

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

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Church showed a decrease in attendance in October. Attendance for October was 4% under that during the month of October in 1990 and must be watched closely. Some of this was due to illness (flu) in October and a trip out of town by key members. Some may also have been effected by the Pastor's vacation. Our list of severely ill people is growing and that also has some effect on our membership. A Parish Visitor Training Program, developed by Priscilla, is scheduled for November 12th to try to meet this expanding need. In October we took in three new members.

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

Ruth Beckwith has secured **Entertainment Books** for sale and at the Sour Beef Dinner we sold books. On Sunday, October 13th we introduced the sale of these books. We believe these sales will be about 26 books and produce around \$182.00

The Sour Beef Dinner was our best in recent history. Approximately 1150 Meals were served and at one time there were 80 persons serving and in the kitchen. Our balance between men and women involved in producing and serving the dinner improved substantially and the dinner went very well despite the illness of key members of the church who had been previously involved. **The Ad book was created for the first time and raised about \$2000 dollars in addition to contributing to marketing the dinner.**

While we recruited **eight new Confirmands** and have a full class, **we are unable to interest new teachers to work in our Sunday School** with last year's Confirmands. This is a major weakness in our program and especially if we want to hold the interest of these young people in the church. It must be addressed. **Lois Long is providing leadership for the Youth Group** which is now made up of last year's Confirmands and this year's. She and I led the first trip for these young people on October 26th.

Approximately 12 Churches have committed to an **Interfaith Music Festival at United on Sunday Afternoon, December 8th** at

3:00PM designed to raise money for the next SUPERPANTRY. The first SUPERPANTRY got underway in October and serves 7 women. We are one of 12 sites in the State where this idea is being tried to help the poor.

To address the problems of persons needing personal support, the Pastor is putting together the group called "New Creations." This was approved by the Council earlier in the year. This is an attempt to provide a ministry to adults. In addition we are searching for a way to develop a Young Adult Group in our Church.

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

1. Systematic Approach to Ministry to the Shut-Ins

VISITS TO SHUT-INS =6;calls=2	September	<u>8</u>
VISITS TO SHUT-INS =7;calls=2	October	<u>9</u>
VISITS TO HOSPITALS= 8;calls=1	September	<u>9</u>
VISITS TO HOSPITALS= 9;calls=1	October	<u>10</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 decreased by 4% during the month of October when compared to October 1990.

3. Implementation of Faith is Alive

The faith alive program has included recognition of the contribution of Fred Long, on October 6th, Clara Wise, October 20th, Lois Jones, October 27th.

4. Pastoral Support of Church Groups and Activities

The Pastor was involved in the start of the SUPERPANTRY on Friday October 4th.

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 October 4th, we began this program. While 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) and announcements of the SUPERPANTRY have been made in the bulletins for the last six weeks, we were only successful in getting one volunteer.

7. Developing a Community "Think-Tank":

The "think-tank" group of Pastors, Social Workers, and Administrators has not met over the summer. We have, however, promoted an INTERFAITH MUSIC FESTIVAL (see attached) which will be held on December 8, 1991 at United. This is well underway - Tickets have been secured and distributed and approximately 12 churches have indicated their interest in participating. An Ad book is being developed to raise even more money. The money will be used to fund the SUPERPANTRY at United.

8. New Creations - a support group for Adults

To address the problems of persons needing personal support, the Pastor is putting together the group called "New Creations." This was approved by the Council earlier in the year. This is an attempt to provide a ministry to adults. In addition we are searching for a way to develop a Young Adult Group in our Church.

OBSERVATIONS

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

a. Attendance

Church attendance statistics indicate that in October our attendance at Sunday Morning Worship decreased by 4%. I believe that some of this is due to severe illness (flu) and a trip out of town for key people. We must watch the numbers closely in future months.

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. Three new members were received on Sunday, October 27, 1991 at 10:30 AM. They were Marie S. Kirby, Ray Godwin, and Linda Bohrer.

c. New Members Committee

The Committee met on October 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 Sour 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 with Priscilla's leadership, we will conduct our **first program to begin to train Parish Visitors**. Harvey informed the Committee that we can obtain the Stewart Directory 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 October 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. This document was approved at our last Council meeting. The next meeting of the Committee will be on November 14, 1991 and will be focused on implementing the procedure as approved by Council.

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 to meet on Tuesday, October 29, 1991 at 7:30PM but was unable to do so because members were involved in working on the budget. 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. 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.

5. Our Youth Program

Beginning on Sunday, September 15th we have been trying to recruit a person or persons to teach our young people. This program need has been advertised in our Bulletin beginning September 22nd and continuing throughout October. Lois Long is providing leadership for the Youth Group which is now made up of last year's Confirmands and this year's. She and I led the first trip for these young people on October 26th - a hike to Fort McHenry. The young people took down tables from the Sour Beef Dinner and set up Chairs for the FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY Program.

6. 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 December. Council approved this at the October meeting.

7. Sour Beef Dinner

In spite of the fact that Grace Fader and a number of key persons were ill, and Elizabeth Erdman had to be out of town, the Sour Beef Dinner was a great success. The keys to this lie in the teamwork of the church members, the leadership and management skill of Art Jones, and the positive balance of men and women who did the work. It was one of the largest affairs in the recent history of our Church. We served about 1150 dinners. The Ad book was created for the first time and raised about \$2000 dollars in addition to contributing to marketing the dinner.

8. Review of the Work of the Pastor

On October 28th the Pastor's work was reviewed by a Committee

consisting of Clarence Rowell, President, Harvey Jacob, Vice President, and Bill Voelker, Ex Officio member. Grace Fader was ill and unable to attend and Mutz was involved in a trip with her son. The purpose was to conduct an annual evaluation of the work of the Pastor so as to be sure that we pick up the input from the Council as we plan the program and strategy for this next year. The Council Committee was generally pleased with the work of the Pastor and using the guideline of the Nominating Committee felt that he had achieved the goals set down in that document. They cautioned that he had to be careful not to do more than the Church could absorb. They also felt that we had to be careful about running the services too long.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Results of Program

The Faith is Alive program seems to be having some problems. Many people see this as an award rather than a recognition of Jesus teaching that each of us is "the light of the world" and that spiritually our contributions have equal worth. Another part of the program is to recognize that each person's faith is individual and unique. As your Pastor, I am interested in you input in this matter and will evaluate the program as we approach the new year. The program has been financed by a contribution from Frank Klima in memory of his wife. We will not continue it unless we can finance it with a gift of this nature. The suggestion has been made to make Faith is Alive a once a month part of our worship.

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 shows promise in that it emphasizes Jesus teaching about the family (that "whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven is my brother and sister, and mother") and makes the point that the large percentage of our membership who are single person heads of households can feel comfortable in seeing the Church as a spiritual family which will last forever.

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. We must go thru the desk and files and rebuild these so our office can be more efficient. Ruth Beckwith worked with me on the design of a Record Retention Policy. We need to continue the implementation of this policy and our reworking of our filing system.

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

4. Develop for Review and Approval by the Council a Draft Proposal of Strategy for 1991-1992 Program Year. Request approval of Targets for 1992 and presentation to the Congregational Meeting (see attached).

STATISTICAL REPORT
October 1991

	Total
VISITS TO SHUT-INS 7; Calls=2	<u>9</u>
Mike Cerko 10-15	
Grace Fader 10-16 Call	
Ed McGovern 9-27	
Grace Fader 10-17	
Margaret Kelly 10-21 Call	
Ed McGovern 10-24	
Thelma Smith 10-24	
Margaret Kelly 10-24	
Roy Jones 10-30	
 VISITS TO HOSPITALS=9;calls=1	 <u>10</u>
George Turek Union Mem 10-2	
Frances Hammerbacher Franklin Sq 10-2	
Frances Hammerbacher Franklin Sq 10-3	
Mel Hammerbacher Call 10-3	
Frances Hammerbacher Franklin Sq 10-7	
Henry Rossmark Franklin Sq 10-16	
Sadie Zinn Franklin Sq 10-16	
Linda Schneider Key Center 10-19	
Frances Hammerbacher Montebello 10-30	
George Tuerk Union Memorial 10-30	
 COMMITTEE MEETINGS	 <u>0</u>
 COUNCIL MEETINGS	 <u>1</u>
Twelfth Meeting 10-1	
 ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS	 <u>15</u>
UCC Ministerium 10-1	
Superpantry 10-4	
SEEC 10-4	
Jean Kelbaugh -Ministerium 10-7	
Rob Gundlach Call 10-16	
Bill Gonce Call 10-16	
Clarence Rowell 10-16	
Interfaith Music Festival 10-17	
Lou Fletcher-Dagmar Jensen New Member Prospect 10-19	
Marie S. Kirby New Member Prospect 10-20	
Sour Beef Planning 10-20	
Sour Beef Dinner 10-21	
Sour Beef Dinner 10-22	
Sour Beef Dinner 10-23	
Council Evaluation 10-28	
 COUNCIL MEMBER INTERVIEWS	 <u>0</u>

GROUP MEETINGS

5

Confirmation Class 10-2
Confirmation Class 10-16
Confirmation Class 10-23
Hike to Ft. McHenry 10-26 Youth Group
Confirmation Class 10-30

BAPTISMS=2, Counselling=1 3
Ariel Lynn Foster Baptism 10-6 (home)
John Pijanowski III Baptism 10-6
Karen Gail Foster Counselling 10-20

WEDDINGS=1, Counselling=8 9
McGinty-Bridges Counselling 10-17 Rehearsal
Rugemer-Leftridge Counselling 10-17
McGinty-Bridges Wedding 10-18
Godwin-Bohrer Counselling 10-23
Rohlfing-Edwards Counselling 10-24
Short-Bielski Counselling 10-29
Meyers-Wacholtz 10-31 Counselling
Oppel-Hall 10-31 Counselling - Cancel
Burns-Jerscheid 10-31 Counselling - Cancel

FUNERALS=2, Visit to Funeral Home=0; Counselling=2 4
Darlene Waters Counselling 10-15
Lloyd Kronigkremer Skarda 10-18
Harry Thorn Counselling 10-19
Margaret Thorn Skarda 10-21

COUNSELLING SESSIONS

2

Amy Picarello 10-27
Amy Picarello 10-28

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

0

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE - October 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	57	54	50	60	00		221
1991	59	56	63	44	00		222
Net	+ 2	+ 2	+13	-16	00	+	1
<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	80	110	81	116	00		387
1991	92	83	76	109	00		360
Net	+12	- 27	- 5	- 7	00	-	27
Net 1990-1991	+14	- 25	+ 8	- 23	00	-	26

1990-1991 % Change October

% Change in Sunday attendance for October = -4%.

<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	-26		
%	+24%	+ 4%	+ 2%	- 4%		

For the period January - October 1991, with the exception of April and October we show a consistent increase in monthly attendance to date in 1991. The drop in attendance in October is partially the result of temporary illness (flu), more severe illness, and also the result of a trip to Vermont for members.

**COMPARATIVE INCOME IN THOUSANDS
TO DATE 9-30-91**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR</u>			<u>CUMULATIVE</u>		<u>91</u>
	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</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.