

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH
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ACTIVITY REPORT TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL
ROBERT M. ARMSTRONG, PASTOR
May 1, 1991 -May 31, 1991

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Church continues to make progress during this last month. Attendance for May was 15% over that during the month of May in 1990.

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 third test on May 5th with a program entitled "Community Security - A Matter of Faith and Trust". Nine persons attended. 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 May 2, 1991. Four persons attended this meeting. We have a possibility of twelve new members. Fourteen were received on May 19th.

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, May 8, 1991 at our Church. Pastors from St. Brigid's, Messiah, Canton Baptist, and I were in attendance. A plan for a combined Vacation Bible School on June 24 - June 29 was developed.

A new copy machine for the office was purchased and plans for the redesign of the office and the purchase of a computer are in the formative stage.

A new stove was purchased for the parsonage.

A Plan to manage the budget for the last six months of 1991 and deal with the deficit was received and approved by our Fundraising Committee at its meeting on May 14th and sent to the Council for review in the June 4, 1991 meeting.

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

May brought a decrease in visits to shut-ins from 10 in April to 5 in May. Hospital visits also decreased from 26 in April to 12 in May. 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 increased by 15% during the months of May when compared to May 1990. Judging by church attendance, the focus of the preaching seems to have proved acceptable.

3. Implementation of Faith is Alive

The faith alive program has included recognition of the contribution of Ronald Carrigan on May 5, Robert and Calvin Gundlach on May 12, and George Hammerbacher on May 19th.

4. Developing a Marketing Plan

The draft of the marketing plan was presented to the Council at its last meeting on May 7, 1991.

5. Pastoral Support of All Church Groups and Activities

The Pastor attended the Bowling League Party on May 10, 1991.

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.

Sunday morning Bible Study led by Marty Clement has, for a number of reasons, continued to be small. These have included our efforts to build the Community Forums.

On Sunday, May 5th, the third Community Forum was held and discussed the subject "Security in the Community -A Matter of Faith and Trust". Nine persons attended. On Sunday, June 3, 1991, the subject will be "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. Work on this program is continuing (see attached story from the Guide).

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, John Spencer, of the Canton Baptist Church and myself. It met on May 8, at United. Over lunch we explored "what's happening" in our community and the social, health, and church organizations in Canton-Highlandtown and planned a Vacation Bible School involving the five participating churches. Members planned a day long retreat for July 3, 1991 and expressed an interest in a pulpit exchange for the fall beginning in September. At the retreat we are going to discuss the drug problem in the neighborhood and what we can do about it together. We also reviewed the problems we all are having with persons who are baptized pursuing active work in the churches and shared some ideas regarding this area of ministry. Following this meeting we went to St. Brigid's for a picture which was to be taken by the Guide. The photographer did not show up but the Guide said they would do a story when we convene on June 4, 1991 at 3:30 at St. Bridgid's to plan for the School. The School will run June 24, 1991 to June 29th.

One of the suggestions for a future program 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 are increasing our attendance at Sunday Morning Worship, that to date January - May 1991, we showed with the exception of April, consistant increases from 9.2% to 19% during the five month period. In May we showed an increase of +15 %.

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. On May 19, 1991 we received 13 new members. The membership class consists of William McGinty, Dawn Bridges, Dave Baker, Patricia Canapp, Ann Hager, Tony Picarello, Deborah Blunt, Rose Burdick, Emma McLewee, Kimberly McNeal, Dorothy Bellman, and Jane Bellman, and Ronald Carrigan. We are also attempting to involve William Rugemer and Alice Leftridge and Jennine Champainy and Lonnie Holmes. The new member's class met on Tuesday evening May 2, 1991 at the church at 7:30 PM. Four persons attended this meeting.

c. New Members Committee

The Committee presented the Marketing Plan to the Council in the meeting of May 7, 1991. The Committee has recommended a "Bring A Friend to Church Sunday", that we develop more imaginative advertising in the "Guide", and invited the United Pleasure Club Men to the church on Sunday, May 19th. It also recommended that we find out about new people moving into the community, and develop an "Ask the Pastor" column in the "Guide". Other ideas are also being explored and will be reviewed at subsequent meetings.

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 May 22, 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 issue of alcohol use was studied in the scriptures by committee members. Next steps include the development of a method by which we can involve the congregation in both the study of the scriptures regarding this matter and the development of a guideline for study and discussion by the members of the church.

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 May 14th at 7:30 PM. The Committee reviewed a plan which was developed by the Pastor for managing the budget of the church over the six months (July 1 - December 31, 1991) and agreed to the following new fundraising projects - a Dinner Dance, Collect "Pennies for Heaven", and Sell Entertainment Books at Christmas time. In reviewing the budget, we agreed that a

Capital and Equipment Budget needed to be developed and that for the next meeting the Pastor would present for review the Wedding Fees Booklet, a Booklet for Memorials, Bequests, and Wills, and a Booklet explaining Love Gifts.

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.

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.

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. A new stove was purchased for the parsonage since the oven on the old stove burned out. One of the top burner coils had also burned out and was replaced by a second hand coil. There was a question as to how long this would last.

9. Mother Daughter Banquet a Smashing Success

With the leadership of the women of the church, the Mother-Daughter Banquet fed 220 persons who experienced a great meal

and show. The men of the church served the meal and cleaned up. The men of the church were also instrumental in setting up tables for the 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 dinner, developing and putting on the show. This dinner was a major public relations achievement for the church.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Complete the review of the marketing plan at a 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. We have added the Unity Candle lighting to celebrate the wedding anniversary of members, a reaffirmation of wedding vows, their affiliation with the church as members, the anniversary date of their baptism, or other celebrations of their unity with our household of faith. These need more time for testing out to see if they are effective. A 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. Rehabilitation of the Office

With Sam Jones assistance, we have acquired a new typewriter for Millie. This was a very valuable contribution to our mission. With Clarence leadership, Sam and Harvey have purchased a new copy machine. The Committee needs to consider the most effective way to organize the office, to make recommendations for its redecorating, to purchase a new computer and 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 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.

5. Approve a Plan for the Management of our Budget for the

Last Six Months of 1991. To be effective the plan must deal with the current deficit.

STATISTICAL REPORT
May 1991

	Total
VISITS TO SHUT-INS =5; calls=0	<u>5</u>
Annetta Ciekot 5-1	
Pomella Henning 5-11	
Paul Smith 5-15	
Julius Will 5-16	
Lillian Shaller 5-22	
VISITS TO HOSPITALS= 8;calls=4	<u>12</u>
Andrew Rupalt Key Center 5-1	
Lillian Smith Franklin Sq 5-1	
Marty Walsh Call re Lillian 5-2	
George Tuerk Call to W. Single 5-2	
George Tuerk Call to W. Single 5-3	
George Tuerk U. of Maryland 5-3	
George Tuerk Move to Manor Care N.H. Towson 5-3	
David Jones Shock Trauma 5-3	
Jan Ports Call re David Jones 5-8	
Bonnie Fogler Mercy 5-16	
David Jones Shock Trauma 5-17	
David Jones Shock Trauma 5-22	
COMMITTEE MEETINGS	<u>2</u>
Committee on Fund Raising 5-14	
Committee on Alcohol Policy 5-22	
COUNCIL MEETINGS	<u>1</u>
Eighth Meeting 5-7	
ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS	<u>16</u>
"Think Tank" 5-8	
Vacation Bible School 5-8	
Bill Gonce re SEEC Brochure 5-9	
Harvey Jacob and Bill Voelker re Plan for Fundraising Group 5-10	
Bill Gonce re SEEC 5-9	
8 Calls to new members 5-15	
Dave Baker - Scouts & New Member 5-15	
Anna Marie Kihn St. Ambrose - Home Sharing 5-21	
Glen Rogers Bethel UCC 5-22	
COUNCIL MEMBER INTERVIEWS	<u>0</u>
GROUP MEETINGS	<u>3</u>
Ladies Guild Lunch 5-7	
Mother-Daughter Banquet 5-8	
Bowling League Party 5-10	

BAPTISMS=3, Counselling=1	<u>4</u>
Donna Pate Counselling 5-5	
James Thomas Pate 5-5 Baptism	
Amanda Carrigan Baptism 5-19	
Jamie Carrigan Baptism 5-19	
WEDDINGS=3, Counselling=5	<u>8</u>
Farris-Young Rehersal 5-3	
Farris-Young Wedding 5-4	
Hager-Picarello Rehersal 5-10	
Hager-Picarello Wedding 5-10	
Champainy-Holmes Rehersal 5-16	
Champainy-Homes Wedding 5-17	
Lambert-Bishop 5-20 Counselling	
Frank Short Counselling 5-21	
FUNERALS=3, Visit to Funeral Home=3; Counselling=4	<u>10</u>
Lillian Walsh -Call to Hoffman-Skarda 5-4	
Marty Walsh Call re Lillian 5-4	
Lillian Walsh Visit to Funeral Home 5-5	
Lillian Walsh Call to Marty 5-6	
Lillian Walsh Funeral Hoffman-Skarda 5-7	
Dorothy Bellman Visit to Duda Ruck 5-17	
Dorothy Bellman-Call re John Bellman 5-17	
Thelma Smith Visit to Home 5-17	
John Bellman Funeral Duda-Ruck 5-18	
Paul Smith Funeral Hoffman-Skarda 5-20	
COUNSELLING SESSIONS	<u>3</u>
Eileen Beauchamp re Lil Walsh	
Carolyn Reed re Lil Walsh	
Martin Beauchamp re Lil Walsh	
CONFERENCE MEETINGS	0

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE - MAY 1991

<u>8:00AM</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net</u>
1990	52	54	50	34	00		190
<u>1991</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>00</u>		<u>234</u>
Net	+16	- 1	+ 5	+24	00		+ 44
<u>10:30AM</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net</u>
1990	86	131	77	81			375
<u>1991</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>00</u>		<u>415</u>
Net	+17	- 34	+ 45	+ 12	00		+ 40
Net 1990-1991							
	+33	- 35	+ 50	+ 36	00		+84

1990-1991 % Change May

% Change in Sunday attendance for May = +15%.

	<u>COMPARISON JANUARY TO MAY - 1990 AND 1991 TOTALS</u>				
	<u>FOR THE MONTH</u>				
<u>1990-</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>
1991	+42	+77	+118	-232	+84
%	+9.2%	+14%	+19%	-19%	+15%

For the period January - May 1991, with the exception of April, we show a consistant increase in monthly attendance to date in 1991.

Free Food--But no Free Lunch

by John Cain

Hunger is a growing problem for some people in Southeast Baltimore, "Hunger is not growing in our area more than other parts of the city," Rev. Robert Armstrong, pastor of the United Evangelical Church said, "but we need to address the problem because a lot of people are out of work."

To help combat the problem 24 churches in the Southeast will begin a new program in the fall that goes beyond food distribution to one that provides education and support while building personal development so people can regain their self esteem and re-enter the workplace.

The churches have been providing emergency food for those out of work and to others on the welfare system, but beginning October 4, in cooperation with the Iwancio Urban Services Center and a grant

from the Maryland Food Committee, they will pool their resources to form a Super Pantry, a concept developed by the Maryland Food Committee.

In addition to distributing food, the Super Pantry runs an eight-week series of life-skills classes designed to help recipients build self-esteem, self-reliance and get off the welfare system. "If you can get just one person off welfare, you make a major contribution to that person's life, to their family and to the state of Maryland," Armstrong said. The Super Pantry will be located at his church on East Avenue near Dillon Street.

The 10-person classes will meet once a week for five hours, and include instruction in parenting, income and budget management, job readiness, self-identity, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and communications skills.

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Canton Pantry Will Offer Free Food, But No Free Lunch

(Continued from page 1)

Recipients also receive lessons about nutrition and food preparation and will learn to shop for the most nutritious foods to cook in the church kitchen. "It is surprising how much junk food people eat," Armstrong continued. "We will instruct them in food buying and preparation so they learn how to stretch their money and prepare low-cost meals."

Six similar sessions have run in Baltimore County over

the last year-and-a-half and two in West Baltimore. "A total of 50 people have participated in the county sessions," Alice March, coordinator for the Maryland Food Bank told the GUIDE. "There has been an 80 percent success rate with many of the women changing their life styles," she added.

The hope is to get people out of emergency food pantries and motivate them beyond their daily crisis stages. "We teach them to plan, to set

goals, especially long term goals," March said, "we help them see beyond their day-to-day existence."

"Some of the women have completed their GED, others have taken job training from the state's Project Independence Program and others have become involved by going to Annapolis to lobby for support," March said.

The Canton Super Pantry will run from October 4 to November 22. A second session is scheduled for the spring.