend wollen wir aber auch der Entschlafenen gedenken, welche in großer Liebe und Selbstverleugnung das Werk des Herrn in dieser Gemeinde betrieben haben. Wir erinnern an den seligen Pastor Dr. Andreas Schwarz, unter dessen Leitung die Gemeinde gegründet und welcher sechzehn Jahre lang als Hirte treulich diente und dann wegen Altersschwäche zurücktreten mußte. Auch erinnern wir an den seligen Pastor Wilhelm P. Baß, welcher 30 Jahre lang als Seelsorger Freund und Leid mit der Gemeinde geteilt. Er war tätig in der Gemeinde bis kurz vor seinem Tode. Sein Heiland rief ihn zu sich am 10. Juni 1926 und am 14. Juni wurde er im Loudon Park Friedhof zur Ruhe gelegt. An diese Pastoren reihen sich eine große Anzahl treuer Seelen von Männern und Frauen, deren Kinder und Enkel wir sind. Sie ruhen von ihrer Arbeit, aber ihr Werk besteht und gedeihet noch.

Der von der ganzen Gemeinde beliebten Pastor Paul M. Menzel, der unsere Gemeinde als Seelsorger bediente von 1889 bis 1896 ist in seinem Alter immer noch tätig als Sekretär der Behörde für Heiden Mission unserer Synode. Pastor und Frau Menzel werden in diesen Tagen, so Gott will, mit uns sein. Darüber freut sich ein jeder.

Mögen wir nun treu verwahren das Kleinod, das uns von Gott durch unsere Väter anvertraut. Lasset uns heute am Jubiläums- und Freudenfest unserm Gott und Seinem Werke aufs neue Treue geloben. „Darum, meine lieben Brüder, seid feste und unbeweglich und nehmet immer zu in dem Werk des Herrn, sintemal ihr wißt, daß eure Arbeit nicht vergeblich ist in dem Herrn.“ 1. Kor. 15, 58.

Mit herzlichem und festlichem Grusse, Euer Pastor,

F. W. Schaefer.



Our Church and Parish Hall

ANNIVERSARY GREETING

"For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our Fathers, that they should make them known unto their children; that the generation to come might know them, even the Children that should be born; who should arise and tell them to their Children, that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the Works of God, but keep His commandments."—*Psalm 78: 5-6-7.*

May we during these glad anniversary days give due recognition to the goodness and mercy of our Heavenly Father and make them days of Thanksgiving and Praise. God has blessed the faithful efforts of our fathers and mothers and all who in the past labored in our congregation in the interest of Christ's Kingdom. When we contemplate the small beginnings of dear United Church sixty years ago, and in fancy see our forebears watching and working and praying that the little tree, planted by the rivers of God's Grace, might grow; when we remember their faith and their willingness to sacrifice we say: "How they must have loved their church!"

Today, we the children of our fathers stand in the protecting shadow of that tree, the Church, which thrusts her branches out in stately fashion to shield us all. What a rich inheritance has fallen to us! May our love to each other and to our Saviour be the evidence of our deep appreciation of this spiritual heritage.

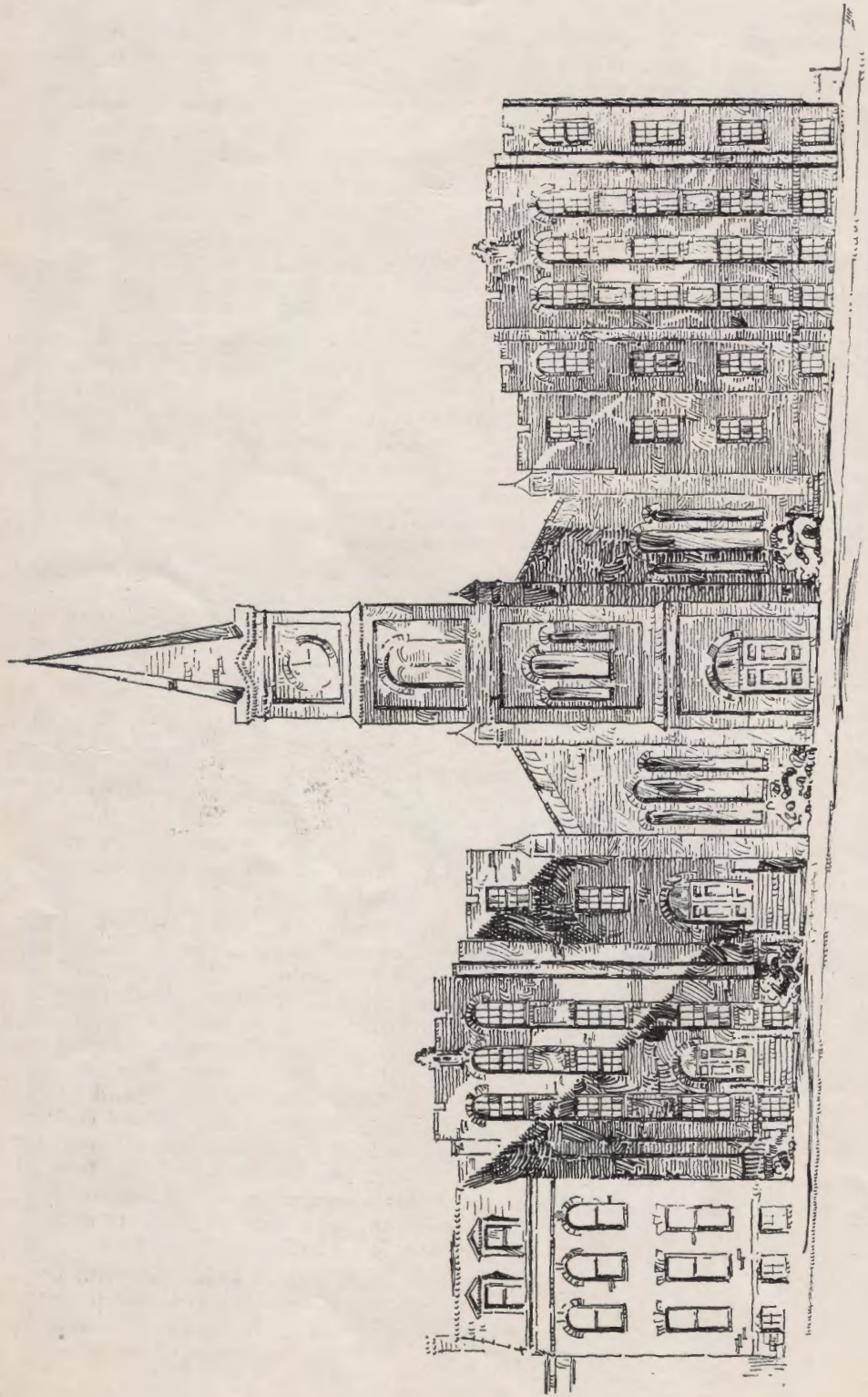
To us remains the task and privilege of continuing the good work begun sixty years ago. May we be true to our heritage, faithful to our present opportunities and hopeful for the future. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," let us sing songs of praise unto His blessed name.

As we view the future from the mountaintop of celebration incident to the Sixtieth Anniversary let us remember especially the generations coming after us. Let us work with new hope, new faith, new determination and new joy as we seek to advance Christ's glorious program in our Church, so that our children may see the testimony which we have established and "arise and tell it to their children, that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments."

F. W. SCHAEFER, *Pastor.*



The Church and School Building in 1874



U. B. RAUPE.
ARCHITECT 4-20-99

Our Proposed New Buildings

A HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH.

It is 1873. Canton, to the casual observer, seems to be a succession of swamps and small hills, a place where streets are nothing but mud and clay, a sparsely settled and thinly populated community. Although there seems to be such a dismal waste of land, the landscape is dotted here and there with farms and pastures where cows are seen grazing. Very close by are woods and fields where autumn is already beginning to paint all nature with her glorious brush.

East Avenue at Dillon Street is a steep hill of clay and dirt. There are no pavements, no orderly rows of houses. A short distance from East Avenue is another steep hill and quite nearby a large gully flows along. From Robinson Street eastward for a number of blocks scarcely a dwelling can be seen. Canton is still in its infancy.

Amid this dreary sweep of commons at East Avenue and Dillon Street a small, red brick building with a slanting roof and a square front of but a single story in height stands. A glance at this small building would show nothing of importance—just another schoolhouse perhaps. Yet this small structure is of great importance to thousands of people; its memory now a thing of sacredness and honor. For this small building is the nucleus around which our beloved United Church was born. It is the little German school of Canton which had been founded some time before by its German citizens.

It was here that for some time worship services had been held, since the nearest German church was located on Eastern Avenue near Broadway. The farmers and dairy men of Old Shell Road and vicinity had found it quite a long distance to travel to this church every Sunday, especially when the weather was bad and the roads were well nigh impassable. They, together with the business and laboring men of German extraction, had felt the need of a house of worship which would be peculiarly their own. A Rev. Steinhauer, as early as 1872, had been prevailed upon to preach regularly to them in the little school building. No congregation, however, had been organized until Rev. Andrew Schwartz, who was also a doctor of medicine, came to them in 1873 after thirteen years of service as pastor of the United German Church now First German United Evangelical Church on Eastern Avenue near Broadway.

So it was that on the fourteenth day of September, 1873, a group of men met and decided to organize a church, the name of which was to be the **German United Evangelical Church of Canton**. The first board of Trustees was elected as follows: William Zimmerman, President; John A. Schwartz, Secretary; John Ulrich, Treasurer; George Norris, Henry Guenther, Louis Kiefer, Henry Moll, H. L. Boeschee, Samuel Nitzel, Charles J. Spruth, M. F. Reinhard, R. Winkelmann, Rev. Dr. Andrew Schwartz, Pastor. So eager to begin was the little band of earnest worshippers that three days later another meeting was held and the decision was reached to build a church beside the little schoolhouse. Events moved swiftly now and on October 5 one hundred and four feet of ground were leased and a contract was awarded to E. W. Robinson for the building. Decision meant action to these busy forefathers and on October 19, 1873, the cornerstone was to be laid.

How anxious the little group was to mark this eventful day with a fitting ceremony. A platform had been built, special speakers had been secured; special music had been rehearsed; and the young lads and lassies had journeyed to the nearby woods and had returned with arms



REV. D. ANDREW SCHWARTZ
1873 — 1889



REV. PAUL A. MENZEL
1889 — 1896



REV. WILLIAM BATZ
1896 — 1926



REV. F. W. SCHAEFER
1926 —

laden with boughs and branches which now were a part of the gay festivities. The day, October 19th, at last dawned. All was in readiness and in due time the parade formed, for a parade must be held as a fitting part of this ceremony. Sturdy men upon the backs of stalwart horses formed in line; the imposing figure of Mr. Rau at the head. The signal was given and the parade began. But what of those black clouds that scurried by overhead, piling higher and higher in the sky? A storm, a heavy downpour, and a group of wet, bedraggled people hurriedly made their way to the market house at old Canton Market. What a sorry sight were the gay plumes and vari-colored flowers which decorated the very stylish hats of the young lassies and the matrons as they entered the building! A storm might drench the clothing of these sturdy folk, but it could not dampen their spirits. Thus it was that the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the German United Evangelical Church of Canton took place in the market house at Canton Market.

Immediately Rev. Schwartz saw to it that the Ladies' Aid Society or "Frauenverein" was organized. The members of this organization immediately began to collect funds for the purpose of building a house of worship. Enthusiasm was high and so many were the willing hands that on April 12, 1874, less than a year after the church was born, the dedication service of the church to the worship of God was held. Before this date a pipe organ and the present two bells had been contracted for and the little congregation was ready to begin a new life in its own building where the beloved tongue of the Fatherland was the language and where "Ein feste Burg" and the other old German hymns could be sung to their hearts' content. What of the sacrifices and hard work of these founders of our beloved church? The group was small, the task was big, but the spirit of the people was indomitable for their faith was in a Christ who "is the same yesterday, today and forever."

Rev. Schwartz seemed to have visualized that the Canton section was soon to enjoy an influx of population and industrial growth. His analysis seems to have been correct for in the Sunday edition of the Baltimore Herald dated May 2, 1897, two whole pages are given to descriptive reading matter and pictures portraying the rapid growth of the new Canton suburb. Large half inch letters flashed the news of a "Busy and Prosperous Canton where willing hands find plenty of work." Rev. Schwartz saw the coming need of a German Congregation in this southeast section of Baltimore where the industrial tide was causing such a rapid shift of the city's population. He seemed to understand that the German speaking people could not find full happiness without an opportunity to express themselves in worship in their mother tongue. He gave unreservedly of his time and wordly goods to the organization and the upbuilding of the small congregation when it was still in its infancy. A Sunday School was organized two years after the dedication of the church and on May 9, 1882, the present steeple was contracted for and was ready for dedication in September. Sometime later the clock was installed. In March, 1885, fire destroyed the old school building. The fire wagons of the city department came out and watched the little building burn. They could not cross to the east side of East Avenue for that was county property and the old building was just across the boundary line. No lives were lost and the present hall was then built.

After sixteen years of service, Rev. Schwartz retired in 1889, because of old age. Gone was the bleakness and the dismal waste that was Canton's. Orderly, clean houses with snowy steps and bright, green

shutters were seen everywhere and the smokestacks of many industries met the eye. Clinton Street in the early morning hours was a busy thoroughfare, crowded with men on their way to work carrying shining dinner pails and wearing stiff and odd brimmed hats and whose upper lips in many instances were covered with flowing mustaches and whose chins wore a covering of downy growth. Housewives with their tight-waisted and long skirted frocks were seen going busily about their work of keeping the home happy and contented. The streets, with the exception of a very few, were still in a very bad condition and complaint had been made with the commissioner at Towson, the county seat. The little old schoolhouse had become a large, two story building and a church now raised its lofty spire heavenward at its side. A congregation had in these sixteen years grown from a small flock of less than fifty families to a congregation of substantial proportion, well organized and unafraid of the future. This all gives evidence to the fact that Rev. Schwartz had expended all his energy and time faithfully. He had loved his people and was deeply loved by them.

Rev. Paul A. Menzel was then called to become the pastor of this growing congregation. Of slight build and delicate health and with a soft voice this minister nevertheless won the respect and admiration of his people and was even the stern disciplinarian to the restless and mischievous lads of the confirmation class. To how many of our members does this recall an extra session of confirmation instruction at the home of Pastor Menzel because a lesson had been neglected and had to be studied before dismissal was granted? How many still see in the mind's eye the confirmation class as it rises in a body as Rev. Menzel enters the room and greets him with "Guten Tag, Herr Pastor," and do still see him as he bows in acknowledgment? Upon request of the members of the congregation, Rev. Menzel began confirmation instruction in English in 1894, still keeping the German instruction for those who desired it. He also began the mid-week Lenten services which were held in the hall because the attendance was small. Rev. Menzel introduced a new line of thought to his congregation that of Foreign Missions. He kept in constant touch with his people and could often be seen coming home from a visit to one of his flock in the market wagon of his host. In 1896, after seven years of service he resigned to take the pastorate of Concordia Church at Washington, D. C. Old records indicate that this was a great shock to the congregation, for they had learned to love the soft voice and courtly ways of the missionary-minded pastor.

A new minister was needed. Overtures were now made for capable candidates to fill the vacancy; an ad was even inserted in a daily paper advertising for the services of a minister. The Revs. William Batz of Baltimore, Fleer of Milwaukee, A. Menzel of Chicago, Noehring of Cincinnati, and a Rev. Rudolph whose address is not given in the records were the names submitted for election. The latter happened to be traveling through Baltimore at that time, saw the ad in the paper and came to the church and "stated his case" as the old records say. Election was held in September, 1896, at which time Rev. Batz was elected. He began his ministry on October 11, 1896.

Rev. Batz was not a stranger to United Church. He had been a college mate of his predecessor and during the seven years preceding had been pastor of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's Church on Eager Street near Broadway. He was born in Buffalo. His first field in the ministry had been the pastorate at Christ's Church in Locust Point in Baltimore where he also took over the added duties of missionary at the

Seamen's Mission, a project which had just been begun by Rev. E. Huber and other Evangelical ministers of Baltimore. He remained at Locust Point for two years, having then accepted the call to the United Evangelical Church now St. Paul's Church, at Taylorville, now Taylor, Pennsylvania. He remained there two years, next serving the church on Eager Street and then accepting the call to our United Church.

This growing congregation had long felt the need of a parsonage. In September, 1897, not quite a year after Rev. Batz came, it was decided to build such a home and in April, 1898, the parsonage was dedicated. Thus the earnest workers of the church had now added another valuable property to the church. On September 18-21, 1898, a fitting celebration was held to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the church. This growing congregation felt the need of further improvements and so in the year 1903 extensive improvements were made in the interior of the church and in 1904—one hundred and four feet of leased ground was bought at a reasonable figure. New members were being added to the membership list, attendance at worship service was growing. The midweek Lenten services were now held in the church auditorium because the attendance had so greatly increased, though they were still conducted in the German tongue. Sunday School attendance had increased, confirmation classes were growing larger every year. In 1907 a small band of young people met and formed a Young People's League to meet the growing needs of the young people of the church.

In 1915 art windows were placed in the church, each organization, as well as various friends, contributing to this fund. Some few years before, our Ladies' Aid Society had also presented the church with a beautiful mural painting of Christ walking on the waters of Galilee which was placed in the chancel niche. In 1917 they had new electric light fixtures installed in the church and for the golden jubilee of the church in 1923 they presented the church with a fine oak floor together with new carpets for the aisles and the altar and pulpit platforms, and new chairs for the pulpit niche. In 1920 a new tower clock, electrically lighted, was installed. United Church had grown beyond the boundaries of old Canton and her members could be found in every section of the city and the suburbs as well.

And thus the 30th anniversary of Rev. Batz's ministry, at Old United was fast approaching. He was known everywhere as the faithful shepherd of his flock. His slight form was recognized wherever he went and he was a familiar figure, invariably with a book in his hand, on the streets of Canton. His generosity and kind deeds cannot be recorded or numbered. His health had been failing for some time and his physical condition greatly weakened. However, he still kept on with an indefatigable spirit that could not be quenched. On May 10th, 1926, the minutes read that Pastor Batz was still active in the work of his church. Shortly thereafter, however, the congregation was plunged into anxiety. Unconsciously, the members spoke in hushed tones and the quietness that prevails when a loved one is seriously ill came over the congregation. The faithful shepherd of so many years was seriously ill. The final blow came on June 10, 1926, when his untiring spirit left his mortal body to go to the eternal reward of all true servants of God to hear His "well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the thy Lord." No service was held that Sunday out of respect for the faithful pastor. On Monday, June 14, his mortal remains were laid to rest in Loudon Park Cemetery. Who knows of the hundreds and hundreds who passed before his bier and of the silent thanks that were raised to

the heavenly Father because of the influence this man of God had on the lives of those who looked down upon his still form? A bronze tablet to his memory has been placed in the church by the Brotherhood and a fitting granite memorial, signifying the "Old Rugged Cross," has been erected by the congregation at his grave.

Again the congregation was faced with the problem of selecting a new minister. On August 11, 1926, the congregation met in special session at which time Frank W. Schaefer was elected. He came to us from St. Paul's Church, Taylor, Pennsylvania. He began his work here on the first day of November and was installed on November 14. Enthusiasm among the members and the community had reached a high pitch since the younger generation had never witnessed such festivities as were incident to the induction of this new young minister. It was not an easy field for a young man to take upon himself since it was necessary and is still necessary to preach both in German and English every Sunday. The magnitude of the tremendous amount of work which was suddenly thrust upon this young minister, no doubt, often times overwhelmed him. But he forged ahead and has now been with us almost seven years and has won the respect and love of his congregation. He loves people and the theme of love runs through all his preaching and he seeks earnestly to be pastor to both young and old. During the first two years of his ministry more than six hundred members were added to the membership list. May God bless him in his work through the coming years.

During all these years United Church had been a free church, belonging to no denomination, although she had been served by pastors of the Evangelical Synod of North America. About this time the congregation began to consider that it would be a fine thing for the church to become affiliated with that denomination and thus more definitely embrace her program of larger kingdom work. Accordingly, the congregation was received into the membership of the Synod on August 7, 1927, by the president general, Dr. John Baltzer.

In 1929 the services of a parish worker in the person of Sister Lena Nos were secured for the church. Many are acts of love and mercy and kindness that could be recorded of her work among us. This work was terminated by her marriage in 1929.

The congregation had now grown far beyond the vision of its founders. The Sunday School had long since outgrown its present quarters. Thus it was that several far-sighted members voted to begin a building fund in the year 1928 in the hope that some day more adequate building facilities might be built for the growing needs of its people. From time to time sums were added to this fund and in April, 1932, a Loyalty Crusade was held, at which time subscriptions amounting to more than \$40,000 were secured with which to build a new school hall and to renovate the church. From time to time improvements and repairs have been made to the church property but it is the hope of every sincere and loyal member of our United Church that the day is not far distant when a beautiful, yet practical, commodious building shall take the place of the present hall and that the entire church property shall be remodeled and thus become of greater use than ever before in Christ's work here.

*"Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
We will be true to Thee till death."*

MAY BECKER.



The Parsonage