



The United Endeavor

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

EAST AVENUE & DILLON STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21224

MARCH 1974

CALL TO ACTION - GIST OF ANNUAL MEETING

The year 1974 shall be a year in which each member of the Church will be expected to demonstrate activity in behalf of the Church and the Lord. This was the gist of the Pastor's Annual Report and the content of the very fine Town meeting which followed the formal presentation.

So important is the working out of the theme of Evangelism that, by official motion, it was suggested the report be included with the Endeavor.

"When we approach the average attendance for the year in terms of the worship services, we come to the astounding fact that the average attendance did not grow during the year, in fact remained at almost the same figure, even taking into account the special youth services held monthly, which added to the total, and the anniversary services, though it may be said that the totals for the Anniversary Sunday were not more than 50 above our average 'good-attendance' day, and this phase of the Anniversary was disappointing.

This phenomenon is not peculiar to our congregation, though we can not excuse ourselves because of its general application. It bespeaks a gradual lessening or lowering of standards on the part of folk of our nation and a diminishing of reliance upon the necessity of fellowship with our Father God in His Church. Standards of living in terms of morality and

faithfulness to things spiritual have been in decline in our nation. Church attendance is slipping in most churches save those in fast-growing communities.

But this does not excuse us. Another part of the reason for the decline is that we have been willing to sit by and not do too much in terms of evangelism, either on the Church or the Church School level. Things have slid and in the main conditions have become aggravated.

We need to bring forth a program in 1974 to first, enliven our membership as far as the Church and Church School are concerned and, secondly, to be more alert to bring new folk into the Church and Church School. Both the Church and Church School are the responsibility of our congregation. To accomplish these ends we need a multi-pronged effort.

To move us into a starting position for this needed effort, the theme of Evangelism has been chosen for the year 1974, a full year on Evangelism. This was proposed by the Pastor and accepted by the Council. Evangelism is the telling of the Christian story, the inviting of luke-warm members to get steamed-up for the faith and to make an intensive effort to enlist new folk for the Christ and His Church.

As was first stated in the Jan. Endeavor, we have begun this important thrust with the series of messages on Evangelism for the month of February. We have also begun requesting questions from the Catechism which will form the basis of the messages at the mid-week Lenten services, that we may know what we believe and why, so as to prepare ourselves to tell others.

Through Lent it will be our

purpose to invite folk of the congregation, coming out of the Feb. sermon impact, to make a number of calls upon the young married folk of our roster, and upon young parents whose children should be in our Church School. Recently a study by our Council's Membership Committee revealed that of our membership of 700 plus, we have 424 folk between the ages of 50 and above 60; whereas there are only 272 between 20 and 49, and just 90 from Confirmation age to age 20. This tells the story of our need. And a study of attendance shows the 424 who are generally above 50 are the chief attenders at the services. Further, the attending membership in the lower departments of the Church School is in a sad condition. We need to contact people in person, and this we purpose to do in Lent.

The average attendance for the Sundays of the year, not counting any week-day services, was 323. This is a lessening figure, for the statistics for 10 yrs. ago indicated that we ran 100 more folk per Sunday in worship then. The Church School, 10 years ago, had 120 more on the roll than today.

Actually, the statistical record of addition and losses for the past decade show that in the majority of years more were added to the church roster than were deleted by death or transfer out. The real reason for the drop in total membership from approximately 1000 to our present 700-plus was as a result of Council action, some yrs ago, to remove disinterested folk from the membership, thus making our records of today a pretty accurate counting of noses. But it also says that through 10 years this spiritual lethargy as far as regular attendance at the services of worship has been intensifying.

The statistics for the year are as follows:

Baptisms, 33; Weddings, 48; Funerals, 66, of which 24 were members of the church.

Membership, 1/1/73	738
Additions	
Confirmation, 15	
Renewal 14	29
	<u>767</u>
Withdrawals	
Death 24	
Transfer 2	
Deletion 15	41
Membership, 1/1/74	<u>726</u>

We have a feeling of gratitude at this, our annual meeting, for the blessings of our 100th year. God has not only guided our congre-

gation these past 10 decades, but gave us the strength and know-how to plan and execute a most worthwhile anniversary.

I want to express deep appreciation to all the members of the Anniversary Committee and their collaborators who worked so diligently to accomplish this success.

I also want to express gratitude, as Pastor, for the many who are so faithful and the scores of folk who have labored hard to chalk up the record of activity for 1973. For, in spite of what I have reported, many aspects of our record are good, and we want to be cognizant of these. I refer first, to the Church Council, with Arthur Block as the able President and who relinquished the task at the end of the year. The Council is a serious body and really does carry the burden of the church on their hearts. Special mention must be made of Louis Parker, Sr., who served as Sec'y. and Robert Logue, both of whom left the Council because of terms running out. All Committees of the Council deserve great thanks for valuable service given.

Other expressions of gratitude must be given the members of the staff: our very able and consecrated secretary, Mrs. Grace Fader; Mr. Bankett, Jr., our Director of Music; Mr. Wolferman, our Caretaker, as well as the part-time staff members. All went smoothly through the year. This means a great deal to a pastor when he can depend upon the smooth operation of the many staff responsibilities every day and every year.

Included in the list of others for whom I am grateful are the officers and co-laborers of our organizations for men, women and youth, including our many Scout units. To these must be added our Church School, with a dedicated staff of administrators, officers, teachers and assistants. And then one cannot diminish the services of our Choir, our Acolytes and our Ushers. We have a smooth-running and efficient church operation here because all are cooperative in the part they must play in the total picture. Thanks to all.

At this point I wish to add a paragraph concerning our youth. The activity and interest of the youth group this year has been encouraging. Through the guidance of Mr. F. Long and A. Block for their Sunday meetings and Randy Schmitt for the Youth Worship services, this group has become a substan-

tial part of the life of our congregation. And the joy of it is that they are 'doing their own thing,' not merely following a program laid out by adults.

Now, back to the State of the Church. After Easter, to continue the Evangelism emphasis we are planning a week of evangelistic services, bringing the message of salvation to folk of the community. This will probably be held during the latter part of May.

The last phase of the year on Evangelism will be a series of house meetings in the various zones of our congregation, as it is scattered throughout the city. Pastor Weissner began preparing for this but was not able to complete it because of his retirement. This plan is to invite the members in a certain area of the larger community to meet at one home in that area on a particular evening, to get to know each other, to enliven each other in the faith and just to talk about the church. The Pastor and one or more members of the Council will be at each of these meetings. We do not know yet how many of these meetings we will need to cover the entire congregation, but it will take the cooperation of many in arranging the areas for the meetings, of volunteering their home for a house meeting, and helping to make these successful. Of all the efforts of the year, this could be the most beneficial to the enlivening of our entire congregation.

A major effort this year should be made to inaugurate and bring into being a group for young adults, young married folk. The lack of activity and fellowship for this group in the church life has been a detriment to the overall strength of the church. The Pastor would welcome the volunteering of any couples or young adults for this task.

The growth of the Church and the Church School is our goal for this year. This is not a small job and it is not a task which the Pastor can accomplish nor which the Council by itself can accomplish. It is a year's plan which must be undergirded by the people in the pews. This church needs to be thoroughly alive and that is the plan which your Pastor and Council projects for the year 1974. It will not work unless the lay membership of the church get behind it, and make it work by their volunteer effort.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Chief among the many appeals which come to us concerning needs in the world ought to be the special offerings at our church for Church World Service, the one in the fall of the year and the special offering during Lent, the One Great Hour of Sharing.

As is stated in the invitation from our denomination relative to this offering, the giving of our congregation and those others of the United Church of Christ plus those from other Protestant bodies can make a difference to meet the gigantic needs of people in travail the world over. But it needs the concern of each of us, and then collectively the difference can be made.

Thus to you as an individual, as a family, comes the appeal from your church to share in this great offering to alleviate suffering which is still prevalent in our world.

For example, Bangladesh refugees are being trained in new manners of skills and professions that will help them build their new nation and to live with pride and dignity....In Lewistown, Pa., (near Harrisburg), where one major industry was closed by hurricane Agnes and unemployment is still 13%, the church is helping men and women over 55 to find new meaning in life through new occupations... The people of Nicaragua, ministered to by our dollars for relief, have found new unity working together in adversity.

Your gift will help make the difference in the troubled spots of the world. Bring it with you on Sunday, March 24.



LENTEN NOTES

The enclosed leaflet brings you word of our coming Lenten Sales. The arrangement and furtherance of

these 'sales' will require a large number of folk (men and women) to be present on Thursday and Friday each week to prepare these foods and ready them for sale. There is need of your services for as much time as you can give these days.

Please remember the Bake Sales after each mid-week service and get the oven going in your home to provide goodies for as many of these sales as you can assist. And then also be aware that your participation in the purchase of goodies will be appreciated.

Again this year we look forward to a beautiful grouping of lilies for our Easter altar. Your gift to the Easter Lily fund provides the funds with which these lilies are purchased, the lilies then being sent to our shut-ins following the services.

Also the Memorial Fund gifts, your memorials at Easter, can be designated for the Lily Fund or the Memorial Fund. Gifts to the Lily Fund or Memorial Fund must be received at the office by Wed. Apr 3rd.



BIBLE STUDIES ON MARCH SUNDAYS

Mrs. Rasche will present four stories from the Bible on the four Sundays in March, March 3-24, at the Church School hour (9:10 - 9:45) in Friendship Hall. These presentations will enable you to understand the Bible message in a real graphic manner. Both men and women and youth, not otherwise in Church School, are invited and urged to attend.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms None

Weddings

Joseph S. Shultz and Charlotte A. Miller, on Jan. 26

Lawrence O. Clutter and Deborah L. Fulton, on Jan. 20

Funerals

Mrs. Barbara Jones, member, age 78 on Jan. 19

Mrs. Martha Stratemeyer, age 89 on Jan. 24

Charles M. Hartman, age 65, on Feb. 2

J. William Laukeman, member, age 79, on Feb. 7

REPORT OF ANNIVERSARY FUND

Receipts

Coin Folders	\$2151.75
Anniv. Plates	1250.00
Banquet Tickets	5519.00
Anniv. Fund	20208.85
Program	4620.50
Photographs sold	306.00
History book	172.35
Total	<u>\$34228.45</u>

Expenditures

Youth Group (refund)	300.00
Piano purchases	800.00
Windows, S.S.Bldg	6635.00
Misc. items	510.85
Printing	367.30
Anniv. Plates	1247.25
Banquet	6634.46
Coin Folders	143.00
Publicity	343.00
Windows, Parsonage	2263.50
Photographs	502.00
Air-Conditioners	1038.00
Parsonage painting	850.00
Church Services	569.08
Special events	250.00
Anniv. Programs	1650.00
Music	320.00
Anniv. booklets	1350.00
Total	<u>\$29757.54</u>



THE UNITED ENDEAVOR

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by

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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.