

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH
3200 DILLON STREET,
BALTIMORE, 21224
(301) 276-0393

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

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Church showed a decrease in attendance in November. Attendance for November was 4% under that during the month of November in 1990 and must be watched closely. Some of this was due to illness (flu) in November and a trip out of town to Wheeling West Virginia by 44 members. Our list of severely ill people is growing and that also has some effect on our attendance. A Parish Visitor Training Program, developed by Priscilla, was held on November 12th to try to meet this expanding need. Ten persons attended.

The computer has been purchased and plans for the redesign of the office are still in the formative stage.

Approximately 33 **Entertainment Books** have been sold. Prospects for more sales seem good and so this was a very easy way to make some money for the church. Ruth Beckwith was a key to making this possible.

Fred Long indicated in our last meeting that he would be willing to **teach the Confirmands on Sunday**. Lois Long is providing leadership for the **Youth Group** which is now made up of last year's Confirmands and this year's. On November 20th this group was organized, elected officers, approved a dues structure, and decided to work with Rob Gundlach to create a Youth Choir. On November 27th, with the help of Rob Gundlach, we met with the **Youth Group** and had our **first rehearsal as a Youth Choir**. Plans are to sing in two church services during the Christmas holidays.

Plans for the **Interfaith Music Festival at United on Sunday afternoon, December 8th at 3:00PM** have gone well (see program attached to this report). Graduation of the first five participants in **SUPERPANTRY** was held on Sunday evening November 24th. A **front page story on SUPERPANTRY** appeared in the **Guide on Thursday, November 28th**. It has taken us over a year to achieve this kind of recognition by the Guide. Often, our submissions to the Guide, seemed to be ignored. This time the story was written by Jackie Watt, Editor of the Guide. She attended the event in person and took pictures.

To address the problems of persons needing personal support,

the Pastor has put together a group called "New Creations." On November 13, we had three members to begin.

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 =7;calls=2	October	9
VISITS TO SHUT-INS =9;calls=3	November	<u>12</u>
VISITS TO HOSPITALS= 9;calls=1	October	10
VISITS TO HOSPITALS=11;calls=2	November	<u>13</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 November when compared to November 1990.

3. Implementation of Faith is Alive

The faith alive program has included recognition of the contribution of Lynn Sanders, on November 3rd, John Cain, Councilman 1st District on November 10, Ed Meyers, November 17th, and Ella Brooks, on November 24th.

4. Pastoral Support of Church Groups and Activities

The Pastor was involved in the graduation of SUPERPANTRY on Sunday evening November 24th.

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. Marty convened the Community Forum with the help of Henry Schneider and held a Forum on Sunday November 10th. This session dealt with Community Issues. Fifteen persons attended and John Cain, Councilman Elect from the First District was the main speaker. The next Forum will deal with the issue of the use of alcohol by church members.

6. SUPERPANTRY

The program for the SUPERPANTRY went well. Seven persons were recruited for this first experimental program. Cindy Meyers was the Coordinator and Debbie the Child Care worker. Five participants were graduated although six attended regularly. John Cain, Councilman elect from the first District attended the graduation along with "Mimi" DePietro, Councilman of the First District. Participants received certificates from the

City Council of Baltimore. They were commended for their completion of the program. The group will continue with the help of the Maryland Food Committee and members will be referred to Project Independence for vocational training and placement. If we are successful in raising money, the SUPERPANTRY will offer another session beginning in March 1992.

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. Planning for this has been completed. Tickets have been secured and distributed and 12 churches will be participating. An Ad book is being developed to raise even more money. The money will be used to fund the SUPERPANTRY at United.

St. Brigid's asked if we would be interested in participating in a census of the neighborhood sometime in March of 1992. We also heard a report from Rev. Villar who coordinates the Hispanic mission at Holy Evangelists. He estimates that there are about 35,000 new Hispanics (many undocumented aliens) in the area. They come from El Salvadore and Nicaragua.

8. New Creations - a support group for Adults

To address the problems of persons needing personal support, the Pastor has put together a group called "New Creations." On November 13, we had three members to begin but only two showed up for the sessions thus far. The method which focuses on "dealing with stuckness" shows much promise. The new venture 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.

9. Getting Better Media Exposure

A front page story on SUPERPANTRY appeared in the Guide on Thursday, November 28th. It has taken us over a year to achieve this kind of recognition by the Guide. Often, our submissions to the Guide, seemed to be ignored. This time the story was personally written by Jackie Watt, Editor of the Guide. She attended the SUPERPANTRY Graduation in person and took pictures.

OBSERVATIONS

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

a. Attendance

Church attendance statistics indicate that in November 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.

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 was promoted in the bulletins for October. and succeeded in attracting at least two new families to church. 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. Harvey informed the Committee that we can obtain the Stewart Directory at the local Library and obtain all the Real Estate Transfers (Rusks) into our neighborhood.

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 and approved by the Council in the October meeting. A meeting of the Committee was held on November 14, 1991 and 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. That was not possible 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. Our next meeting will be December 10, at 7:30PM following the Council meeting on December 3rd and the Congregational meeting on December 1st.

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

With Harvey Jacob's leadership and approval of Council at its last meeting, we acquired a computer to enhance the administration of our church. Harvey has been comparing a variety of programs for our use. I have been involved in this process. He is donating a piece of office furniture to house the computer. The plan is to take three to six months to complete the installation. Members of the office re-design 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 and have proved helpful.

5. Our Youth Program

Fred Long indicated in our last meeting that he would be willing to teach the Confirmands on Sunday. Lois Long is providing leadership for the Youth Group which is now made up of last year's Confirmands and this year's. On November 20th this group was organized, elected officers, approved a dues structure, and decided to work with Rob Gundlach to create a Youth Choir. On November 27th, with the help of Rob Gundlach, we met with the Youth Group and had our first rehearsal as a Youth Choir. Plans are to sing in two church services during the Christmas holidays.

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Rehabilitation of the Office

With Sam Jones leadership, we will be completing the reorganization of the office as Millie gets past her medical problems. We must go thru the desk and files and rebuild these so our office can be more efficient.

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

3. Approval by the Congregation of Targets for 1992 following and presentation to the Congregational Meeting (see attached). Request approval by Council of presentation of Targets for 1992 to the Congregational meeting in January 1992. Council approved the Targets at our last Council meeting.

4. Study and Review of the rate structure for weddings in 1992.

5. Approve Plan developed by Committee on Alcohol for review of this issue by Congregation.

6. Approval of Council to participate in a neighborhood census project in cooperation with the Think Tank, Sacred Heart, and St. Brigid's.

STATISTICAL REPORT
November 1991

	Total
VISITS TO SHUT-INS 9; Calls=3	<u>12</u>
Wil Mack Glen Meadows 11-3 Worship Service there	
Call from Frances Becker re Lydia Becker 11-4	
Lydia Becker 11-6 Could not locate her	
Grace and Andrew Rupalt 11-6	
Anna Price 11-6	
George Tuerk call from Bill Single 11-8	
Charles Rada call 11-11	
Lillian Smith 11-13	
Edna Oberlander 11-15	
Roy Jones 11-15	
Karen Foster 11-24	
Fred Canitz 11-26	
Pam Georgiadis 11-28 Call re illness	
PARISH VISITOR'S CALLS	<u>4</u>
Albert Dunn 11-17	
Linda Loudermilk 11-16	
Lillian Kraft 11-17	
Margaret Hannah 11-24	
VISITS TO HOSPITALS=11;calls=2	<u>13</u>
Ron Mack Fort Howard 11-6	
Grover Harrell Fort Howard 11-6	
Ed McGovern Mercy 11-7	
Robbin Rohlfing University 11-7	
Ed McGovern Mercy 11-13	
E. Grace Martin St. Joseph's 11-20	
Ed McGovern Mercy 11-24	
Barbara Brunner Key Center 11-24	
Ed McGovern Mercy 11-29	
Dorothy Pindell Union 11-29	
Millie Slechta 11-28 Call re hospitalization	
Bill Single 11-28 Call re Dorothy Pindell	
Millie Slechta Franklin Sq 11-30	
COMMITTEE MEETINGS	<u>0</u>
COUNCIL MEETINGS	<u>1</u>
Thirteenth Meeting 11-5	
ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS =14; Calls=3	<u>17</u>
UCC Ministerium 11-5	
Interfaith Festival 11-4 Call	
SEEC 11-1	
Bill Gonce 11-4	
Abott Presbyterian 11-5	
Nazareth Luthern 11-5	
North-East Cluster 11-12 Planning	
Scott Hengen Call re Music Festival 11-12	

Dawn Duncan re work program 11-12
 Training for Parish Vistors 11-12
 Think Tank 11-13
 SUPERPANTRY Planning 11-13
 Frances Becker et all re Lydia Becker 11-13
 Interfaith Festival Planning 11-21
 Florence Gundlach SUPERPANTRY Program 11-25
 Jean Kelbaugh Ministerium Call 11-15
 Clean Church 11-30

COUNCIL MEMBER INTERVIEWS

0

GROUP MEETINGS

11

Confirmation Class 11-6
 Confirmation Class 11-13
 Confirmation Class 11-20
 Confirmation Class 11-27
 Youth Group 11-20
 Youth Group & Choir 11-27
 New Creations 11-13
 New Creations 11-20
 New Creations 11-27
 Guild Thanksgiving Dinner 11-20
 Thanksgiving Service 11-28

BAPTISMS=1, Counselling=2

3

Tracy Marshall re James Marshall Counselling 11-3
 James Marshall, Baptism 11-24
 James Marshall Christening Party Counselling 11-24

WEDDINGS=2 Counselling=3

5

Rugemer-Leftridge Rehearsal 11-8
 Rugemer-Leftridge Wedding 11-9
 Short-Bielski Rehearsal 11-16
 Short-Bielski Wedding 11-17
 Dawn Donaldson Schedule Wedding 11-18

FUNERALS=3, Visit to Funeral Home=0; Counselling=3 6

McCulloh - Call to Myrtle 11-4
 Minnie McCulloh -Zeiler Funeral 11-5
 Charles Krug - Zeiler Call 11-11
 Charles Krug - Zeiler Funeral 11-14
 James Jefferson - Zeiler Call 11-15
 James Jefferson - Zeiler Funeral 11-18

COUNSELLING SESSIONS

2

Amy Picarello 11-12
 Amy Picarello 11-13

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

0

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE - November 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	54	57	00	50	00		161
1991	53	55	56	52	00		216
Net	- 1	- 2	+56	+ 2	00		+ 55

<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	106	111	152	148	93		610
1991	93	72	103	122	87		477
Net	-13	- 39	-49	- 26	- 6		- 133

* Thanksgiving
Net 1990-1991

-14 - 41 + 7 - 24 - 6 - 78

Trip to Wheeling West Virginia =+44. If we consider those absent member we have a total of -34 for the month of November.

1990-1991 % Change October

% Change in Sunday attendance for November = - 4%

<u>COMPARISON JANUARY TO NOVEMBER</u>		<u>-1990 AND 1991</u>				
		<u>TOTALS 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	-34	
%	+24%	+ 4%	+ 2%	- 4%	- 4%	

For the period January - November 1991, with the exception of April and October and November we show a consistent increase in monthly attendance to date in 1991. The drop in attendance in November is partially the result of a trip to Wheeling West Virginia for members. 44 persons made that trip. If we included those members the monthly attendance would be down by 34 or about 4%. In November 1990, the Pastor's installation on November 18th (third Sunday) had a profound impact on the attendance. The Installation Service is not included in the 1990 statistics recorded in the chart above.

COMPARATIVE INCOME IN THOUSANDS
TO DATE 10-31-91

<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	77.9
OCT	77.4	77.0	98.4	80.9	80.3	97.4
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.

Highland Assembly of God

The Rev. Levie Rice, Pastor

Reading: Phil 2:5-11

"I Called Him Lord!"

"Little Boy from the Carpenter Shop"

The Chapel of the Holy Evangelists

The Rev. Miquel Vilar, Pastor

Reading: Luke 17:5-10

"Una Espiga"

Adult Choir

"Un Mandamiento Nuevo"

Adult and Children's Choir

Messiah Luthern Church

The Rev. Lee Hudson, Pastor

Vicar Peter Rosa

Reading: Psalm 113

Our Lady of Pompei

Thom Kuhl, Deacon

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

"Nearer Still Nearer"

"A Tiny Child Will Come"

Thom Kuhl, Choir Director

Patterson Park Baptist Church

Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

Gladys Estes, Reader

"King of Love"

"Wonderful Name"

Carolyn T. Rogers, Choir Director

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

The Rev. Richard Poetzel, Pastor

Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Organ Solo

George Daniels, Organist, Sacred Heart of Jesus

"O Come Little Children"

"Ring Little Bells"

"The Cherry Tree Carol"

"The Little Drummer Boy"

Lillian Helldorfer, Organist and Director

Holy Redeemer Chapel

St. Brigid's Church

Pat Skarupa, Pastoral Associate

Reading: John 1: 1-5

"Prayer of St. Francis"

"The Coming of the Lord"

Folk Group, St. Brigid's

Salem United Methodist Church

The Rev. Robert Brookman, Pastor

"He Just Had to Come Down"

"Come, Follow That Star"

Doris Miller, Organist and Choir Director

Seneca Baptist Church

The Rev. Chris Wroten, Pastor

Reading: 1 John 3:17

"An Open Door"

Marita Knight, Soloist

United Evangelical Church

The Rev. Robert Armstrong, Pastor

"Majesty"

"Will We Know Him"

Robert Gundlach, Organist and Choir Director

BenedictionThe Rev. Carol Cole Flanagan

Vicar, Chapel of the Holy Evangelists

The Rev. Joseph Bochenek

Pastor, St. Brigid's Church

Recessional Hymn.....No. 120

"Joy to the World"

Thanks for your supportThe Rev. Jon Spencer
President, SUPERPANTRY

Cindy Meyers, Coordinator

Participants

Honored Guests

John Cain, Councilman 1st District

Mimi DiPetro, Former Councilman 1st District

William Gonce, Director, SEEC

Daphne Herling, Maryland Food Committee

SUPERPANTRY is sponsored by the churches of Canton-Highlandtown, the South East Emergency Council, and a grant from the Maryland Food Committee.

These are difficult economic times for all Americans. As Christians, we are called upon to reach out to the poor, the homeless, and those in need. SUPERPANTRY is one of twelve such efforts in the State of Maryland. It is designed to empower people to become more independent and, in some cases, to get off welfare. It supplements the effort of our neighborhood churches in providing baskets for the needy at Christmas and is powered by the philosophy that it is sometimes better to teach people how to fish rather than give them a fish.

Special Thanks

- * To the Women of the Bethel United Church of Christ for the gift of food and \$100 in support of the SUPERPANTRY
- * To Delegate Anthony DiPetro for his gift of \$100 in support of the SUPERPANTRY
- * To all those who bought space in the ad book
- * To the men and women of United Evangelical Church for serving as Ushers today. Sincere thanks to United for serving as host church for SUPERPANTRY and the Interfaith Festival
- * To the women of Canton Baptist Center and Canton Methodist Church for helping to serve refreshments
- * To St. Brigid's Church for the use of their parking lot
- * To Daphne Herling and the Maryland Food Committee without whose support the SUPERPANTRY would not have been possible
- * To William Gonce, Director of Urban Center #7 and the South East Emergency Council (SEEC) for their efforts in support of the SUPERPANTRY
- * To Cindy Myers, Coordinator of the SUPERPANTRY for her outstanding leadership
- * To The Rev. Jon Spencer, Pastor of the Canton Baptist Center and his people for their untiring leadership and support of the SUPERPANTRY

We extend to all who came our sincere thanks for making this occasion rich in the heritage and love which we celebrate in the Christmas Season. Together we shall keep the spirit of compassion alive, even in our own day.

Parking is available at the St. Brigid's parking lot directly across the street from United Evangelical Church.

Changing area for choirs, folk groups, and soloists: Tables are provided in the Auditorium (the gym) so that guests will be able to more robes and change into robes. Each table is marked with the name of the participating church.

Refreshments: Choirs, Folk Groups, Soloists, and Guests are cordially invited to join us for simple refreshments in Friendship Hall directly below the Church.

Gifts in Support of the SUPERPANTRY may be sent to SUPERPANTRY, Canton Baptist Center, 3302 Toone Street, Baltimore, MD. 21224

Interfaith Music Festival
December 8, 1991 at 3:00 p.m.
United Evangelical United Church of Christ
3200 Dillon St. Baltimore, MD. 21224

Order of Worship

Prelude.....Robert Gundlach, Organist
United Evangelical Church

Processional Hymn.....No. 112
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Solemn Declaration
and InvocationThe Rev. Robert M. Armstrong
Pastor, United Evangelical Church

"On That First Christmas Day"
Children's Choir, United Evangelical Church
Mrs. Lynn Sanders, Director

Welcome and Purpose.....The Rev. Jon Spencer
Pastor, Canton Baptist Mission

Canton Baptist Center
"A Christmas Prayer" - Choir
"Lullaby Sweet Jesus"
Donna Rzepka-Crane, Soloist

Bishop John Neumann School Chorus
Jane Matarozza, Director
"A Better Place to Be" - solo
(Written for the Archdiocesan Mass for the Homeless 1991)
"Share the Joy"
"Sing Hosanna"

Canton Methodist Church
Doris Leitzel, Pastor
Reading: Isaiah 40
"Were You There on That Christmas Night"
"Do You Here What I Hear?"
Penny Neumann, Soloist

The East
Baltimore

GUI

Your Community Newspaper Since 1926

65th Year No. 39

Baltimore, Maryland, November 28, 1991

Churches Gather to Beat Hunger, Break Welfare Cycle

by Jacqueline Watts

Sometimes it seems that there is no way to break the cycle of poverty. In cities, generations may grow up on welfare—in some families, welfare becomes a way of life because the family can't find a way out of its condition. Governments endure an equal frustration, unable to find a way to move families off the welfare rolls and onto the list of self-sufficient taxpayers.

Churches, community groups and social-welfare organizations find themselves strapped these days with the country in the midst of a recession that seems to want to put its feet up and stay for a while.

There is no way to break the cycle.

Not if Southeast Emergency Council has anything to say about it. SEEC presented the first five graduates of its Super Pantry program to the public Sunday in the newly decorated downstairs hall at Canton's United Evangelical Church. The women have finished an eight-week course aimed at making them self-confident, self-sufficient, ex-welfare mothers, and they seemed ready to take on the world, which is just the point.

Simply handing a bag of food out the door to a hungry family is not enough to get it off welfare, the Super Pantry realizes. "Rather than just give them a fish, we teach them to fish," says Rev. Robert Armstrong of United Evangelical.

Each week, the women discussed topics such as job hunting, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, nutrition, child rearing, and finances, with a group leader trained in the subject. The pantry provided day care in another room of the church so the women could concentrate on the tasks at hand. At the end of each session the group cooked lunch and ate together and they got along so well, says Spencer, that the Friday meetings became "kind of a mother's day out." Later, the women took food and recipes home to try on their families.

The Super Pantry approach was imported from Pennsylvania, where it proved successful in moving women off the welfare rolls. There are 12 Super Pantries across

the state of Maryland, each working with groups as small as five.

"One step at a time," said graduate Cheryl DeShields. That's how you do it."

"I have more confidence, and I feel good about myself," said graduate Michelle Brown to the assembly Sunday. Shari Harris, another alum, said the Super Pantry sessions had a salutary effect on her children too—her five-year-old, Cassandra, "benefitted from the day care and storytimes, and Daniel, well, he's only four months old, but he loved it here."

A Super Pantry session costs about \$3000 to run. To raise the money for another Super Pantry in the spring, several parishes in Canton and Highlandtown will present an Interfaith Music Festival Sunday, December 8, at 3 p.m., at United Evangelical. Twelve choirs will perform. Tickets are \$3, and are available at neighborhood churches or by calling Bill Gonce, 396-9093.

A footnote on the concert program reads, "These are difficult economic times for all Americans. As Christians, we are called upon to reach out to the poor, the homeless, and those in need."

"I know now that I am not alone," says Shari Harris.

TARGETS FOR 1992

In addition to maintaining our current program we need to focus on the following new targets.

- * Building a sense of the church as a family. This is based on Jesus teaching that "whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven is my mother, sister, and brother." The Unity Candle is a key symbol to teaching this concept. This emphasis will meet the needs of the large number of widows, widowers, and single person heads of household in our congregation in addition to providing security for married couples. Through this program we will emphasize mutual support, sharing the good things that happen to people (as you would in a family), and the provision of mutual support in facing illness, hospitalization, death, and economic recession.
- * Building a Young Adult Group to provide a support group for the single mothers and young couples
- * Continued strengthening of the spiritual life of our members through Bible Study, Prayer Group, and Community Forum (relating the faith to practical concerns), and a Support Group for our members and new persons called "New Creations".
- * Resolving our conflicts regarding the use of alcohol through participation and discussion of this issue.
- * Complete the building an installation of a ramp for disabled persons.
- * Purchase and install a computer to improve our efficiency and our capacity to do more work in less time.
- * Exploring the possibility of becoming a teaching center for seminary candidates interested in the Urban Ministry.
- * Continuing to strengthen our funding of the operating budget by adding a "Dinner Dance" on Valentine's Day in 1992 and a capital budget for replacement of plant and equipment.
- * Building the visibility of United in the community so as to attract new persons to the membership, to work cooperatively with other churches in joint ministry so as to make our mission dollars go further, and to continue to relate to those of any denomination who can contribute to the support of the larger Church in this community.