



CHRISTMAS IS !

In the recent past there have come into usage phrases which seem to me as ungrammatical, but which lift up an emphasis that otherwise might have been missed. We have all heard or read such statements as - Happiness Is, Love Is, Joy Is. All these attest to the importance of these various emotional realities.

Christmas Is. Yes, Christmas is fact. The reality of Christmas needs to be stated in such a day when so often the true meaning of non-secular verities are being diminished, if not negated. There are those who claim that because Christmas has become so commercialized, it has lost its true meaning and should be forgotten. But, Christmas Is. Even though the distortion of the Christmas event which commercial interests may have brought into being seems to be growing, the truth of Christmas still shines forth. God can use every doing of man's hand and mind to bring forth His blessings. Though we distort Christmas, and we do not condone this distortion, for in part, at least, it borders upon sacrilege, still Christmas Is. We cannot destroy it, for it is of God.

May we of the church, receiving the blessing of the Gospel account

The United Endeavor

DECEMBER 1971

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH BALTIMORE, MD. 21224

of the coming of Jesus, and believing in the humanity and divinity of the Christ, may we uphold in every manner the authenticity of Christmas, not just as a joyous time, as a festive time, but basically as the attestation of God's love for human kind in the sending to us the Lord Christ, His Son, to be the answer to the world's need and the provider of Salvation to all men who will accept Him and to a world also in need of cleansing.

Christmas Is. We proclaim this in all the Advent and Christmas services and activities at United. May we also proclaim this in our lives and in our family circles.



DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 5 - 7:45 and 10:15
Services with the Sacrament of Holy Communion at each service, and the Advent ceremonial of the wreaths plus the lighting of candle two on the Advent wreath. Pastor Rasche brings an Advent message.

Sunday, Dec. 12 - 8:00 and 10:15
3rd Sunday in Advent. Display of the Christmas creche and the lighting of candle 3 on the Wreath. Advent music by choir and congregation. Sermon by Pastor Rasche. This is also Tinsel Day (see article)

Sunday, Dec. 19 - 8:00 and 10:15
4th Sunday in Advent. Display of

our lovely Christmas tree and the Poinsettia altar, with the Christmas message by the Pastor. Christmas music by our choirs. Church School Christmas service at 9:00 a.m. (see article)

Sunday, Dec. 26 - 10:15 only
Post-Christmas Sunday. 2nd Christmas Day. Service only at 10:15 a.m. No 8:00 a.m. service. A lovely post Christmas service in the continued warmth of Christmas.

Special note, please read - Because of the proximity of Christmas to Sunday, we only have the one service on the 26th. This will also apply to Sun. Jan. 2, and the January communion will be on Jan. 9th.



TINSEL DAY

Tinsel Day is a traditional day of joy and festivity at United, for on this day the whole church plant is made ready for Christmas, with the departments of the Church School being decorated by the pupils and teachers plus the tree in the sanctuary decorated by youth. The adults have the opportunity of making an Advent decoration for their home. All this is preceded by a fellowship dinner here at the church and concluded with a birthday party for Jesus in late afternoon plus the official lighting of the church tree and a wonderful carol sing in the glow of the tree in late afternoon.

We invite all to participate in our Tinsel Day festivities by coming to the services to begin the day, then remaining or returning for the noon meal plus the afternoon's events. All folk of the Church and Church School with their families are invited, but this is not a community-wide event. It is for our own larger church family. Leaflets will be distributed in bulletins and at Church School whereby you and your family can sign up for the meal. There is no charge for the meal but cash donations from families will be acceptable on that day.

Here is the day's schedule -

Worship Service, 8:00 & 10:15
Church School at 9:00 a.m.

11:45 a.m. Noon meal

1:00 to 2:30 - Decoration of departments and church tree

2:30 to 3:00 - Carol sing and lighting of the tree

3:00 to 3:30 - Birthday party for Jesus

3:30 p.m. - Dismissal



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (8:00 P.M. ONLY)

Remember, this year we are having only the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. This is so because of the proximity of Sunday to the Day of Christmas and to avoid a multiplicity of services. This will be the traditional service of Christmas, with the service of candlelighting and carols, the Christmas message by Pastor Rasche and the lovely Christmas music. All this in the glow of the Christmas candles and the Christmas tree. Come and worship the Lord Christ at the Festival of His birth. Do not forsake your Lord by staying away from His House on Christmas. As important as are family gatherings, even more important is the allegiance to the Christ we express by being in His House on Christmas Eve. No Christmas day service.



CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE SUN. DEC. 19 — 9:00 A.M.

The service in the sanctuary last year from 9 to 9:30 a.m. was so successful that the Church School staff voted to use the same time slot this year. Departments of the School are asked to meet in

the sanctuary promptly at 9:00 a.m. and the presentation will last one-half hour, at which time the classes will go to departments for the giving of gifts and the departmental festivity, to conclude in time for the 10:15 a.m. service of worship.



TO KEEP IN YOUR MIND

Poinsettia Fund - that we may again have a lovely array of poinsettia at the altar for the services of Christmas and Christmas time, we invite the individuals of the church family, the organizations and the friends of the church to make contributions to the Poinsettia Fund, from which these plants will be purchased. These gifts can also be in the form of memorials. Please have all Poinsettia Fund gifts in by Dec. 15, and place the name and address of donor on the envelope, and if a memorial, the name of the person in whose memory it is given. Christmas Memorials - The Christmas Memorial services will be part of the Christmas Eve service (only one) at 8 p.m. All memorials are to be turned in to the church office by Dec. 15 if they are to be included in the Memorial brochure.

White Gifts for 1971 - Through the Church School, the White Gifts project will remember the Biloxi Mission of our denomination, a work among the shrimp fishermen and needy of Biloxi, Miss. Folk of the Church School and Church are invited to share in this program by the contribution of soap, wash cloths, towels, combs, tooth paste, etc. You don't have to wrap these gifts but bring marked for White Gifts.

Christmas Basket Food - Again our church, together with others, seeks to prepare baskets for the needy. These are prepared with food (canned goods, staple foods) contributed by the folk of the churches. Here also you can help in the project by food or cash gifts. To the canned goods we add perishables such as meat, oleo, milk, cereal, potatoes, etc., which are purchased. The Canton Christian Council supplies the cash necessary for the perishables. Food should be brought in by Dec. 21.

Envelopes for 1972 - will be ready on Sunday, Dec. 19 and will be on tables in Friendship Hall. Remember, we urge you to turn in all 1971 envelopes by year's end, and only to those using 1971 envelopes will new sets be issued. So, if you've not used your set this year, now is the time to get caught up. Others desiring sets should make application for same directly to Pastor Rasche.

New Year's Eve Service, 8 p.m. - no service on New Year's Day. Only the 10:15 a.m. service on Sun. Jan. 2nd. January communion on Sun. Jan. 9th.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FRIDAY, DEC. 3

This meeting, at 8 p.m. will be in Fellowship Hall, 2nd fl. of the Church School bldg. and will feature the presentation of the 1972 budget for adoption and the election of folk to the 1972 Church Council. This meeting gives the vote to all members 18 yrs. and older, so come and use your privilege plus helping in the business affairs of your church.



10 YEAR'S ACCOUNTING

With the month of December, 1971 the pastor completes ten full years of service here in Baltimore at our United Evangelical Church. These have been years filled with the business of the church, both local, citywide and denominational, during which the Pastor was active, on the average, five and a half days per week, save vacation days, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., serving a 12 hr. day in the majority of weeks. He has sought to maintain very regular office hours each day, during which many hours were spent in family and individual counselling with folk of the church and community on a large number of confidential matters. In addition to taking care

of the myraid of adminstrative matters pertaining to the church life as well as preparing for the services of the Lord's Day each Sunday, the Pastor has faithfully made constant calls upon the many sick and shut-ins of the church and community, plus calls of need into homes.

During this decade of service the Pastor has officiated at 476 baptisms, the majority of which required a parental consultation of at least ¼ hour, covering a span of 31 eight hour days of time. 538 weddings were conducted, each requiring at least 1 hour of pre-marital consultation, covering a total of 67 eight hour days of time. 603 funeral services were conducted, each of these being given importance by a call to either the home or funeral parlor prior to the actual service. 500 new members were received into fellowship with the church, either being of Confirmation age or adults.

The record of attendance at the services of worship the nine winter and spring months of each year is interesting. During the early 60's the average was above the 400 mark. Since '67, the figure has been in the high 300's, and the average attendance for the ten years stands at 415

This is the record of the Pastor's activities during these ten years. It is not given in any spirit of self-praise, but is an honest and factual representation of what the records show. For the successes in the life of the congregation the Pastor expresses appreciation again for the many who have toiled long and hard out of their love for the church. If we have achieved anything together it is because the Lord has blessed us. May we continue to praise Him and serve Him faithfully as Pastor and people.



CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

Kelly Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph and Nancy Corliss, Nov. 14.

Weddings

Ronald Stedding and Juanita Heim on Oct. 22

James Michael and Anna Kingsley on Oct. 30.

James Smith, Jr. and Gladys Garner, on Nov. 6.

Funerals

John E. Buss, age 59, on Nov. 13

Miss Emma Hood, age 58, member of church, on Nov. 15.

New Members - on October 31

Mr. Richard T. Smith, application

Mr. Herbert P. Hock, application

Mrs. Arvilla S. Hock, application

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SON...



THE

UNITED ENDEAVOR

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by

The United Evangelical Church

United Church of Christ

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Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Paul A. Rasche, Pastor

Titus Lehmann, D.D. Emeritus

Office Phone BR 6-0393

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Worship

Each Sunday — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

(7:45 a.m. each Communion Sunday)

Church School — 9:00 a.m.