



The United Endeavor

DECEMBER 1965

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH BALTIMORE, MD. 21224



LOST IN THE WRAPPINGS

About 15 years ago Roy L. Smith wrote a Christmas article in our denominational paper in which he told the story of one lad in the shipping room of a department store, watching another lad who was poking around in a big box filled with wads of wrapping paper. Inquisitively, the watcher asked the other, "What are you looking for?" to which the answer came, "We're minus one package and it may be lost in the wrappings." Mr. Smith then goes on to make the point that we run the risk of losing Christmas in all the non-essential wrappings which we surround it. We perchance never experience the real Christmas because of the importance we give to the external elements of Christmas, slighting its spiritual content.

As we face the coming of another Advent season it is well that at the outset we vow we will not permit the tinsel, the busyness and the glamour of Christmas preparations and celebrations to rob us of the essence of Christmas, the worship of the only begotten Son of God, our Lord Christ, as a Christmas babe and as the Saviour of our immortal souls in life and at the last day.

Henry H. Tweedy of Yale Divinity School jotted down these lines some time in the past. I found them in my Christmas file and quote them here because of the manner in which they elucidate this same point:

On Christmas eve they filled the house, some fifty guests all told,
(O little Lord of Christmas, were you left out in the cold?)

And ate and sang, played cards and danced till early morning light,

(O little Lord of Christmas, did they think of you that night?)

Next morning came the presents on a glittering Christmas tree.

(O little Lord of Christmas, was there any gift for thee?)

The dinner was a Roman feast, and how those guests did eat!

(O little Lord of Christmas, were you hungry in the street?)

Then came some teas, a movie, and at night the last revue,

(O little Lord of Christmas, what had these to do with you?)

By midnight all were tired and cross and tumbled into bed,

(O little Lord of Christmas, did they think that you were dead?)

They all woke up with headaches and no joy in work or play,

(O little Lord of Christmas, did they mark your birth that day?)

The love, the joy were good no doubt; the rest a pagan spree,

(O little Lord of Christmas, let us keep the day with Thee.)

Your church plans not only for Christmas but for the entire Advent season, that we may be led in our approach to Christmas through an Advent filled with spiritual meaning. Our messages, our special music, our Advent ceremonials are all outward expressions of this spiritual preparation to which we invite you. But it will be of no avail for you unless you make yourself a regular part of our worshipping congregation. Vow that in Advent you'll be here for every service.





ADVENT SUNDAYS

The new Christian Church year begins with the season of Advent. Advent is that season wherein we prepare for Christ's coming, at Christmas, and at the Last Time. It is a penitential season, thus we include the stanza of Confession in our services.

Beginning with Sunday, Nov. 28 the Advent season not only brings messages by Pastor Rasche on the Advent epistles, and the beautiful music of Advent and Christmas from our hymnals and by the choirs but it also brings again the Advent ceremonies which have become traditional with us at United.

Our first ceremonial is the display of our lovely Italian Creche, or Manger scene, on Nov. 28. On Sunday, Dec. 5, the Advent and Christmas greens will be hung in the sanctuary during the 10:15 a.m. service, to be followed on Sunday, Dec. 12 by the hanging of the wreaths. The display of our beautifully trimmed Christmas tree, together with the lovely poinsettia altar will transpire on Sunday, Dec. 19, in time for the special services of the day and of Christmas Eve.

It will be on Sunday, Dec. 19th, at the 10:15 a.m. hour that the Church School pupils will worship with us to enrich our lives by the special events of their annual Christmas service.

The height of all our preparations for Advent and Christmas will be achieved on Christmas Eve, when at 8 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. we shall have our two identical Christmas Eve Candlelighting services.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 7:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services on Sunday, Dec. 5

"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER PRINCE OF PEACE. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD WILL PERFORM THIS."

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

8 P.M. and 10:45 P.M.

Attendance at either one of the Christmas Eve Services should be a definite part of Christmas for all our families. Let us not become so unmindful of the real truth of this great day that we fail to place the presence in God's House in the very center of our observance.

Since each of these services is identical to the other, it matters not which one we attend. Some prefer the earlier service for the sake of younger children (even the very young should not be deprived from attendance at the Christmas Eve service); some prefer the spiritual thrill of being in God's House up until the hour of midnight.

Each service is a candlelighting service, conducted in the glow of Christmas candles and the lights of the Christmas tree. Each service includes a message of Christmas from the pulpit and the glorious music of Christmas by our choirs. Each service includes the service of candlelighting, the traditional service for Christmas Eve. Each service includes the Christmas offering wherein each child of God has the opportunity of bringing a love gift unto the Lord which is over and beyond our usual offerings. As of last year, each service will be preceded by a beautiful "carol sing" by our choral group from the balcony. Don't miss this beautiful spiritual experience.



**TINSEL DAY IS
ON SUN. DEC. 12**

Yes, we are going to have another of our wonderful Tinsel Days, and this year it will be on Sunday, Dec. 12th. As is our custom we will come as family groups to Friendship Hall (beneath the sanctuary) after the 10:15 a.m. service for our fellowship meal. The church will pro-

vide the meat, bread, butter and beverage and our families are asked to bring food in the form of a hot dish or dishes sufficient to feed their family group. All food will be put on the buffet table and we shall all eat together.

We are planning this as a family get-together, and inviting the families of the Church and the Church School, asking the parents of our children to come with them to the noon meal and spend the afternoon here. There is no charge for the fellowship time. We want the children and youth here because during the afternoon each department of the Church School gathers in their department to decorate the department tree. At the same time the large tree in the church is to be trimmed by our youth and adults. And then, the Church School is planning an "open house" for the newly decorated and renovated departments of the Church School building later in the afternoon.

Meanwhile in Fellowship Hall an opportunity will be given our older folk to make some decoration for the home at the Christmas season and to help pack the White gift boxes for cartage to their destination.

The afternoon will close with the traditional little Christmas party and the "birthday cake" honoring our Lord Jesus. Festivities will be brought to a close with coffee and a piece of cake.



CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 10:15 A.M.

The annual Church School Christmas service will be held in the sanctuary in conjunction with the service at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19. Church School will begin that Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and at a given signal the departments will file into the sanctuary. The service will include a special dramatic presenta-

tion of the Christmas story. Also the pastor will have a meditation from the pulpit and the service will include other regular aspects of the Sunday morning worship.

Following the service, the members of the Church School will be directed to areas in Friendship Hall and the gym where gifts will be exchanged and the gift of the Church School given to each member of the School.



DON'T OVER LOOK THESE ITEMS

POINSETTIA AND WREATH FUND

Individuals and groups of the congregation are invited to contribute to this Fund from which proceeds the poinsettia and wreaths for the decoration of our sanctuary are purchased. Place gifts in an envelope with name attached and marked "Poinsettia Fund". Our poinsettia and wreaths are purchased at one time, and are uniform, therefore we prefer cash gifts to gifts of flowers.

ENVELOPE SETS FOR 1966

Envelope sets will be ready by Sunday, Dec. 12 and will be arranged alphabetically on tables in Friendship hall, to be picked up following the services. If you have not used the envelopes in 1965 there will be no set issued to you. It is the desire of the Council, and a part of your membership responsibility that you contribute regularly to your church. However it is only to those who use the envelopes that new sets are automatically issued. All others may secure sets of envelopes by applying directly to the Pastor.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS FOR THE POOR

It is our custom to remember the needy during the year, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Requests come to the church for baskets of food. We prepare these baskets with canned goods and staple food items supplied by the members and groups of the church. We invite

you to bring your contributions of food or cash for this purpose to services on Sunday, Dec. 19. We can use cash gifts also, for we secure meat, bread, milk, etc. to place with the canned goods and staples.

HOME COMMUNION IN ADVENT

The pastor is ready to bring the Sacrament of Communion to sick and shut-ins at the Advent season. Our Communion at church is Dec. 5, therefore the home communions will also be made early in the month and only on requests to the pastor. Call the church office.

MEMORIALS AT CHRISTMAS

Memorials at Christmas will be announced only on Sunday, Dec. 19th. Have them in the office by the Wed. prior to that Sunday, please.



OUR WHITE GIFT

In 1965 the recipient of our White gifts will be the Montebello Hospital, and we will be making up packets for the patients there. You are invited to bring items such as personal sized tooth paste, tooth brushes, soap, deodorant, talcum, etc. Bring items prior to Dec. 12, as the packets will be put together at that time, during Tinsel Day.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

Our New Year's Eve service will begin at the hour of 8 p.m. and will be concluded near the 9 p.m. hour. Though you may have plans for New Year's Eve, come to your church before the evenings festivities. Be mindful of the need of God's guidance for 1966 and the further need to thank Him for His blessings during 1965. This is a full service, with choral music and sermon.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms:

Susan Kimberly, daughter of Ford C. and Carol A. Rowell, on Oct. 24
Russell Wilt, son of James L. and Nola B. Royer, on Oct. 24.

Terry Lynn, daughter of James C. and Joanne B. Dunn, on Oct. 31

Denise Ann, daughter of Joseph S. and Madeline M. Conaway, on Nov. 21

Charles E. son of Charles W. and Gertrude Everett on Nov. 21

Weddings:

Allen Webster, Jr. and Helen McDonough on Oct. 23

Collin J. Warren and Geraldine Chapman, on Oct. 28

Roy L. Feltner and Esther Campbell on Oct. 30

Robert W. Smoot and Estelle Oberlander on Nov. 14

Harry Roland and Jacqueline Durham on Nov. 20

Michael P. Appel and Joanne Wilson on Nov. 21

Funerals:

Mrs. Emma E. Lohr, age 91, on Oct. 25

Mrs. Hazel Fedock, age 47, on Nov. 2

Carroll Hitchcock, age 59, on Nov. 3.

Mrs. Lena A. Claes, member, age 70 years on Nov. 6

Mrs. Mary Sedlmayer, member, age 79 years on Nov. 19

John W. Zinkand, age 55, on Nov. 11

Mrs. Catherine Furlong, age 56 on Nov. 17

Mrs. Mamie Nickel, age 80 on Nov. 18

Edward C. Rund, member, age 68, on Nov. 18



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