



the  
united  
church center....

Harundale Mall, Glen Burnie, Md.

Telephone (301) 766-1282

June 22, 1965

Dear Sir:

At the June meeting of the Social Education and Action Committee of the Chesapeake Association, a proposal to organize an active chapter of the United Church of Christ's Fellowship of the Committed was made.

The purpose of the chapter will be to provide a vehicle through which members of local churches who are committed to the concept of racial equality might meet together for mutual encouragement. The local FOC Chapter would be a subsidiary of the Social Education and Action Committee and would have no power to officially represent the association, except insofar as it is granted by the Committee from time to time.

As a first step toward organizing this local FOC Chapter, pastors of Association churches are being asked to submit to this Committee, names of individuals within their congregations who are committed to the racial justice movement and/or who might be interested. Following the receipt of such names, a place and date for an organizational meeting will be set. Further information about the Fellowship of the Committed will be provided at that first meeting.

Please submit any names to Rev. R. Bayard, United Church Center, 202 Harundale Mall, Glen Burnie, Md.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne A. Bryant, Member  
Social Education and Action  
Committee

**....assisting men in the search for a full life.**

**the church of the good shepherd**

**the united church of Christ**

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
THE UNITED CHURCH CENTER

The Harundale Mall                      Glen Burnie, Maryland

The United Church Center has just completed its first year of operation. It has been a year of structuring and establishing a new ministry for a new church with the help of the association churches and the entire United Church of Christ. The Advisory Council is a group of lay men and ministers vitally interested in the center who assist in an advisory capacity. The following facts have arisen from the first year's work.

Total visitors not from the local STATISTICS congregation, not applying for specific services or not attending scheduled meetings: 2,821 persons. 824 availed themselves of regular ministries offered at the church center including the Youth Employment Service (over 100 youth placed in full time jobs), Senior Citizens, and the Over-60 Employment Counseling Service (beginning April 1965).

Over 1,000 persons attended 227 meetings during the past year. Typical uses: a series of career conferences sponsored by the county 4H clubs, functions of the Anne Arundel County League for Human Rights, the County Commission for the Aging. A Senior Citizens group, Girl Scout leaders meetings and association committees.

COFFEE A series of informal opinion sharing  
BREAK sessions on such subjects as the population explosion, the Selma march, folk music, and church unity was held during late winter.

YOUTH An employment service forming a key  
OPPORTUNITY part in the poverty program working  
CENTER with disadvantaged youth has been de-

veloped by the state in cooperation with the center. This service was the pilot project for the Baltimore Youth Center and was probably the first such office opened in the nation.

**JOB CORPS** The church center serves as a monthly screening office for job corps applicants in the North Anne Arundel County area.

**THE AGING** The United Church Center has worked closely with the Anne Arundel County Commission for the Aging playing host at several of its meetings, providing facilities for a county-wide conference for leaders in the field and serving as the focal point for a Senior Citizens Group Coordinating Committee for Anne Arundel County.

Over-60 Employment Counseling Service. The United Church Center under the direction of the Advisory Council has established a branch of this valuable service for the older worker.

Glen Burnie Senior Citizens. The United Church Center plays host and sponsors a local Senior Citizens group comprised of 18 persons.

**YOUTH** The United Church Center has used its offices to establish a study group comprised of community leaders (religious, educational, recreational and health) to determine the key needs of area youth and will propose a 7 day a week, full time youth agency. Because of the scope of the project it will be sponsored by various groups.

**SOCIAL EDUCATION** The Church Center has invited knowledgeable persons to acquaint people with the primary and general election ballot and referendum. It took the lead in Anne Arundel County in resisting efforts to establish a white Citizens' Council.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL** The Advisory Council is comprised of persons from the wider church who assist in establishing the ministry of the Church Center. You can be a part of the Council. Call 207-444-1800

"A negro woman dropped in. I invited her to our services. She answered, 'When your children stand there you do, I will be able to come.'"

"Four boys in late teens stopped at the entrance. I said, 'Hi'. They just laughed in a sadistic way. As they turned away, I invited them back."

"Young man came to read magazines while waiting for his mother to finish work"

"Six nuns from Holy Trinity were extremely interested and felt we were doing 'God's work.'"

## UNITED CHURCH CENTER

"Two boys ran in to announce they were skipping school."

"Gentleman stopped to inquire if we were 'mixed up in that integration business'. He left in a huff!"

"One young mother was in flight from an unhealthy marriage situation. An intra-church fight had poisoned her husband to the Christian faith and his hostility was directed on her because she did not share his recently and fervently embraced "atheism". She spent almost the whole evening in the center. When she left she commented, "I was walking out tonight. Thank you for listening. God has shown me that I must love him more deeply and more patiently."

202 HARUNDALE MALL

GLEN BURNIE, MARYLAND

## PURPOSE

The United Church Center is an instrument of the church. It seeks to mobilize the resources of "God's people" in such a way that they can be a vehicle through whom his love can flow to meet the needs of urban man.

Just as Jesus went out into the streets and countryside of Galilee; just as our Lord spent his life by the fishing piers and in the banquet halls of the world; just as he expressed God's concern for both the tangible and intangible needs of man in his quest for life, so the followers of Jesus in Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Glen Burnie are seeking to reach into the world to minister through ways mundane and transcendental to the men and women God loves.

## HISTORY

In 1962, under denominational sponsorship, a new congregation was started in the Glen Burnie area. Its initial services were held in the community rooms of a shopping center, The Harundale Mall.

A store area was vacant in this modern, enclosed shopping center at the time the infant congregation was re-evaluating its meeting place. The congregation approached the Community Research and Development Corporation, asking it if it would consider leasing space to the church in order that it might execute an experimental ministry to all people. The criteria for the services to be rendered was the need of the person and ability to muster from church, community or public resources whatever was necessary to fill the need.

Assured of the interest of the corporation, the growing congregation submitted its proposal to the appropriate denominational bodies where it was thoroughly and at great length examined prior to its adoption.

In 1964, the United Church Center began its public ministry as the result of the sacrificial co-operation of the landlord, OCWM support and contributions by individuals and churches reaching from Richmond to Baltimore and Buffalo.

## THE ARM OF THE CHURCH

From the first meeting of twelve persons for worship in January 1962, the intent in Glen Burnie has been and is to establish a community of persons bound together by the faith, practice and discipline which have been the authentic marks of the church. In three years the twelve have enlisted fifty-eight others to join in their life and mission.

The United Church Center is one of the forms used by this congregation with the aid, assistance and counsel of the wider church in order to responsibly extend the ministry Jesus began and which our Lord commissioned his disciples to continue.

The life of this congregation represents a serious experiment in developing dynamic and effective missionary structures for a local congregation.

### ECUMENICAL WITNESS

Good Shepherd Church and through her, the United Church Center is deeply committed to an ecumenical ministry through the center.

Those ministries that can be best provided by one church, will be provided to the extent that Good Shepherd Church is able. Where, as in many cases, the needs of people are best met by the wider church and/or the community, Good Shepherd Church shall and is seeking to lay the foundations for such ecumenical cooperation. In such areas she endeavors to recede into the total witness.

The plans for the center call for its administration by a board comprised of a fair proportion of Good Shepherd's congregation and others chosen from the general community, area churches and the United Church.

### HELP IS NEEDED

Good Shepherd Church needs the talents, the insight and the assistance of the wider church to take advantage of the opportunities laying at her feet. Just as she has supported the total mission of the church through responsible stewardship and

and deployed her people and staff to serve in denominational, ecumenical and community projects, so she hopes the wider church and community will join hands with her in filling the needs and lives of men.

Opportunity lies untouched on all sides of this group of Christians. The mall employs over 600 persons, many of whom refer to the center as "our chapel" even though very few have yet to have intimate contact with the center or its staff. Here lies a ministry for which there is presently no leadership or resources to develop. The area in which the center is located can best be characterized as "urban blight" filled with young families having no significant church background, aimlessly trying to "buy" life and shouldering countless personal problems. Some form of "counseling clinic" needs to be established at the center. Again, neither resources nor leadership is available to do it. The area suffers from economic opportunism. There is little healthy communication between community leaders, business interests, real estate agents and the few community agencies. The door stands open to the calling of conferences or "academies" of those working within the community. The center does not have ability at this time to pull the people together who need to understand, challenge and co-operate with each other.

Much of the ministry of the center is designed to utilize the resources of lay volunteers. It becomes increasingly clear that to co-ordinate, train and utilize these "gifts of the spirit", additional professional services are needed.

Immediately to the south of Good Shepherd, a 2000 unit residential development has started. The local church is studying if, how and in what way the Holy Spirit directs her to serve this community. Yet, at the same time, it is abundantly clear that she cannot develop her internal life without additional staff help.

There is abundant need for both voluntary, professional and financial help from the United Church and its member churches if there is to be more than a token ministry provided to the people of Good Shepherd Church and by them to the crying needs about her.