

Raleigh, N.C.
October 11, 1983

M's Grace E. Fader
The Fellowship Committee
United Evangelical Church
East Avenue and Dillon Street
Baltimore, Md. 21224

Dear M's Fader:

Thank you for the "Greetings" letter welcoming my mother Maragret K. Bien to the 110th Anniversary of United Evangelical Church.

As you must know, Margaret has been in The Homewood Retirement Center since about September, 1979. She is 82 or 83 years old and is rapidly failing. I am her son and live in Raleigh, N.C., and go up to see her about once per month. Margaret hardly knows me any more. She rambles in her speech and sleeps quite a lot. She requires constant care. (The home is in Hanover, Penna.)

It would be impossible for her to get to the celebration; although were she able to, I certainly would bring her. Margaret had been so faithful to the church and loved it very much.

Except for the first year that Margaret was at the home, she has received no visits, cards or communications from anybody at her church, including the pastor. I am appalled, disappointed and discouraged at this lack of care and consideration upon the part of would be Christians.

I suppose that they all have their reasons and some day will experience themselves. A visit to a home like Homewood is a real Christian challenge which some can't meet.

As you can see, I am very bitter about United Church forgetfulness of my dear mother Margaret. I travel 300 miles and back to see her; I have one daughter that lives in Westminster that visits her. Other than that, no one. Although there are churches in the area that do a good job of visitation. I pray that God Takes her soon.

Thanks for the letter to Margaret. I am glad that someone looked into the records.

Henry W. Bien, Sr.
Henry W. Bien, Sr
8816 Foggy Bottom Drive
Raleigh, N.C. 27612

Raleigh, N.C.
November 8, 1983

Mrs. Grace E. Fader
United Evangelical Church
East Avenue and Dillon St.
Baltimore, MD.

Dear Mrs. Fader:

Thank you for answering my "distressful letter". I appreciate your time and effort.

Although I do not intend to indulge in a dialogue on this matter, there are a couple of other thoughts that I would like to convey to any interested parties at the church. This will be my last communication about this and I think that you will be glad to hear that.

Even though I live in Raleigh, N.C., 400 miles from my mother, I do get there about once per month; my wife visits when I can't. I have a daughter who lives in Westminster, who visits frequently. I am aware of the Chaplin Ministry at the home and also the loving concern of the churches around Hanover, Penna. (My brother lives 3000 miles away in Anaheim, Calif)

These are all fine and helpful and appreciated, but do not replace visits from one's life long church friends.

Margaret is practically blind now and really cannot comprehend much that is around her. She certainly can't read and must have some one read to her if they have time. When I go up there, I see the church information and read it to her.

She gets very few Christmas cards. When I send cards to her friends in her name, I put a typed name and address for Margaret in each card. She does get a few cards from this scheme.

Maragret has been in the home for five years now; from September, 1978. There was one bus trip, organized by Maragert Corame that went up there to see Maragret in her first year. I think that is the time that Pastor Hengen was there. I suppose once in five years is better than no visits at all. I appreciate his concern.

When I lived in Baltimore, I have taken the gifts at Christmas from the church to Margaret. I can't do that now but hope that they get there some way.

I do not wish to place the onus on the church to justify their policies for their older members. I also am aware that people are getting old too and have their own personal problems. In fact I think that the reason that more visits are not made by old friends, is that they see themselves in that position in the very near future. If the church feels that they are doing all that can be done, so be it.

People like yourself, contribute their time an effort freely and without pay and do the best that can be done. This effort is appreciated.

Please do not organize any big effort for Margaret because of this or the previous letter. It is too late, she would not benefit from the effort and it probably would be a waste of time. I will only ask one more thing of the church for Margaret and that is at her death, that ^{they} have time to perform the burial service. She would love that to happen in her beloved church. For Margaret's sake, I hope that time is not too far off.

To reiterate, I do know my mother's condition, what mail she receives, who visits her, etc. That is the reason that I took the opportunity to write to you about United's activity, in her behalf.

Thank you for your effort in this matter.

Sincerely,

Henry W. Bien, Sr.

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8816 Foggy Bottom Drive
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