

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

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Church continues to make progress during this last month. Attendance for September was 2% over that during the month of September in 1990.

Plans for the redesign of the office and the purchase of a computer are in the formative stage.

We began to share the deficit with the membership each Sunday. Cal Gundlach has given Millie the figures for our performance for reporting in the weekly bulletins. Plans for the Dinner Dance have been made for a Valentines Day Event on February 16, 1992. Bill and Ruth Voelker and Harvey and Ursula will lead this activity. Ruth Beckwith has secured **Entertainment Books for Sale** and on Sunday, September 1st we introduced the **Pennies for Heaven** program. The **booklet describing the Memorial and Gift Programs** is attached and need your approval at this meeting. In addition, for your information, our Treasurer, Fred Long prepared the attached **analysis of our cumulative income to date** using a method developed by Lou Parker. It compares our performance in 1991 with that of previous years.

Note the large number of weddings and marriage counselling sessions in September. We show ten counselling sessions alone for September - a month in which the Pastor was on vacation.

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

VISITS TO SHUT-INS =8;calls=4	August	12
VISITS TO SHUT-INS =6;calls=2	September	<u>8</u>
VISITS TO HOSPITALS=17;calls=0	August	17
VISITS TO HOSPITALS= 8;calls=1	September	<u>9</u>

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 2% during the month of September when compared to September 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 Marcella Surdel, on September 1st, Carol Rowell, September 15th, Pam Georgdiadis, September 22nd, and Donothy Green on September 29th.

4. Pastoral Support of Church Groups and Activities

The Pastor was involved in the discussion of the Shot Tower Boy Scouts Dinner and plans for the Institutional Representative in 1991-1992 as well as the Recognition of Ed Meyers for his 60 years in Scouting at United.

5. Deepening the Spiritual and Prayer Life of the Church

The Prayer Group, Bible Study Groups, and Community Forum led by Priscilla and Marty have begun. Both groups now have planning groups to help develop the programs.

6. SUPERPANTRY

We are part of a grant from the Maryland Food Committee for a SUPERPANTRY. On Sunday September 22nd, we announced the need for volunteers to help the Coordinator and the staff Child Care Worker on Fridays in the Fall beginning October 4, 1991 (9:00-2:30 PM). Announcements of the SUPERPANTRY have been made in the bulletins for the last six weeks.

7. Developing a Community "Think-Tank":

The "think-tank" group of Pastors, Social Workers, and Administrators has not met over the summer. We have promoted the Head Start Program to be hosted by St. Brigid's in October 1991.

OBSERVATIONS

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

a. Attendance

Church attendance statistics indicate that in September our attendance at Sunday Morning Worship increased by 2%.

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. This summer we formed a new members class. Four new members were received on Sunday, September 22, 1991 at 10:30 AM. They were William Ruggemer, Alice Leftridge, Anna Marie Beaver, and August Davis..

c. New Members Committee

The Committee met on September 26, 1991 and approved a "Bring A Friend to Church Program" for Sunday, October 27th. This program will be promoted in the bulletins for October. A flyer will be produced announcing the program at the Sauer Beef Dinner. One key to our recruitment effort is a **New Member Survey Form** in which we try to identify the skills of new members and put them to work. Necessary for this is the computer so that we can record the interests of all members of the church including new members. On November 12th at 7:00PM under Priscilla's leadership we will conduct our **first program to begin to train Parish Visitors**. We reviewed a **possible program in membership recruitment in cooperation with other UCC churches in Baltimore**. The Pastor attended a meeting on Monday, September 30th to talk about how churches in the Chesapeake Association can help support each other in this area. Harvey informed the Committee that we can obtain the Stewart Director at the local Library and obtain all the Real Estate Transfers (Rusks) there.

In previous meetings the Committee suggested that we develop **more imaginative advertising in the "Guide"**. It also recommended that we find out about new people moving into the community, and develop an **"Ask the Pastor"** column in the "Guide".

2. New Committees

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 met on September 18, 1991 at 7:30 PM. This Committee developed a GUIDELINE FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ("Followers of the Way") on the use of alcohol in order to see if we can get a consensus on this matter in the church. To accomplish this a Guideline for Church Members was prepared and studied by committee members. Next steps are spelled out in the document which was mailed to each Council Member for discussion in this meeting.

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 will meet on Tuesday, October 29, 1991 at 7:30PM. We need to approve the brochure re Memorials and Love Gifts which was completed over the summer and distributed to you in

our last meeting. In our June meeting, our Council 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 for next year.

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.

The Church has been informed about the membership of the Committees and members from the congregation have been invited to serve.

3. 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.

4. Jim Slechta to Return to Work

We rejoice that Jim has returned to work as of Friday September 20th. Jim Talagsen, Henry Will, Ben Long, Regina Long, John Strong, Grace Fader, Art Jones, Margaret Schoor, and Dale Sanders have done outstanding work in covering for Jim.

5. Church Repair Projects

With the support of Sam Jones and leadership of Jim Talagson and John Strong the water fountain has been repaired, and the bathtub in the Parsonage has been unclogged.

6. Communication to the Members re the Deficit

Cal Gundlach, Fred Long, and Harvey Jacob planned reporting to the congregation about the deficit. These reports have been continued each Sunday.

7. Our Youth Program

Pam Georgiadis will be unable to continue her work with the young people on Sunday. This will be a great loss. Beginning on Sunday, September 15th we are trying to recruit a person or persons to carry on this work. This program need has been advertised in our Bulletin beginning September 22nd. Pam did an outstanding job for our young people and we thank her.

8. Soundings

We have been asked to participate in the Soundings Program of the United Church of Christ. This includes 500 churches. You received the material describing the program. The Rev. Bruce Swanson would like to meet with our Council for about an hour as part of our next Council Meeting in November.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Results of Program

The Faith is Alive program seem to be working and should be continued. 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. This program also shows promise. The celebration of the Anniversary Date of Baptisms, and more intensive baptism counselling sessions do not seem to be productive. These will now be dropped.

2. Rehabilitation of the Office

With Sam Jones leadership, we will be completing the office as Millie gets past her needed support to Jim following his surgery. Marty Craig has made new drapes for the Office, Rest Room, and my Office and these have now been installed. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts. Ruth Beckwith worked with me on the design of a Record Retention Policy.

3. Review of the Work of the Pastor

It is important that we conduct an annual evaluation of the work of the Pastor to be sure that we pick up the input from the Council as we plan the program and strategy for this next year.

4. Complete Record Retention Policy for Review and Approval by the Council.

5. Develop for Review and Approval by the Council a Draft Proposal of Strategy for 1991-1992 Program Year.

6. Approve the Fund Raising Brochure re Love Gifts and Memorials.

7. Approval of participation in our next Council meeting in the Soundings Program of the United Church of Christ.

STATISTICAL REPORT
September 1991

	Total
VISITS TO SHUT-INS 6; Calls=2	
Jim Slecta Call 9-14	<u>8</u>
Carolyn Loving Call re Bertha Loomis 9-14	
Margaret Kelly 9-17	
Edna Oberlander 9-17	
Bertha Loomis 9-18	
Anna Price 9-18	
Elso Stecyk 9-27	
Ed McGovern 9-27	
 VISITS TO HOSPITALS=8;calls=1	
Anna Price Good Sam 9-2	<u>9</u>
George Turek Good Sam 9-2	
Margaret Kelly Church Home 9-2	
Ody Doering Franklin Sq 9-25	
Anna Price Good Sam 9-25	
Frank Klima Church Home 9-26	
Frank Klima Church Home 9-26	
Ed McGovern Mercy 9-29	
Frances Hammerbacher Franklin Sq 9-30	
 COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Committee on Alcohol 9-18	<u>2</u>
Committee on New Members 9-26	
 COUNCIL MEETINGS	
Eleventh Meeting 9-3	<u>1</u>
 ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS	
UCC Ministerium 9-3	<u>7</u>
Superpantry 9-17	
Tom Friedel Scouts 9-19	
Victoria Truth - potential new member 9-21	
Lynch Baptism Party for Sierra Nicole 9-22	
Ruth Beckwith 9-25	
Sauer Beef Dinner 9-29	
 COUNCIL MEMBER INTERVIEWS	<u>0</u>
 GROUP MEETINGS	
Membership Class 9-15	<u>2</u>
Membership Class 9-22	
 BAPTISMS=1, Counselling=3	
Marylyn & Ron Lynch Counselling 9-17	<u>4</u>
Sierra Nicole Lynch Baptism 9-22	
Karen Gail Foster re Ariel Lynn Foster Counselling 9-25	
Lori & John Pijanowski re John III Counselling 9-25	

WEDDINGS=2, Counselling=10	<u>12</u>
Raditz Cole Wedding 9-1	
Kristine Burns Counselling 9-4	
Burns-Jerscheid Counselling 9-15	
Rohlfing-Edwards Counselling 9-17	
O'Toole-Dobson Counselling 9-17	
Shaw-Barnhart Rehersal 9-19	
Godwin-Bohrer Counselling 9-19	
Shaw-Barnhart Wedding 9-21	
Kathleen Caughey & Bridget Shaw-Barnhart Counselling 9-21	
Frances E. Bohrer re Linda Bohrer Counselling 9-24	
McGinty-Bridges Counselling 9-24	
Rohlfing-Edwards Counselling 9-24	
FUNERALS=2, Visit to Funeral Home=1; Counselling=2	<u>5</u>
Marjorie B. Vecellio Internment 9-20	
Elisha Graddy re Mary E. Black Counselling 9-23	
Patricia Black re Mary E. Black Counselling 9-23	
Mary E. Black-visit to Funeral Home 9-24	
Mary E. Black Skarda Hoffman Funeral 9-25	
COUNSELLING SESSIONS	
Millie Slechta 9-19	<u>3</u>
Rose & Ralph Guy re John 9-26	
Amy Picarello 9-27	
CONFERENCE MEETINGS	
Chesapeake Association 9-30 at Messiah	<u>1</u>

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE - September 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	45	59	53	48	53		258
1991	70	66	53	44	52		285
Net	+25	+ 7	+ 0	- 4	- 1		+ 27
<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	77	87	81	104	94		443
1991	67	63	85	107	109		431
Net	-10	- 24	+ 4	+ 3	+ 15		- 12
Net 1990-1991	+15	- 17	+ 4	- 1	+ 14		+ 15

1990-1991 % Change September

% Change in Sunday attendance for September = +2%.

<u>COMPARISON JANUARY TO JUNE - 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>	<u>JUNE</u>
1991	+42	+77	+118	-232	+84	137
%	+9.2%	+14%	+19%	-19%	+15%	+30%
<u>1990</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPT</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>
1991	+112	+19	+15			
%	+24%	+ 4%	+ 2%			

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

COMPARATIVE INCOME IN THOUSANDS
TO DATE 8-31-91

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>			<u>CUMULATIVE</u>		
	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>
JAN	6.9	3.8	6.8	6.5	5.0	5.4
FEB	11.2	9.5	12.1	13.2	10.0	12.1
MAR	23.4	17.1	19.4	21.6	14.7	23.3
APR	36.0	27.1	27.0	33.5	27.1	33.4
MAY	41.2	36.9	43.0	36.7	32.0	43.0
JUNE	47.2	41.6	50.5	39.7	38.2	50.0
JULY	50.6	45.5	57.3	48.6	44.3	60.8
AUG	55.1	50.8	66.5	53.0	50.1	66.3
SEPT	62.5	59.1	76.9	59.7	63.4	
OCT	77.4	77.0	98.4	80.9	80.3	
NOV	86.9	87.3	102.1	91.1	88.8	
DEC	104.5	99.1	114.8	108.5	112.6	

NUMBERS FOR EACH MONTH ARE TOTALS UP TO AND INCLUDING THAT MONTH I.E. 91.1 POSTED FOR NOVEMBER 1989 INDICATES THE TOTAL FOR ALL SOURCES OF INCOME TO THAT POINT OR FOR \$91,000.