



# The United Endeavor

DECEMBER 1966

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH BALTIMORE, MD. 21224



## ADVENT COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR

The normal usage of this phrase is to say, "Christmas comes but once a year," meaning we ought to make the most of Christmas in all its aspects as relates to church, community and family. With this we heartily agree.

But also we need to remember that Advent comes but once a year and that the lessons of Advent are just as important as those of Christmas.

The actual coming of Christ in the flesh is past. On Christmas we commemorate that divine birth and stress the importance of the Lord's coming as regards the redemption of human race.

We do not, however, celebrate an actual coming of Christ either at Christmas or in Advent. As we've said, this is past. What we do celebrate and lift up dramatically during this penitential season of Advent is the coming of Christ now in Grace and His eventual coming in Glory.

There is a very real way Christ is being born anew, within the hearts of man, in grace, so to speak, to dwell within man and to be the constant guest in his life and the governing force of his everyday experience. Our lives should be Christ-centered and Christ-guided. As we permit this to occur, this is Christ in grace being born anew in our lives. As we permit His Gospel to come to bear in our time, this is Christ being born anew also

## ADVENT SUNDAYS

By the time you receive this issue of the Endeavor, the first Sunday in Advent will be gone, for the season of Advent began with Sunday, Nov. 27th.

It was on this Sunday we again began our traditional Advent ceremonials and ushered in the Advent theme. The violet hangings appeared on the altar and the pulpit and lectern. The beautiful Advent creche again was displayed at the front of the sanctuary. The choirs brought us wonderful Advent music and the pastor brought the first Advent sermon.

With the Sundays of December we will want to be gathering in the House of God for the other beautiful ceremonials of Advent and the impress of the lovely and meaningful services planned.

On Sunday, Dec. 4th, the Advent greens will be put in place in the sanctuary during the service as the choir sings "Deck the Halls." On Sunday, Dec. 11, the beautiful Advent and Christmas wreaths will be in place, and on Dec. 18th we shall find the beautiful poinsettia flowers about the altar and the splendid Christmas tree in its place.

On each of the Sundays our choirs will thrill us with the music of Advent and the pastor will lead us to the experience of Christmas through the Advent messages on the Gospel.

It will be on Sunday, Dec. 18 that our Church School will bring the Christmas message to us in the 10:15 a.m. service and the membership of the entire School will be with us.

On Sunday, Dec. 4 we will observe the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the 7:45 and 10:15 a.m. service.

And then, on Christmas Eve, at the hours of 8 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. we shall gather for our traditional



Christmas Eve services, the point toward which the entire season of Advent directs us.

Advent is a time of preparation. May we give the Spirit of God ample opportunity to adequately prepare us for the birth of the Lord anew by our constancy in God's House.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

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

## **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**

### **10:15 A.M. ONLY**

The 8 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be identical to the service at 10:45 p.m. and is planned for those families with small children. For, on Christmas Eve we should bring the entire family to church, even the very little ones, that even they may have instilled within them the knowledge of Christmas Eve in God's House.

Each service is a candlelighting service, conducted in the glow 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 of 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.

Since Christmas Day comes on a Sunday, we shall eliminate the 8 a.m. service that day and invite all to the 10:15 a.m. service, with the regular session of Church School at the hour of 9 a.m.

## **TINSEL DAY SET**

### **FOR SUN., DEC. 11**

Tinsel Day is the one day of the year when we want entire families here for the noon meal, having been in the services previously. For, on this day we all have the unique

opportunity to spend time with our children and the other folk of the church in a lovely experience. To we've mentioned family groups, this does not eliminate folk with no families, for we are all part of the larger church family and are welcome as family members here.

This year the Tinsel Day noon meal will be in the form of a prepared meal, served in buffet style. No charge is being made for this meal, but donations from families or individuals will be accepted to offset its cost. It will be a warm meal. We are not charging children for this meal.

The meal will be served at 12, and then at 1:30 p.m. the children and members of the various departments of the Church School will go to the departments for the decoration of same for Christmas. So, we desire Church School children to be sent for the meal and afternoon. While the Church School folk are at work in their departments, the older youth and adults have the privilege of decorating the church trees and also busying themselves in an experience of making something for the home out of Christmas greens.

At 3:30 p.m. approximately, all are invited to gather in the sanctuary for the official lighting of the church tree and a carol sing, under the direction of Mr. Schnader. After a brief devotional service, the group will return to Fellowship Hall for the coming of Santa Claus, and our "Happy Birthday party" to honor the birth of our Lord. The days events will close with refreshments at approximately 4 p.m.

Those planning to attend, either as family groups or individuals, are requested to register this intention so that ample food will be prepared



## **CAROLLING**

### **PLANNED**

## **FOR SUN.,**

### **DEC. 18**

All the protestant churches of Canton are planning cooperative carolling of our entire area on Sunday Dec. 18th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. From the last meeting of the pastors of these seven churches there has come the following plan - that the shut-ins of our churches would be visited, if requested, by church carolling groups covering that area. We will seek to cover the area of



Kenwood Ave on the West to Highland on the East and Eastern Ave on the north to Elliott on the south. Each of the churches is accepting a section of this area to cover. Lists of shut-ins from the churches are being sent to a clearing house and the group covering a particular area will carol upon shut-ins from all the churches in that area.

The groups will converge after the carolling, at approximately 8 p.m., at Messiah Lutheran Hall for a light lunch and fellowship.

It is hoped that from United we may have several groups participating, for the area assigned to us is too large for one group to cover by itself. The invitation is extended to our choirs, to the youth departments and their leaders, and to any adults or groups of adults, to enjoy this experience. Inform the pastor of your willingness to carol



## CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

**SUNDAY, DEC. 18 - 10:15 A.M.**

The Church School will have its annual Christmas service as a part of our regular 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 18th. With the theme, "Carols and Customs of Christmas" the service will be one of great interest to adults as well as the Church School members. The Church School session will begin at 9:30 a.m. that day and, upon notification, the departments will come to the sanctuary for the service. The sanctuary service, in addition to the presentation of the Church School, will include the music of Christmas by our Youth & Children's choirs and a brief story-sermon by the pastor.

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



## WHITE GIFT PLAN TO HELP LOCAL GROUPS

Our White Gift Plan for 1966 is to be directed to two local charitable institutions, the Maryland Children's Center and the Thomas J. Waxter Children's Center. Folk of the Church School departments will be bringing items from Sunday to Sunday, which items will be gathered together into one large gift for the children of each of these institutions. The plan will reach its culmination on Tinsel Day, and then the gift will be prepared for each place and delivered there prior to Christmas.

If any of the church members desire to participate in this, such items as plastic toys, model planes, model autos, puzzles, coloring book cosmetics for girls, stationary and pens for boys, etc. may be brought. It is not necessary to gift wrap the items. Parents of church school folk are requested to inquire of their family members as to the item the department of the school will be bringing.



## ITEMS TO REMEMBER

### POINSETTIAS 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.

### CHRISTMAS BASKETS FOR NEEDY

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 friends of the church, and use money given to purchase meat, bread



and other perishables which are also included in the baskets. We invite our families and members to bring contributions of food and of cash for this purpose to the services on Sunday, Dec. 18th.

#### HOME COMMUNIONS AT CHRISTMAS

If there be any shut-ins who desire the Sacrament at Christmas, the pastor invites your request to the church office and he will seek to meet this request and bring the Sacrament to your home.

#### CHURCH ENVELOPES FOR 1967

The sets of envelopes will be ready on Sunday, Dec. 18 in Friendship Hall. Please secure your envelopes there. May it again be said that if you have not used your envelopes thus far in 1966, no new set will be prepared for you. The expectation of each member is that he/she will make regular contributions to the budget of the church. But it is only as these contributions are received through sets of envelopes that we can give credit for such contributions and thus indicate the fulfillment of this responsibility of membership. So, if you are anxious that your membership with United remain in active standing, it behooves you to have a set of church envelopes. If you have no set for 1966, and desire such a set for 1967, make application through the pastor.

#### MEMORIALS AT CHRISTMAS

Memorials at Christmas will be announced only on Sunday, Dec. 18th. Have these in office by Wed. prior to that Sunday, please.

#### NEW YEARS EVE AND SUNDAY

The service on New Year's Eve will be at 8 p.m., only one service, remember. This service will conclude prior to 9 p.m.

On Sunday, Jan. 1, 1967 there will be only one service and that at the 10:15 a.m. hour, this being a Communion service. Church School at the regular 9 a.m. hour.

### JOIN THE MORE THAN 30%

Yes, will you join the more than 30% of our active givers who have indicated they will be accepting the suggestion of our Enlistment Committee and adding to their weekly gifts to the church, Sunday by Sunday to the amount of 17%, to as-

sist in meeting the increase in our budget for 1967?

The Enlistment Committee and the church at large is very grateful for the response to the Enlistment. Though the total of returns from our membership should have been much greater, and though we had expectations of a greater reply, still, the overall number of returns of both the Time and Talent and the Treasure commitments was more satisfactory than at first glance. The Enlistment Committee is still puzzled why a greater return was not forthcoming but is certain it is not because of disinterest on the part of members as to the program and growth of the church. The newness of the Enlistment idea to the congregation is the logical conclusion the Committee draws, this being the same reason for the paucity of volunteers to make home visitations, causing an elimination of that phase of the program.

The total program, we repeat, was not a failure, and all concerned are very grateful. We now invite others to join the more than 30% who were not timid and who stated their convictions and belief in the church. We invite you to assist the church by increasing your weekly contributions in the 1967 envelopes, so that together we may accomplish those steps forward which this church is challenged to take.

Now is the time to include in these pages a big word of appreciation to those many of the Council and congregation who rallied round and assisted in this Enlistment plan, which began many months ago. It was all very worthwhile. We invite you to become positive about your church.

#### THE

#### UNITED ENDEAVOR

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by

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