

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH
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ACTIVITY REPORT TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL
ROBERT M. ARMSTRONG, PASTOR
April 1, 1991 - April 30, 1991

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Church continues to make progress during this last month. Attendance for March & April was 5% under that during the months of March & April in 1990. Easter and Palm Sunday fell in April 1990. Because of Pam Georgiadis schedule, the Lock-In program for our young people which we approved last Council meeting had to be moved from April 5, 1991 to April 12, 1991. We had 15 young people for this program and introduced to them Jeff Zenger from the Young Life program. Jeff is working with young people in five schools in the area.

The new monthly program led by Marty Clement called Community Forum - Faith is Alive and which was approved in the March meeting of Council, had its first test on April 14th with a program entitled "Let's Talk about the War". While only four persons attended, it gave us the opportunity to try out the method. The second program on "Peace and Justice" had approximately 9 persons in attendance. We will study its effectiveness in the next three programs. It will be tested through June of this year and will supplement the Bible classes which Marty leads. The new membership class met on April 11, 1991. Nine persons attended this meeting. We have a possibility of twelve new members.

Our Vacation Bible School this year will include the combined cooperation of St. Brigid's, Messiah Lutheran, Holy Evangelists, and United. This idea came out of our "Think-Tank" Ministerium which met on Wednesday, April 10th at St. Brigid's.

PROGRESS NOTES (These notes summarize progress in following a program recommended by the Pastor and presented to the Council in September 1990)

1. Systematic Approach to Ministry to the Shut-Ins

April brought a decrease in visits to shut-ins from 12 in March to 10 in April. Hospital visits increased from 15 in March to 26 in April. This reflects care for an increased number of sick people. Paul Bauersfeld and I are starting back through our list of shut-ins so as to try to maintain a

pace of one visit to each shut-in in each quarter of the year. This however, may be too many to sustain.

2. Preaching Planned in Advance

We have been able to maintain a schedule of preaching planned in advance and to change the bulletin board regularly. Attendance decreased by 5% during the months of March & April when compared to March and April 1990. Palm Sunday and Easter fell in April in 1990 so that would be expected. Judging by church attendance, the focus of the preaching seems to have proved acceptable. Your Pastor had some questions about the reception of the prayer and healing program in Lent since it introduces a new concept. The future of this aspect of our ministry is being studied by the prayer healing, and Bible study group. A recommendation will be forthcoming.

3. Implementation of Faith is Alive

The faith alive program has included recognition of the contribution of Edna Miller on April 7, Lillian Bushman on April 14th, The Church as a Whole on April 21st, and Jo Uncapher, Guest from the Peace and Justice Task Force in Washington, D.C. on April 28th.

4. Developing a Marketing Plan

The draft of the marketing plan was reviewed by the New Members Committee on Tuesday, April 9th and corrections made so that it can be formally presented to the Council in this meeting. Copies of the plan have been prepared for your review.

5. Pastoral Support of All Church Groups and Activities

The Pastor attended the area fund raising meeting of the Boy Scouts on April 25, 1991, where he delivered the invocation.

6. Confirmation Class

With the leadership of Lois Long, the Confirmation Class of 1991 was concluded with a graduation trip to the Aquarium on Saturday April 13, 1991. Members received Certificates of Confirmation on Sunday April 7, 1991 and celebrated communion with the Class of 1941. Next year first Communion should be on Easter and Confirmation on Palm Sunday. Confirmands of 1991 will escort and welcome the confirmands of 1992 during the 1992 Confirmation Service on Palm Sunday.

7. Deepening the Spiritual and Prayer Life of the Church

The Prayer Group and Bible Study, led by Priscilla, meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:15 PM. in the Library of the Christian

Education Building. Meeting there has proved to be of great value to the class in eliminating interruptions. On Tuesday, April 16, 1991, the class visited a Roman Catholic Church to observe a healing service conducted by a visiting Priest.

Sunday morning Bible Study led by Marty Clement has, for a number of reasons, continued to be small. It is hoped that now they have a permanent meeting place in Friendship Hall the group will be able to grow.

In response to interest expressed by various members, to open up some some new opportunities for our members and the community at large, Marty Clement has developed a plan for a monthly Community Forum -Faith is Alive -Series which she presented at our February Council meeting and then to the church on Sunday March 3rd. Our first event was a program entitled "Let's Talk About the War in the Middle East" and was held on April 14, 1991. Four persons and Marty attended. While we were disappointed, we had an opportunity to study the method of conducting a Forum. Programs are scheduled for Sunday, April 28 on "Peace and Justice", May 5th, on "Security in the Community - A Matter of Faith and Trust", and for Sunday, June 3, 1991, "Helping Older Persons to Remain at Home." Marty is building a committee to help plan this program for the fall.

8. Developing More Practical Assistance to Members and Neighbors Needing Assistance with Food, Clothing, and Shelter:

The Pastor has been working with SEEC (Southeast Emergency Committee) to insure more efficient use of our resources in helping those in need.

In cooperation with the Maryland Food Committee, Canton Baptist Center and SEEC, we are part of a grant from the Maryland Food Committee for a SUPER PANTRY. This program will be a one day a week effort to provide assistance to welfare mothers in order to get them off welfare. The program involves nutrition education, assistance in developing self-esteem, training in developing a job search, and assistance in using the available resources for health services and special education related to a job search. Support will be given members in the job search process. We will review it with the Council before implementation. The plan is to begin this program on Friday October 4 from 9:30 to 2:30 and each Friday through November 1991 and to charge up to \$200 or approximately \$25.00 per session to help cover maintenance costs.

9. Developing a Community "Think-Tank":

The Pastor has developed a "think-tank" group of key Pastors, Social Workers, and Administrators, which will give us input

concerning the program planning of churches and community organizations in the area. This group currently consists of Rev. Joe Bohenic, Rev. Lee Hudson, Rev. Carol Flannagan, Betty (Office Manager at St. Brigid's), Pat Skarupa, Parish Visitor at St. Brigid's and myself. It met for the first time on April 10 at St. Brigid's over lunch and to explore "what's happening" in our community and the social, health, and church organizations in Canton-Highlandtown. Members expressed an interest in a combined Good Friday Service for next year to supplement the Blessing of the Palms which took place at O'Donnell Square this year. In addition we have set a meeting at United for May 8, 1991 at noon. Following this meeting we will go to St. Brigid's to plan for a combined Vacation Bible School during the last week in June. Members of our group are very concerned about the use of drugs in the neighborhood and are exploring the extent of this problem so that we can think about possible responses. One of the suggestions was for a "Community Recovery Month" which would include drug awareness, a Community Watch, prayers for those addicted, and adult education forums identifying recovery groups for drugs and alcohol. St. Brigid's and Holy Evangelists have AA groups.

OBSERVATIONS

1. Church Attendance, New Members Class, New Members Committee

a. Attendance

Church attendance statistics indicate that while we have been increasing our attendance at Sunday Morning Worship, in March-April we showed a decrease of 5% for the two months. This may have been due to the fact that Easter and Palm Sunday fell in April in 1990.

b. New Members Class

We need to continue to work at building our approach to the single young adults and to families who have children and who fall in the age range of 20 to 60 years of age. Currently we are working with five couples who are planning marriages in the church and have indicated a desire to attend worship services. Our membership class consists of William McGinty, Dawn Bridges, Dave Baker, Patricia Canapp, Ann Hager, Tony Picorello, Chris Baker and Shelia Birmingham, Deborah Blunt, Rose Burdick, and Emma McLewee. We are also attempting to involve William Rugemer and Alice Leftridge and Jennine Champainy and Lonnie Holmes.

c. New Members Committee

Under the able leadership of Harvey Jacob, the New members Committee met on Tuesday April 9, 1991 in the Men's Class Room in the Christian Education Building. The Committee reviewed and modified the Marketing Plan presented by the Pastor. It will be presented to the Council this evening.

The Committee recommended that we develop a "Bring A Friend to Church Sunday", develop more imaginative advertising in the "Guide", invite the United Pleasure Club Men to the church on Sunday, May 19th, find out about new people moving into the community, and develop an "Ask the Pastor" column in the "Guide". Other ideas were also discussed.

2. New Committees to Meet

a. Committee on the Serving of Alcoholic Beverages:

The Committee on the serving of alcoholic beverages in the church itself as well as in programs sponsored by the Church was appointed (see attached) and met on April 25, 1991 at 7:30PM. This Committee listed its concerns and decided to begin its work by developing a GUIDELINE FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ("Followers of the Way") on the use of alcohol and see if we can get a consensus. To accomplish this, the guideline will be discussed, reviewed by church members, referred to the Council and approved prior to the Committee's developing a policy for Church programs.

b. Committee on Fundraising

The Committee to review our present fund-raising strategy and to develop a strategy for new methods of fund-raising at United was appointed (see attached) and met on April 23rd at 7:30 PM. The Committee reviewed our sources of funds, the need for members to receive information on where we stand each quarter, and reviewed various ideas for Fundraising. Members of the Committee decided to ask the other church members for additional ideas prior to setting priorities for our strategy. 48% of our funds to support the church come from envelopes, 10.6% from Suppers, 13.3% from Other Activities (Dance Class etc.), 7% from Love Gifts & Memorials, 7% on Interest, and 3.1% from Raffles and the rest from other sources. The Committee felt that it would be helpful to give a quarterly report to the membership on where we are and how much we are behind in percentage terms. We also agreed that we need to tell members what we need and that we need a Sermon from the Pastor on Stewardship of money, time and talent. This should be done in the November Congregational Meeting and hand-outs be distributed. We need to emphasize our dreams for the future and things we will need. We then reviewed new ideas for Fund Raising.

These two groups are made up of Council members and ad-hoc members including interested persons from the congregation as a whole. They are limited to about seven persons each. Each of these groups will prepare and submit a written report for review by the Council.

The Church has been informed about the membership of the Committees and members from the congregation have been

invited to serve.

3. Assisting Older Members to Remain at Home

This program will be presented as part of our Faith is Alive-Community Forum on June 2, 1991 at 9:15AM. The program will provide technical information for those interested in using potential resources for home care of the city, state, and the hospital systems.

4. Youth Group Leaders

a. Intermediate Youth Group

Pam Georgiadis is the Intermediate Youth Group Leader joining Lois Long who now meets with the Confirmands. In various conversations, it is apparent that we have a need for leadership for a young adult group. A Lock-In program was held on Friday April 12th to Saturday April 13th. The program included a spiritual lesson, physical activity, and games. The Pastor invited Jeff Zenger from Young Life. He is involved in working with youth in five schools. After interpreting the Young Life program to our young people, he played games with them and invited them to his next group meeting.

b. Confirmands

Lois Long and I took the Confirmands to the Aqarium for their graduation trip on April 13th. All eight showed up for the trip and they had a great time. Plans are in motion for an early summer trip, perhaps to Fort McHenry, for a picnic.

5. Acquiring a Computer and Office Re-design

Harvey Jacob is leading us in thinking about the use of a computer to enhance the administration of our church. While this project was put on a back burner because of the development of the Church Directory, we are now ready to move forward with it as a part of the redesign of the office. Members of the committee include Harvey Jacob, Millie Slecta, Grace Fader, Sam Jones, and George Hammerbacher.

6. Church Directory

Bill Voelker and Harvey Jacob completed the editing of the Directory and forwarded it to the publisher for final printing.

7. Promoting the INDECCO PROJECT

On April 18 and 19th, we signed Senior Citizens up for this project as per previous discussions (see insert). This project will rent apartments for \$210 to \$300 per month. Ruth Beckwith, Frank Klima, and Grace Fader helped welcome the persons who have expressed interest in signing up for

this low income housing opportunity. In addition to a housing opportunity for members of the church, for us it means an opportunity to meet potential new neighbors who might be interested in our church. We were promised a donation of \$200 for the use of our building. John Cain came and took pictures for the Guide and Grace Fader and Frank Klima were included (see attached).

8. Church Repair Projects

With the leadership of Sam Jones, and cooperation of Jim Talagsen, John Strong, Art Jones, Henry Will, George Hammerbacher, Ben Long, Robert Gundlach, Wayne Schaefer, Jim Slecta and others a number of major repair and maintenance projects have been undertaken. These included seeing to the cleaning of the rugs in the sanctuary and offices, work on the electrical controls for dimming lights in the sanctuary, the replacement of the washing machine in the parsonage, and getting a bid on the repair of the church roof in addition to the support work for the Sour Beef Dinner. The men also prepared the area around the trees for planting so that the Pastor could put in new soil and flowers around the trees in addition to plants in front of the parsonage.

9. Sour Beef a Smashing Success

With the leadership of the Ladies Aid, the Sour Beef Dinner served 700 sit-down dinners and 111 Carry-outs this year. The Dinner was so successful that we ran out of dumplings. There was an abundance of volunteer assistance and so guests were served promptly. The men of the church were instrumental in setting up tables for the Sour Beef Diner, obtaining the food, closing the building, opening the buildings and maintaining access to the parking lot in addition to working on dish washing and cleaning of pots and pans. The women, have contributed immeasurably in preparing food for the Sour Beef Supper, setting up and taking down a craft table and selling these items in addition to the raffle of an afghan. Their delicious cooking not only led to additional financial contributions to the Church but sent people home praising the hospitality and skill of church members and committing the guests to return for the dinner in the fall. This dinner was a major public relations achievement for the church.

10. Fifty Persons Turned Away form the Crab Cake Luncheon

One hundred fifty persons attended the Crab Cake and Bingo Luncheon on Wednesday April 24, 1991 sponsored by the Ladies of the Church. It was a sell out and everyone had a good time. We thank those who participated in making this affair our second smashing success in the month of April.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Complete the review of the marketing plan at this next meeting of the Council

2. Time for Testing

The Faith is Alive program, Celebration of the Anniversary Date of Baptisms, and more intensive baptism counselling sessions seem to be working. These need more time for testing out. The new focus will be in recognizing those who teach Sunday School. We need to build a closer working relationship between the Sunday School and the Church and find new ways to teach children the importance of Sunday worship in the church.

3. Strengthening Our Youth Program

Effort needs to be made to recruit a new youth leader for the young adult group.

4. New Member's Class

A new member's class began to meet on Thursday evening April 11, 1991 at the church at 7:30 PM. Four persons attended the first meeting. Nine persons attended on April 9, 1991. We plan to have our final meeting of this class on May 2, 1991 prior to accepting these new persons as a part of the church on May 19, 1991.

5. Rehabilitation of the Office

Last meeting we spent much time in discussing operating problems in developing our church office. With Sam Jones assistance, we have acquired a new typewriter for Millie. This was a very valuable contribution to our mission. Along with Clarence, he has also been of assistance in looking into the purchase of a new copy machine. The Committee needs to consider the most effective way to organize the office, to make recommendations for its redecorating, to suggest new desk and chair equipment, the location and placement of that equipment, a color scheme for painting and decorating and the integration of files and equipment such as the new computer into our plan. Underlying such a plan should be a fiscal plan for implementation and recommendations for financing. Harvey has distributed planning kits to members of the committee.

6. Rental of Fellowship Hall to the Montessori School

On Tuesday March 19, Harvey Jacob, Sam Jones, Jim Talagsen and the Pastor met with Marsha Hettinger, to review the possibility of renting space in Fellowship Hall to the Montessori School. Marsha is the Administrator of the Montessori Society of Baltimore. This is an international program to provide advanced education for children 3-6 years of age. We have not heard from the School as yet. My guess is

program to provide advanced education for children 3-6 years of age. We have not heard from the School as yet. My guess is that that we lost the competition for this opportunity.

7. Better Response from the Guide

It was the unanimous recommendation of the New Members Committee to spend time building a better relationship with John Cain Editor of the Guide. We talked about approaching him with an idea for an "Ask the Pastor Column". We might also insert a larger ad and include an invitation to persons in the community to write or call for a brochure describing the church. When we get our new printed brochures this might be one way to use them. On April 18th, after John took pictures of the people signing up for the Indecco Project, I went with John Cain for lunch at the "Sip and Bite" and was his guest. He is planning to run for City Council from our district and so is taking a leave of absence from the paper. John promised to do a story on the Vacation Bible School we are undertaking with St. Brigid's, Holy Evangelists, Messiah Lutheran, and Canton Baptist on the last week in June. He suggests that we consider modifying our ad with the ad representative at the paper.

STATISTICAL REPORT
April 1991

	Total
VISITS TO SHUT-INS =3; calls=7	<u>10</u>
Ann Nurkowicz 4-1 Call re Catherine Lambert	
Pommela Henning 4-1 Call re Catherine Lambert	
Russell Hahn 4-2 Letter	
Lil Bushman 4-4 Call re Charles Bushman	
Margaret Walthimeyer 4-4	
Marty Walsh - Call re Lillian Walsh	
George Tuerk - Call re placement 4-8	
Hildegard Tuerk - Call re George 4-22	
Lillian Walsh - 4-23	
Marty Walsh - 4-24 Call re Lillian	
Lillian Walsh - 4-24	
VISITS TO HOSPITALS= 16;calls=10	<u>26</u>
David Baker Johns Hopkins 4-1	
Pat Cannapp 4-1 Call re David Baker	
Hildegard Tuerk 4-1 Call re George Tuerk	
Evelyn Seifert 4-3 Key Center	
Hildegard Tuerk 4-2 Call re George Tuerk	
Catherine Lambert Franklin Square 4-2	
George Tuerk 4-4 University-Staffing	
George Tuerk - William Single 4-12	
George Tuerk - Call to University 4-12	
George Tuerk - Call to Social Worker University 4-12	
Cathrine Borkman - Church Home - 4-12	
Catherine Borkman - Church Home - 4-12	
Eileen Beauchamp - Call re Lil Walsh 4-17	
Lil Walsh - Hopkins 4-17	
Marty Walsh - Call re Lillian - 4-18	
Lil Walsh - Hopkins 4-18	
Thomas Huth - Union Memorial 4-19	
Catherine Borkman - Church Home 4-19	
George Tuerk - Univeristy of MD Psych Hospital 4-24	
Thomas Huth - Union Memorial 4-25	
Ernestine Huth - 4-26 Call re Thomas Huth	
Lillian Single Smith - Franklin Square 4-26	
Andrew Rupalt - Key Center 4-28	
Marty Walsh - Call re Lillian 4-30	
Lil Walsh - Hopkins 4-30	
Grace Carrigan Rupalt - Call re Andrew Rupalt 4-30	
COMMITTEE MEETINGS	<u>3</u>
New Membership Committee 4-9	
Committee on Fund Raising 4-23	
Committee on Alcohol Policy 4-25	
COUNCIL MEETINGS	<u>1</u>
Eighth Meeting 4-2	

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS

19

Maryland Food Committee - Hunt Valley 4-3
 Jeff Zenger 4-4 Call re lunch Young Life
 Clifford Family Card 4-5 Call re Waltimeyer
 SEEC - Salem Methodist - 4-5
 Think Tank 4-10
 Ron Carrigan - Faith Alive 4-10
 Jeff Zenger - Young Life 4-11
 Jared Mintz - Call Howell Associates 4-16
 Captain Meeks Dpty Cnder SE Distrist Police - Call 4-16
 John Cain Guide 4-18
 United Chesepeake Center 4-20 Fashion Show
 Superpantry Project 4-19
 Superpantry Project 4-25 Canton Baptist
 Boy's Scout Luncheon Man of the Year Award 4-25
 Presbytery of Baltimore - Sex and the Church - Review of
 Three Yr Study 4-25-91
 Fred Long 4-26 Call re Alcohol Policy
 Lena Manning 4-26 Call re Alcohol Policy
 Calls Set Up Acolytes for Sunday 4-27
 Elizabeth Erdman - Call re Altar Set Up for Pentecost 4-26

COUNCIL MEMBER INTERVIEWS

0

GROUP MEETINGS

6

New Members 4-11
 Lock-In 4-12 to 4-13
 Confirmand Trip to Aquarium 4-13
 Sour Beef Dinner 4-17 All Day
 Indecco Registration 4-18 and 4-19
 Crab Cake Luncheon & Bingo 4-24

BAPTISMS=2, Counselling=1

3

Debbie Blunt 4-21
 David Austin Blunt 4-21
 Donna Pate Counselling 4-28

WEDDINGS=1, Counselling=3

4

Champainy- Holmes Counselling 4-3
 Baker - Canapp Counselling 4-15
 Baker - Canapp Rehersal 4-27
 Baker - Canapp Wedding 4-28

FUNERALS=3, Visit to Funeral Home=0; Counselling=3

6

Catherine Lambert - Dippell Home 4-6
 Catherine Lambert - Call Ann Nurkowicz 4-4 Counselling
 Carrie Dickson - Call Carolyn Wagner 4-11 Counselling Carrie
 Dickson - Seiler Home 4-12
 Verna Lohn - re Stevens 4-18 Counselling
 Catherine Stevens - Seiler Home 4-19

COUNSELLING SESSIONS

3

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

0

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE - APRIL 1991

<u>8:00AM</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>Total Net</u>
<u>1990</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>195</u>
<u>1991</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>197</u>
<u>Net</u>	<u>- 1</u>	<u>- 6</u>	<u>- 3</u>	<u>+12</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>+ 2</u>
<u>10:30AM</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>Total Net</u>
<u>1990</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>762</u>
<u>1991</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>410</u>
<u>Net</u>	<u>+60</u>	<u>-116</u>	<u>- 92</u>	<u>- 40</u>	<u>-164</u>	<u>-352</u>
<u>Net 1990-1991</u>	<u>+59</u>	<u>-122</u>	<u>- 95</u>	<u>- 28</u>	<u>-164</u>	<u>-350</u>

1990-1991 % Change April

% Change in Sunday attendance for April = -19% . This balances the 19% increase for the month of March. In 1990 Palm Sunday and Easter fell in the month of April.

COMPARISON MARCH AND APRIL 1990 - 1991 and Totals for the Two Months

<u>Year</u>	<u>March</u>				<u>April</u>					<u>Total</u>
	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	
<u>1990</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>1588</u>
<u>1991</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1356</u>
	<u>+29</u>	<u>-13</u>	<u>+ 6</u>	<u>+96</u>	<u>+59</u>	<u>-130</u>	<u>-95</u>	<u>-28</u>	<u>-164</u>	<u>- 232</u>

Net (for Four Sundays in March and Five Sundays in April) = -68 or a net decrease in 1991 of .048 or 5% for the two month period. Weather has been a major factor and it may be that the Easter in April in 1990 positively affected attendance.

Re



INQUIRING ABOUT LIFE AT INDECCO-Canton/Highlandtown residents Frank Klima, 78, and Grace Fader, 75, made inquiries last week about apartments at the new Indecco senior apartment complex on Lakewood Avenue.

Photo by John Cain

Weekend West

1