

The United Endeavor

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

MARCH 1963

BALTIMORE 24, MARYLAND



LENT

Lent is that penitential season of the church year consisting of 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays. The season begins with Ash Wednesday and through many centuries, especially in those denominations which are closest to the Reformation, has been observed as a season of deep contemplation and soul-searching. The season ends on Good Friday at 3 p.m., the hour of Jesus' burial. It is sometimes called the quadragesimal fast. Because in this season we give special attention to the Passion and Suffering of Our Lord and Master, it is a most solemn season in the church. Not only are special services held on Wednesdays at 8 in the sanctuary, but the spirit in the meetings of organizations during this period is subdued as regards programming events.

Lent is thought to have had its origin in a desire to commemorate our Lord's 40 days of fasting in the wilderness and His temptation by Satan. At first it lasted only 40 hours, the length of time our Lord lay in the tomb, and was a voluntary fast. In time it developed into a prescribed fast period and was observed by Christians generally. About the year 500 the dura-

tion of the period was extended to 36 days and in the 6th century the period was increased to the present 40 days.

Among many Protestant groups, our own included, the feature of fasting has been eliminated. Fasting as a religious practise never was followed too strictly in the Protestant tradition. As stated in Baker's Dictionary of Theology: "Christian history gives ample evidence of the abuse as well as the proper use of fasting.....In reaction against the perversion, the evangelical churches have been tempted to remedy the abuse by discontinuing the practise altogether."

Our penance takes the form of paying attention to the religious expectations on our lives by our faith and church, and the elimination, or fasting from, those habits and ways of living which are not the highest we know, not only in Lent, but all year round.



LENTEN HOME DEVOTION PERIODS

Not only do we pay strict attention to our church attendance during the Lenten season, but we make extra efforts to be true to our pattern of home devotional periods, in unity with our family group or by ourselves. For the successful following of this practise, your home was provided with a Daily Bible Reading chart with the Endeavor of last month. If you have misplaced your copy, there are others here at the church. Also use "The Upper Room" regular for devotionals.



PASTOR'S REPORT TO CONGREGATION

Report on Attendances, Pastoral Services -

127 services conducted on Sundays and special occasions, including Advent and Lent.

Average of attendance - for all Sunday services of the year, save for July and August, the average attendance per Sunday was 481; for all Sunday services, 445. This represents about 46% of our congregation. Some may consider this a good average for a metropolitan church, but the pastor is aware of the large number who are very irregular and who need to realize that the first responsibility of membership is to be present at the services of worship. Even before we give time to Sunday School classes, we should give time for the services of worship.

Attendance at the Sacrament was at the figure of 3317 for the year, and the average attendance at each Communion, excluding Holy Week and Easter, was between 150 and 200. Out of the more than 1000 members on the roll, this figure again indicates that many still follow the outdated custom of only coming to Holy Communion once a year (The pastor recommended at this meeting that we have the Sacrament at both services each 1st Sunday rather than to alternate between the services. This recommendation was accepted.)

Pastoral services - Weddings, 72; Baptisms, 65; Funerals, 56. Membership statistics in January Endeavor

Progress made on Benevolent Giving

A measuring rod of our stewardship is in the results achieved in benevolent giving across the year. Your Council and Finance officers have labored diligently in seeking to complete the challenges which are given us from our denomination in the benevolent field, or, to assist the work of our denomination in the world-wide mission of the church. These challenges have come to us in three categories, each for a distinct purpose.

The Apportionment - this is

the support we give the work of our denomination in terms of the general world-mission (missions, evangelism, Christian Education, higher education, etc.) On the basis of our membership our minimum asking in 1962 was \$8166.00. Though we achieved a higher percentage paid than in former years, we were only able to send in \$6000.00.

World Service - the challenge to contribute to the relief of suffering in a war-torn world - food, clothing, implements, rehabilitation, etc. - which we seek to gather in two "One Hour of Sharing" offerings in Lent and October. Asked to gather \$965.00 for this, we were able to gather \$760.00, a figure less than the asking. May we do better this new year.

Seminary Fund - a special asking of something over \$2.00 per member across a number of years, this Seminary Fund is to provide needed help to our Seminaries (where young men and women are trained to become ministers and Directors of Christian Education) in the time of rising prices. Requested to give \$2763.00 for this, we sent in over \$2000.00 in this one year and will complete this asking in 1963.

90th Anniversary of Congregation

In September we celebrate the 90th birthday of our beloved United Evangelical Church. It is proper that we look forward to a wonderful celebration. Your pastor requested the congregation to approve the setting up of plans for this anniversary and to authorize the president to appoint an Anniversary Committee which would be made up of representatives of the church council, the organizations and the congregation at large. This was voted favorably.

Other Items

The congregation approved the setting up of a membership Campaign in our organizations from Lent to Pentecost (Feb. 27-June 2) This decision was given body at a recent meeting of representatives of organizations, and will begin Ash Wednesday.

The proposed Constitution of the church received its third public reading and final adjusting and was then voted into force. The Constitution will now go to the printers and then be distributed to all members.

The pastor suggested some items for those who may desire to make special gifts or memorials to the church -

a) additional altar, pulpit and

lectern antependia in the red and colors - costing approximately in the neighborhood of \$300.00 for each set.

b) additional "stops" for our organ, ie, oboe, vox celeste and vo humana - at about \$750.00 to \$800. each.

c) a system of dimmers for the sanctuary lights, which would permit us to get various phases of lighting in the sanctuary, at a total cost of about \$900.00.

FINANCE FIGURES

The following figures represent a 14 month period, from Nov.1,1961 to Dec. 31, 1962 and represent a change in our bookkeeping from the church year to the calendar year. Those attending the meeting receive a detailed report. Here are only a few figures, in round numbers.

Receipts

Through envelopes	\$33251.00
Other varied receipts	\$23616.00
Total income	\$56867.00

Disbursements

Salaries & Pastor Emeritus	\$21932.00
Benevolences	\$11647.00
Other disbursements	\$17286.00
Total disbursements	\$50865.00



LENTEN SCHEDULE

Please note and keep handy the Lenten Calendar which is a part of this mailing. In it you will find a complete schedule of Lenten services. We hope you are planning to make your Lenten attendance at United Evangelical Church a regular practise beginning with the service on Ash Wednesday. And remember the Coffee Hour after each of these mid week services, planned that we may come to know each other the better over a cup of coffee or tea. Let's remain after the services and join in the good fellowship.

"ONE HOUR OF SHARING"

In a recent TV documentary, "We Fed the Hungry," it was graphically related how U.S. Funds translated into food and the other essentials, saved Germany and other countries after World Wars I and II. Though the documentary did not specifical-

ly mention it, the impelling force behind this wonderful achievement was Christian love, expressed by Americans. This same need is still manifest in the world today, perhaps not in Germany and Japan, but certainly in other areas, and a request, to which we respond in our Christian love, comes to us.

Through your church, in cooperation with other Protestant church groups, the program of World Service continues to perform a herculean task in bringing to God's other children who are in need, not only food but also medicine, educational facilities, agricultural instruments, and other facilities which will enable them to help themselves, but the expression of love through these gifts, which make the gifts meaningful.

Again we suggest that your family share in the filling of the family "One Hour of Sharing" envelope and participate in the special offering on Sunday, March 24th. May our sharing be truly outgoing.



YOUR DIME FOLDER

One of the ways in which matters become important to us is through the tie-in of disciplines with the events. Thus to many of us a birthday cake is part and parcel of a birthday celebration, and the 4th of July still seems strange without fireworks. In the same way, a discipline or adjunct to the Lenten period is the Self-Denial Dime Folder, which is for your family use from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It is the hope that each member of your family will participate in the filling of same as a family project. Just as the 4th of July is greater in meaning than fireworks, so the Lenten season is much richer in spiritual meaning than this fund-gathering contrivance, but the Folder does us an excellent opportunity as a family to practise a bit of self-denial in our everyday life. Let the dimes put in the folder represent the denial of something - ice cream, cigarettes, sodapop or some other extraneous item you can do without. Thus the filling of the folder becomes meaningful. We request that these folders be returned to the church on Good Friday or on Easter.



LENT - PENTECOST

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

This inter-group campaign will have a duration of about 3 months. According to the plans drawn up in the planning meeting, a row of thermometers will be on display in the narthex which will indicate the rate of gain for each group. The group (or groups) which achieve the goal will receive special recognition at the conclusion of the campaign. The one rule to follow is to report gains to the office, and the thermometer will be then changed to indicate the gain.

Let us each help the membership committees of our group to increase our membership during this campaign and thus the total membership of those served by our organizations. The current memberships of our organizations and their quotas is as follows - Ladies Aid, 75-15; Men's Club, 110-20; Women's Guild, 76-15; Youth, 60-15; Adult choir, 25-5; Sunday Church School, 395-40; Girl's Guild, 15-5; Mother's Club, 10-5.



STUDY GROUP

ON SUNDAY EVENINGS

Great things are happening in our new United Church of Christ. Among the important events is the development of new concepts in the educational procedures. By this fall a new curriculum will be introduced for our Church Schools.

To consider these important matters, a Study Group will meet on 5 Sundays in March from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Upper Room. Planned especially for our Church School staff, the study group is open to all. The new book "The Educational Mission of the Church" will be the basis of our discussions. Copies of this are being circulated in the departments of our school. Each staff member should make certain to read this important document.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Cub Scout news - Our "spanking" new Cub Pack received its 1st charter. We now have 3 dens and a 4th beginning. We need your young boys for our Pack. See Pastor or Julius Fischer.

Mother's Club - Group meets each 1st Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Its purpose is to "furnish Christian mothers with guidance in the raising of families and the making of a Christian home, and to provide fellowship with other mothers." We invite you to join this group. Come to meeting on March 7; if you have no transportation call Nancy Fischer, at 288-4335.

World Day of Prayer - this annual community service for women, under the auspices of the Council of Church Women of Baltimore, will be held at our Bethel Church, Ellwood Ave and Baltimore Sts, on Friday, March 1st at eight o'clock.

United Church Forum - March meeting will be at Huber Memorial on Sunday March 10 at 7 p.m., featuring the President of Potomac Synod, Dr. Roy Snyder, leading a discussion on the subject, "Where Are We In The United Church of Christ?"

March meetings of groups - the meetings of our groups will be at their regular scheduled times, save for Women's Guild which will meet 8 pm on Tues., March 12, and Men's Club which will meet 8 p.m. Tues., March 19, instead of their regular time.

Special Sunday events - The Girl Scouts will observe their annual Sunday on March 10th, and the Girl Scouts and Brownies will be special guests in our morning service.

Baptisms - at the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, March 17th.

THE

UNITED ENDEAVOR

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by

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