



YOUR CONSCIENCE CALLS YOU

On several occasions during past years I have been called upon to visit folk in the hospital who have been less than mindful of their obligations to God and His church during years of good health. I have been glad to visit and pray with them as I always stand ready to be with folk in time of need. Not only the faithful members but also those members who do not frequent the House of God often and even folk of the community who have no church home can come to United Church for help, or call upon its pastor in time of need and confusion.

On a number of such visits the patient remarked, "I feel so ashamed of myself for having neglected my faith and put other things before the church. My conscience bothers me. I promise God that when I get better I will be faithful to my Christian promises and frequent the House of God often."

Not all of these have remembered and ought to let their conscience speak to them anew. But, to many more, the voice of God within us ought to be permitted to get through to us.

In a church paper this week a pastor remarked of the terrible Sunday we've had at this year's beginning, and of the poor attendance at the services. Then he wrote something like this - "We need to remember that in the final analysis we do what we want to do. In spite of the weather, at least 80% of our folk could have gotten to church if they really wanted to." (If they had listened to their conscience)

Where were you these past Sun-

The United Endeavor

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UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH BALTIMORE, MD. 21224

days? Would it have been possible for you to be here if you really tried? You alone know; you and your conscience. If you were not here, please resolve to get your envelopes for that or those Sundays to the church. Don't push your conscience aside that much.

There will be other rainy and snowy Sundays. Let us let our consciences keep calling us to absolute faithfulness, not partial. Remember, God gave us a conscience that it might be a spiritual monitor in our lives. Let it call us and let us give answer. Like the postman, neither rain or snow or sleet should keep us from our appointed duties at God's House.



LENT BEGINS AT MONTH'S END

The season of Lent begins on the next to the last day of February, on Wednesday, February 28. We announce at this time the midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays at 8 p.m., as well as the regular Sunday services in Lent at the accustomed times. Full details concerning the Lenten schedule will come to your home prior to Ash Wednesday. But remember, Ash Wednesday is Feb. 28 and we want all of you in church at 8 p.m. that evening.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WEISSER

No matter how large the membership of a Christian congregation is, the individual member of that congregation must always be considered important. A Church must always be a place where, as St. Paul says, "If one member suffers, all suffer together, if one member is honored, all rejoice together." Pastor Rasche and your Church Council have had the importance of the individual member in mind through the years, and in order to implement this in a special way they have asked me to become your Pastor of Visitation. Sometime in the coming months I expect to be calling in a large number of your homes. Please remember as the call is made that it is your church that is interested in you and that I hope to come as an effective representative of that fellowship which is in Christ Jesus.

Our thanks to all you have already made Mrs. Weisser and me feel so welcome in your midst.

Ralph E. Weisser,
Pastor of Visitation



FEBRUARY SUNDAYS BRING IMPORTANT DAYS AND CHALLENGING SUNDAY SERVICES

Annually February brings special days to our calendars. We want to lift up these matters in our Pastor's Five Minutes but will not devote the entire service to these themes. The messages by Pastor Rasche will continue the study of the book of Joshua, bringing modern challenges to us from this ancient book. All services will be at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. save on Feb. 4 when the early service begins at 7:45 because of the Holy Communion at both services. Church School begins each Sunday at 9 a.m.



LENTEN SALES PLANNED

Our Women's Guild have voted to hold the Lenten sales again this year. This decision carries with it the realization of the tremendous effort which must be put forth to make these sales successful.

Women must be present each Thursday to prepare the large amounts of food necessary to fill the orders on Friday. Volunteers for as much of Thursdays, even the evening hours, must be secured. Then, on Friday another large group of women and as many retired men as possible are needed to put the final touches to the various items, food and to get the orders ready for pickup at the noon hour.

When this decision was made it was made on the realization that, although this is a venture of the Women's Guild, many more of the women of the church besides Guild members will be needed to provide the necessary work force. Since 2/3rds of the profit of the sales flow into the church treasure and is very helpful in the financial picture of our needs, it is not out of line to make the suggestion that you plan to come to your church the Thursdays and Fridays of Lent to help in this venture. The first date will be Thursday, Feb. 29th. Please come and give your assistance, for it needs the cooperation of our entire church family to make this venture successful. And, plan to get your orders in for codfish cakes, oysters, potato salad, cole slaw and crullers. Orders must be received no later than Thursday nights, to be picked up on Friday. Open sales will also be made of available materials.



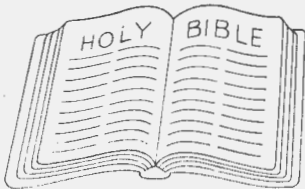
"THANK YOU" FROM THE PASTOR

Memory does not serve to remember whether I expressed appreciation for the many, many messages and other tokens which came our way

as a parsonage family at Christmas. We have tenderly received each one of these thoughtful acts of our people with great gratitude. We are truly grateful. Thank you so much.

Then, upon the sudden death of Pastor's mother in St. Louis, Mo. on Dec. 27th and the unexpected flight to that city for the funeral services on Dec. 29th, another avalanche of personal messages came to us, both in the form of floral offerings from the Church and Church School and memorials from individuals and groups of the church. And when we returned home on Jan. 2nd there were many, many other statements of sympathy and memorials received. Many of you knew Mother from the visits to the parsonage in former years. And so we know you will miss her even as we do.

To all of you, individuals, families and groups of the church and community, the grateful feelings of my brothers and I are expressed for your prayers and personal messages. Thank you all, very much.



BOOK OF THE YEAR -
EVERY YEAR

YOU WILL HEAR MORE OF HOFFMAN HOME

In last month's mailing there was included an envelope for a belated Christmas gift to our Hoffman Home, our Church's Home for Children in Littlestown, Pa., not too far from Baltimore. We hope you and your family have brought this envelope with you to church, for this offering is very important to the Home, for its ongoing expenses.

With this issue we send you a copy of the Homes "Hello," and from it you will note the beginning of a Capital Funds Drive, the moneys to be used as the purposes outlined on p. 3. Our plans for this Drive in our church have not been completed, but as soon as Church Council makes its decision as to how we will translate this Funds

Drive request in our own church, you will be given this information. In the meantime, read the publication carefully and be alert as to what the program entails.



SOME SHORT ITEMS

New Confirmation materials are being introduced in our denomination. Explanatory sessions are being arranged for Pastors and lay leaders in the coming Weeks. What these new materials may mean to our overall program of Confirmation will be seen in the future.

The annual Consistorial Dinner - for Church Council members and the leaders of the church groups, together with wives and family members is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 12 at St. Matthew's Church. We are hoping to have a large group from United Church present.

New Pastors in area: Besides our new staff member, Dr. Weisser, two other newcomers are in our area. We refer to the Rev. Mr. Chiles Bowersock, pastor of our Bethel Church on Baltimore and Ellwood, and the Rev. Eugene Bartel, of First United Church on Eastern nr. Broadway. We welcome these newcomers into our fellowship as United Churches of Christ.

Status of Conference - the picture of our Central Atlantic Conference is not bright because of the insufficient support given by our United Churches of Christ in this territory, we among them. The reports of 1967 show that United was able to give only \$6500 of the more than \$10,000 requested because the local budget was not completely underwritten by our contributions and our percentage to the Conference was less than it ought to have been. In total we gave slightly over \$10,000 to all benevolences during the year. Back to the Conference - because of the insufficiency of funds from member churches, their budget was minus some \$20,000 for the year.

WE SUPPORT THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The chief agency of our Protestant cooperation in our city and state is the Maryland Council of Churches, of which our church is an active member. In a day when too frequently the voice of the Protestant Church is sidetracked as being ineffectual because there is not the union in Protestantism that we find in the Roman Catholic arena, it is good to know that there is an agency in our midst which seeks to unify many of the efforts of our Protestant churches. Thus we ought to be all concerned about giving as much strength as we can to these efforts in cooperation as typified through the Council of Churches.

Annually this Council comes to us and requests free-will love offerings. Now is this time for 1968. On Sunday, Jan. 21 we highlighted this in the morning services and envelopes appeared in the bulletins. If you have such an envelope may we request a sizeable gift from your family for this important work. If you have not an envelope there are supplies at church, or you can merely signify on your check or envelopes that this is your gift to the Maryland Council of Churches. Mrs. May Getz is our chairlady and will be soliciting you this month about this important matter.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

Michael Eric, son of John and Octavia Miller, on Jan. 7

James Andrew, son of Jacob and Carol Gast, on Jan. 14

Monica Lane, daughter of Stewart and Carol Scott, Jan. 14

John Conrad, son of James and Lois Uttenreither, on Jan. 21

Weddings

Charles F. Pachilis and Sharon Coake, on Dec. 23

Edward J. Lucas and Ellen Warren on Dec. 23

James A. Vain and Pauline Tousseint on Jan. 13

Robert F. Sandlass and Linda Godwin on Jan. 14

Stanley W. Bartowiak and Evelyn Mielock on Jan. 20

Funerals

Miss Gladys A. Stonesifer, age 64 on Dec. 11

John J. Leibig, age 62 on Dec. 26

Mrs. Christina Schissler, age 57 on Jan. 5

Karl H. Block, age 70, on Jan. 6
Edward Lachner, Jr. age 39 on Jan. 10

Lt. Jacob Simonsen, age 60, member on Jan. 17

Mrs. Robertha Doyle, age 77, member on Jan. 18

"BUILD FOR A CHURCH"

(Excerpts from article from magazine of our denomination, "Colloquy" written by J.C. Davies)

"I would sum up the church's function in one word: service. The church exists, not for itself, but for others; it should therefore be an agent of reconciliation and liberation; it should concern itself with humanization; it should seek to meet the needs of men in the totality of their physical and spiritual existence. I should therefore plan (use) its buildings in terms of the human needs of that sector of society within which it is serving, regardless of whether those in need call themselves Christian....."

"I believe that in Christ sacred and secular are united; for me, therefore, as for the early Christian community, there can be no specially holy places; it is in and through the world of man, the secular, that we encounter the divine. I cannot carve life up into sacred buildings as distinct from secular ones....."

"Therefore I would adversely criticize any building which had set out (was considered) to be a sacred shrine and irrelevant to twentieth man....."

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