

United Evangelical Church     DRAFT  
3200 Dillon Street,  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
(301) 276-0393

### FAITH ALIVE

#### BACKGROUND:

Because of our limited capacity as a church organization to support large corporate works of mercy, we need to build on our strength. And that is in producing light bearers. These are persons capable of witnessing to their faith in the common everyday tasks to which they are called such as work, family, corporate works of mercy, government, social relationships and in calling public attention to the importance of that role. It is this awareness which inspired this program.

Jesus reminds us that "a city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house." We live in a world where few people recognize the impact of living faith in our members and the importance of love, compassion, and kindness, in contrast to the cynicism and despair, and fear which we see all around us. Ours is a church made up of a great many older persons. Recognizing our members' faith and their contribution as light bearers and role models can both strengthen our church in its example to young people as well as in sharing the faith alive of these examples to other older members. Jesus supports us in this celebration by saying "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

PURPOSE: To recognize and honor the living faith of church members as faith alive.

The purpose of this program is to:

1. Introduce the Pastor and members to the faith experience of key members of the church.
2. Recognize each Sunday another member of the church and share that person's religious experiences in a brief written account of his/her living faith.
3. To inspire our members by sharing the life and work of members of the church and to build self-esteem.
4. To invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us in worship and in honoring the faith of our members.
5. Give a rose or some suitable recognition of our honored member appreciating the faith alive in our member.

METHOD:

1. Honoring Church Members - Celebrating Faith Alive:

The Pastor needs to know church members as individuals and to get to know the elements which they feel have made their faith strong. During this beginning of his ministry, he will be calling on and talking to a number of our members. In these meetings, he will be exploring their vision for our church and its future as they see it. Therefore, the time is right, while he is doing this, to write a brief witness to the faith of these members -and one which, with the member's written permission, will be printed in the church bulletin on the Sunday chosen to honor or celebrate the faith of that person in morning worship. We know that some members are not known to others in the church. This method will enable our community to get to know the "other saints." (See the example of a Faith Alive statement which I have prepared for study)

2. Inviting Church Members, Family, Friends, and Neighbors to Church for the Celebration of Faith Alive:

An invitation will be printed in the church bulletin announcing these celebrations. It will be printed two to four weeks in advance.

Written invitations will be sent by the church secretary to non-members family, friends, and neighbors at least two weeks in advance of the Sunday honoring the member. These names and addresses will be prepared by our honoree and added to our mailing list to be included in invitations to major church events such as Tinsel Sunday, Sour Beef Dinner, Clam Feast, Thanksgiving Service, and Christmas Service etc.

3. Permission to Print Faith Alive:

Each honoree will be asked to review his/her story and to sign off that it is correct and approved for printing in the church bulletin.

4. A Symbol of Faith Alive:

A gift symbol honoring the member will be purchased and placed on the altar. It will be given to the member after the worship service in a brief presentation.