

"TO THE GLORY OF GOD"

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

In many ways, 115 years is a long time. When a person lives that long, the local media covers their birthday. Furniture that old has a great value as an antique. Artwork that old also appreciates in value (usually).

What about a church that old? What is its value or worth?

One thing that stands out is that there has been 115 years of witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ in the Canton Community. The value of such a community witness cannot be measured in monetary terms. The importance is seen in terms of needs met, sins forgiven, sorrows shared, and joys experienced.

We have seen a great deal of progress in our church and community. We have experienced ecumenical cooperation with other churches in our neighborhood. Our Vacation Bible School program, the Canton Happening, is held jointly with our neighboring Roman Catholic Church. Our services for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity are shared between the active parishes of the Canton Ministerium.

Our witness and ministry in terms of music and worship has been going very strongly. Under the able direction of Mr. Robert Gundlach, our music program is one of the finest I have seen. Worship expresses the joy of the resurrection and the reverence due toward God.

At this point, I wish to specifically

thank those people who have served as President of the church Council in my tenure so far. My deepest appreciation to Mr. George Tuerk, Jr.; Mr. William Voelker and Mrs. Grace E. Fader. Your hard work and support have helped to keep us going as a congregation.

We need to look forward to the next 115 years. Will our ministry and mission be sharp enough to meet the growing needs of our community? Only time will tell! One thing is certain, we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the cooperation of every member to witness to the Saving Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in the 115 or more years to come!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor John Stephen Fair

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS OF UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

- 1873 Founded in September by Pastor Andrew Schwartz as Zion Evangelical Church, and later changed to German United Evangelical Church. Ladies' Aid Society organized the same year.
- October 19th the cornerstone for the new church was laid at the Canton Market on account of rain.
- 1874 On April 12th the Church was dedicated.
- 1876 The Sunday School was organized, although a German day school had been conducted before this.
- 1885 "Old Hall" was built after one-story building had been destroyed by fire as the firemen watched from across the street.
- 1889 Pastor Menzel called to minister to Church.
English confirmation instructions begun.
First Lenten Services conducted.
- 1896 Pastor William P. Batz began his ministry of thirty years.
- 1898 First parsonage built.
- 1904 Ground leased by the Church was bought.
- 1907 Founding of Evangelical League.
- 1915 Stained glass windows placed in Church.
- 1920 The "Lighted Tower" became evident over Canton.
- 1926 Pastor F. W. Schaefer called to minister at the Church.
- 1927 Officially joined the Evangelical Synod.
- 1928 Building Fund started.
- 1929 Deaconess elected.
- 1932 Loyalty Crusade in which \$44,000 were pledged toward building.

- 1934 Pastor Titus Lehmann assumed duties as minister.
English morning service begun.
- 1935 First Daily Vacation Bible School undertaken.
- 1936 March 8th the ground was broken for the Church
School building.
April 19th the cornerstone was laid.
November 8th the hall was dedicated.
- 1937 March-Cornerstone laying for parsonage, which
was dedicated to its service on May 23rd. Build-
ings cost \$67,000 with equipment. A debt of
\$25,000 was incurred at the completion of build-
ings. Paid off since 1938, mostly through free-
mail offerings. Continued Building Fund toward a
new Church. Now have about \$100,000 on hand. Word
"German" dropped from Church name.
- 1941 Mrs. Charles Whittlif, as organist, with organi-
zation of various choirs.
- 1942 Dedicated new hymnals; new organ and choir robes
on September 20th, making for a more worshipful
service.
- 1943 Burn mortgage on October 24th at time of 70th
anniversary.
- 1944 Young Women's Guild organized.
- 1945 United Men's Club organized.
- 1956 April, New Church project began.
- 1957 United Church became a part of The United Church
of Christ.
December 15th, new Church dedicated.
- 1961 April 16th, burning of Church mortgage.
November, Pastor Paul A. Rasche installed as pas-
tor of United Church.
- 1962 July, Pastor Titus Lehmann fifty years service in
ministry.

- 1963 Fire in Church School building.
- 1964 Church School Building renovated, other renovations and repair work done.
- 1965 Extensive renovations of Church School to be done by bond issue.
Baby sitting begun for 10:15 a.m. service.
Dr. Titus Lehmann's association with United terminated as of November, 1965.
- 1966 June, Sunday School Building rededicated.
December, new organization known as Youth of United held its first meeting.
- 1967 January, Ecumenical services for Christian Unity Week with Roman Catholic Church.
July, Pastor Ralph Weisser accepted call to United as visiting pastor.
Teen night held with paid recreation counselor.
October, Sewing Group formed to meet on Tuesday mornings to make articles for needy and hospitals.
United officially became member of Canton Christian Council.
- 1968 January, Dr. Ralph Weisser installed.
New Windsor retreats held.
Parsonage repainted.
- 1969 Girls to be admitted as Junior Council members.
- 1970 Confirmation presentation service from Sunday to Thursday.
Confirmation instructions changed to 2 years for the course.
Good Friday German service eliminated.
May, Amendment to by-laws concerning annual meeting. Meeting now to be held in January at which reports from all organizations are to be

- 1970 presented, and another congregational meeting to be held in November for election of Church Council members.
- June, Pastor Paul Rasche celebrated 35th anniversary as ordained minister.
- First meeting scheduled to prepare for Church's 100th anniversary.
- Vacation church school to be held in conjunction with St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church.
- 1971 November 7, Pastor Weisser's final preaching service.
- 1972-1973 Preparations underway for 100th Anniversary of the Church.
- 1974 Pastor Mary Ellen Kitchen began her ministry here as Associate Pastor at United.
- 1975 Pastor Bruce A. Wickkiser began as Interim Pastor. Mrs. Millie Slechta accepted position of Church Office Secretary.
- Pastor Mary Ellen Kitchen ended her Ministry of Associate Pastor at United.
- 1976 Pastor Bruce A. Wickkiser ended his Interim Pastorate role at United.
- Pastor W. Scott Hengen III began his ministry.
- Diet Group formed.
- 1984 Rev. W. Scott Hengen III ended his ministry.
- Rev. Henry A. W. Schaeffer began as Interim Pastor and ended his Interim Pastorate in October.
- Rev. Albert Johnson served as Interim Pastor.
- Parsonage renovated.
- Pastor J. Stephen Fair assumed his administrative duties.
- 1985 Rev. J. Stephen Fair began his ministry at United.

- 1986 New Youth Group formed.
United Bowling League formed.
Mini-Bus purchased.
- 1987 Copier machine purchased for Church Office.
- 1988 Preparations began for Church's 115th Anniversary.
Baby sitting service began for 10:30 a.m. service.
First Bull Roast held.
New Air Conditioners in Church installed.
Boilers overhauled.
Church School Family Picnic held in Friendship Hall.
September 25, 115th Anniversary Celebration.

LIST OF PRESIDENTS

- 1873 - William Zimmermann
- 1874 - H. L. Doeschee
- 1875 - Theodore E. Maasch
- 1876 - Charles Keiner
- 1877 - Unknown
- 1878 - Unknown
- 1879 - Henry Ritterbusch
- 1880 - Henry Becker
- 1881 - Henry Ritterbusch
- 1882 - Henry Schluderburg
- 1883-1892 - Unknown
- 1893 - Frederick Gross
- 1893 - Ferdinand Neidermyer
- 1894-1895 - Unknown
- 1896 - Frederick Gross
- 1897 - Unknown
- 1898 - Ferdinand Neidermeyer
- 1899 - Henry Reifschneider
- 1900 - George Heim
- 1901 - August F. Weis
- 1902-1905 - Unknown
- 1906 - Henry Schmeiser
- 1907 - Unknown
- 1908 - Henry Reifschneider
- 1909-1910 - Unknown
- 1911 - Henry Schmeiser
- 1912 - Unknown
- 1913 - Frederick Duechler
- 1914 - Unknown
- 1915 - Philip G. Mueller
- 1916 - Charles H. Betkey
- 1917 - George W. Zirkler
- 1918 - Unknown
- 1919 - Adam Hertrich
- 1920 - August Schmitz, Sr.
- 1921 - John Boehm
- 1922-1923 - Frederick Scheufel
- 1924 - George Zirkler
- 1925-1929 - Adam Trautner
- 1930 - George Trautner

1931 - George Zirkler
1932-1933 - Adam Trautner
1934 - Philip Mueller
1935-1940 - George Trautner
1941-1946 - Louis Mueller
1947-1949 - Fred Gross
1950-1953 - Louis Mueller
1954-1959 - Fred Gross
1960-1963 - J. Albert Fader, Sr.
1964 - Frederick Long
1965-1970 - J. Albert Fader, Sr.
1971 - Frederick Long
1972-1973 - Arthur Block
1974-1975 - Ray Schmitt
1976-1981 - George A. Tuerk, Jr.
1982 - Mrs. Grace E. Fader
1983-1986 - George A. Tuerk, Jr.
1987 - William Voelker
1988 - Mrs. Grace E. Fader

THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY

The Ladies' Aid Society was the first of the organizations to be formed. This was shortly after the church was organized. The same purpose is being exercised today as it has been over the years - to promote the welfare of the church and to offer the women a place where they may find fellowship and an opportunity to be of service to others, and to find spiritual inspiration. Due to the loyalty and hard work of the ladies, many generous contributions have been made. The society meets on the first Wednesday of each month for a luncheon meeting. The Ladies' Aid Society President is Mrs. Margaret B. Craig.

CHURCH SCHOOL HISTORY

In 1876, the Church School was first organized. Destroyed by fire in March, 1885, a two story brick building was erected on the same site during that year. Due to increasing enrollment a larger building was needed. On November 8, 1936, the present Church School was dedicated. When much of the exterior wall was destroyed by fire several years ago, the Church School was remodeled. Paneling was added to the stairway walls during the year 1973. Throughout the years, The Church School has strived to create and sustain an interest in Christian education. The building of Christian character and a dedication to Christian ideals among the Church congregation from infancy through adulthood has been our primary concern. Our Superintendent is Mr. F. Clarence Rowell.

CRADLE ROLL DEPARTMENT

At the time of Baptism, infants' names are placed on the Cradle Roll. Cards and notes and birthday cards are mailed to each. After the third birthday, the name of the child is turned over to the Superintendent of the Nursery Department. The child is invited to attend Church School. Mrs. Florence Gundlach and Mrs. Katherine Bush are Co-Chairpersons.

OUR CHOIRS

Our Senior Choir is a volunteer choir serving their church for many years. The personnel of the choir has changed many times as the years have gone by, but you can always find the faithful ones serving each Sunday. New members are always welcome. The Present of the Senior Choir is Mr. Willoughby Myrick, Jr.

The Children's Choir is progressing very nicely. New robes were purchased for them recently. They too, can always use new members. Mrs. Kathy Fair is the Director.

YOUNG WOMEN'S GUILD

The Young Women's Guild was formed in March, 1944 by 15 young women to provide social fellowship for the younger women of the church and to promote fellowship to all. Later service projects were started, such as the annual Mother and Daughter Banquet, visits to Retirement Centers and the Flea Mart. The organization extends a welcome to all the women of the church. Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The current President is Mrs. Mildred "Mutz" Surdel.

NEW YOUTH GROUP

Our New Youth Group was formed in 1986. The group invites all youth, teenage and above to become an active part in their fellowship. Many new friendships have been made through this group. They had their first Contemporary Worship Service on Sunday, September 18. The President of the New Youth Group is Miss Donna Raddatz.

TUESDAY SEWING GROUP

In October, 1967, the Tuesday Sewing Group was formed for the purpose of providing sewing services to neighboring hospitals and for the Church. The President is Mrs. Lydia "Sis" Becker.

SCOUTS

Troop 19 transferred from Calvary Methodist Church as East Avenue and Fleet Street on March 19, 1952 to our Church. The Boy Scouts have provided service to the Church such as snow removal, moving of tables and chairs, serving coffee at suppers, etc. The Scout Master is Mr. Ben Long.

Our Girl Scouts, Daisies, Brownies, Seniors and Cadettes, meet on Monday and Tuesday nights, September through June. They have service projects and trips.

Our Cubs and Webelos meet on Monday nights.

New members are always invited to participate with the Scouting units.

CANTON FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The late Mr. Albert Witzke was instrumental in getting a club started for seniors over the age of 55. They have meetings year round on Monday mornings at 10 a.m. This is a fellowship group and is open to the community. The President is Mrs. Ida Jefferson.

DIETERS UNITE

The Diet Group was formed in 1976 to take off pounds sensibly. Many members have come and gone after losing the desired pounds. There is a small weekly fee and they meet on Thursday evenings and this group too, is open to the community. The Spokesperson is Mrs. Erma Reechal.

UNITED BOWLING LEAGUE

This fellowship group was formed in September of 1986 with only 16 bowlers. It proved to be a lot of fun and in 1987 the number doubled. In 1988 we moved to a closer bowling lane establishment and we are still looking for more members and friends of the Church to spend Friday evenings with us. The President is Mr. Paul Bauersfeld.

In 1988 a Bull Roast Committee was formed and we had a first affair on May 22. It was a big success and fun for those who attended. The Chairperson was Mrs. Sharon Daniloski.

We hope we did not miss reporting on any organizations. It certainly was not intentional.

115th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Isabel and Louis W. Parker, Sr.
Ruth and Bill Voelker

(Co-Chairpersons)

Committee Members:

Paul Bauersfeld
Margaret Craig
Elizabeth Erdman
Grace Fader
Kathy Fair
Florence Gundlach
Robert Gundlach
Donna Raddatz
Carol Rowell
Clarence Rowell
Susan Rowell
Margaret Shorr
Mildred Surdel
Clara Wise

Our special thanks to Mrs. Isabel Parker, Mrs. Ruth Voelker and Mrs. Millie Slechta for taking care of our Anniversary Banquet Tickets.

Special thanks to Miss Susan Rowell and Mrs. Carol Rowell for coordinating the ads; and to Mrs. Florence Gundlach and Mr. Robert Gundlach for putting the information on the computer and running stencils and Mrs. Millie Slechta for printing and collating the booklet.

Lastly, our thanks to any and all who participated in any fashion to make this day a memorable day.

YOUR 1988 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mrs. Grace E. Fader - President
Mr. Paul E. Bauersfeld - Vice-
President
Miss Susan Rowell - Secretary
Mrs. Sharon Daniloski - Treasurer
Mr. Calvin Gundlach - Financial
Secretary

Other Council Personnel:

Mr. Charles Carrigan
Mr. George Carrigan
Mrs. Florence Gundlach
Mr. Arthur Jones, Jr.
Mrs. Gloria Rohlfing
Mr. James Tallagsen
Mrs. Catherine Young

Church Staff

Mrs. Millie Slechta - Church
Office Secretary
Miss Diane Borkman - Church
School
Mr. James Slechta - Custodian/
Maintenance

Organist

Mr. Robert Gundlach

Pastor

The Rev. J. Stephen Fair

AND IN CONCLUSION

And so one hundred and fifteen years have passed since that long ago day when our Church began. As we think of the countless people who have passed through its doors; of the many who called upon and received counsel and help from its pastors; of the babies baptised and the children confirmed; of the weddings performed; of the comfort and hope at the time of death; of the hard work performed and the good times enjoyed in its buildings, we say "Thank you, God" for all Your help and blessings through this time of our Church's life. And as we look into the future we look to our God and Saviour to guide and direct us in the future as we have been guided and directed in the past.

Lead us forth, a church united,
Strong, courageous in Thy might.
Lo, the fields are white with
harvest,
Sheaves to garner in the night.

One in purpose, one our Leader,
Thus Thy Church shall never fail.
Lead us on, O King eternal,
So shall love, world-wide prevail.

(From "Hymn to Joy")

(Reproduced with slight changes from the
100th Anniversary Booklet.)

Worship Services each Sunday morning
at 8 and 10:30 a.m. except
Communion Sunday

Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of
the month when Worship Services
are 7:45 and 10:30 a.m.

United Prayer Group, 9:15 a.m., Quiet
Room

Church School, 9 a.m.

Please come and join us!

ALL ARE WELCOME!