

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION OF
UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
Jan. 29, 1965
for
the year 1964

Friends and Co-workers in United Evangelical Church - -

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow." These words we utter in song every time we gather in worship, and, with these words I would begin my annual report to the congregation. It is not only ^{unto} God that we worship, out of a sense of needing companionship with Him through Christ our Lord, but it is from Him we receive life and being, and it is to Him that we do sing our love and praise

As we begin our official report this night I would ask that we pause for a moment in memory of those faithful souls of our church family who have been called from our midst in 1964. For their witness and love to the Lord and their contribution of life to our beloved church we are thankful. Their memory will linger with us. May we now be silent for a few moments.

Looking at the past year we note some records which have been written, the record of our church life in 1964. I shall share these briefly with you - - - We held services on each Lord's Day and on special occasions during the year, 117 services in total. I thank Dr. Lehmann for serving on those occasions when he assisted me and when I was gone from the city. The total at these services was 26047 people for the year, at all services. This shows a slight increase over 1963. The average attendance at the Sunday services was a tiny bit higher than a year ago, the average for the 2 services on the Lord's Days across the year being 438, it being 437 last year.

It was this year we began to incorporate the communion service within the body of the worship service and this change of procedure has worked very well, there being even a slight increase in total communions over a year ago. The total communions for the year was 3580. This change in procedure is a significant one, for it brings the communion into its rightful place at the very heart of the worship experience rather than an appendage at its conclusion. I feel our Church Council is to be commended on the fine manner in which this advancement was worked out.

The church records indicate that there were 62 baptisms this year, 49 weddings and 66 funerals, of which 17 represented our member dead. 19 youths were confirmed and 24 adults were received into membership. On the debit side of the ledger there were the 17 deaths, 10 transfers from the church and 104 deletions. Balancing the accessions and removals, our church membership at the beginning of this current year stands at 924. This great loss in deletions represents the work done by our Church Council and its Spiritual Committee in bringing our records up to date.

Just a word more on our records. We can report that the task of studying our membership has now been completed and the compilation of the membership according to various categories is now fulfilled, determining that the figure of current membership just quoted is extremely accurate. This membership study will be an annual occurrence, but will not be the continuous job it has been.

Cognizance is taken in this report of the special gifts received

by the church in addition to your regular contributions. Your Council has been very gratified by the picture of this past year. These extra gifts from individuals and groups made possible the purchase of the beautiful red ecclesiastical drapes over the memorial window, the provision of pew Bibles, and bookmarks, and the new record player and projector. Then too this past year saw the painting of our sanctuary and halls, so that now the entire new building has received a coat of paint. We are grateful further for the increase in memorial gifts and love gifts to the church and further commend this fund for even more thoughtfulness on the part of our people. If this Memorial Fund can be maintained as such, it can become a very meaningful Endowment Fund for this congregation, which may be very helpful in years to come. It is suggested at time of death, and at other occasions in life, thought be given to this fund.

As I close this report, I desire to express appreciation to the many, many at United who have so loyally given of time, talent and treasure in extra ways - the members of the Church Council, the choirs, the officers & committees of all organizations and functions in the life of the church, the church school staff, and any others who have given themselves to the church in this past year. I am grateful to all of the church for their loyalty to the Lord and His Church during this past 12 month period. Especially and I grateful to the members of our ^{paid and my husband} staff for their wonderful devotion to the church in all aspects of its work.

Inasmuch as we shall have our hands full with the Church School renovation program in this new year, I shall forego making any other recommendations.

This is our 4th annual congregational meeting together. We have has a wonderful association together as pastor and people these past three years and may God continue to guide us. May His presence be with us. May He continue to preserve us that we may be together at many more of these occasions. All glory and praise and honor be given to Him through Christ our Lord.

Respectaully submitted,

Paul A. Roache
pastor

Jan 29, 1965