

September 3, 1991

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council of the United Evangelical Church, UCC, was held on Tuesday September 3, 1991. All members were present except Sam Jones, Art Jones, Fred Long, and Calvin Gundlach. The minutes were read and corrected. The financial report was approved as presented.

The September budget is \$16,000 under budget.

Correspondence

A letter was received letting us know of the Fall Meeting of the Chesapeake Association to be held on October 13, 1991 at First United Evangelical United Church of Christ. The Council must decide how many will attend and respond by October 5.

Pastor Armstrong informed us of his letter requesting Glen Rodgers to cover for him while he is on vacation.

Membership

The Membership Committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks.

The Committee suggests there should be a follow up on new members and existing members. Maybe a coffee hour or a survey form were two of the ideas they came up with.

Priscilla would like to begin a training session on November 12, concerning visitations.

Altar

Ben Long and Wayne Schaefer cleaned and polished the brass cross on the altar.

Council gave approval to purchase a new runner to be used for weddings.

Fellowship

Council approved servng buns and coffee in Friendship Hall following the service on September 22 to celebrate our 118 th. anniversary.

A thank you note and complimentary tickets will be sent to Mr Skarda for printing up 1200 tickets for our All Church Sour Beef and Dumpling Supper.

Dr. Hamilton and his wife will also receive complimentary tickets.

Sour Beef Dinner Ad Book will be as follows:

\$1.00 Per. Name
\$20.00 Full Page
\$10.00 Half Page
\$ 5.00 Quarter Page

The Fellowship Committee will create a list of patrons to call upon to place ads in our book.

Spiritual

Ben Long will meet with old and new comfirmands to set schedule for the new year.

Music

Choirs will begin to sing again by the end of September.

Calendar

September 22	Anniversary Sunday
October 4	Super Pantry starts
December 15	Tinsel Sunday
December 15	Sunday School Program
February 16	Dinner and Dance

Christian Education

Meeting of all organizations will be Thursday, October 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Property

Jim Tallagsen has volunteered to clean church and offices until Jim Slechta is able to return. The Boy Scouts will take care of the hall and kitchen when needed.

Jim Tallagsen put locks on bathroom in Church School building and the key will be kept in the Church School office.

Committee on the Serving of Alcoholic Beverages

A meeting will be held on September 18, 1991 at 7:30 p.m.

Committee on Fundraising

The committee's three fundraising projects are in progress. The Entertainment Books have been ordered to be sold at Christmas time. "Pennies for Heaven" was started September 11, and our Dinner Dance will be February 16th.

Council will review and give final approval at our next meeting on the Love Gift and Memorial Brochure.

Pastor's Report

Attached.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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GUIDE

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 gaily decorated downstairs hall a 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.

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

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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.