

United Evangelical Church
Baltimore, Maryland.
December 1, 1944

Dear Service Men and Service Women :

First of all we must wish all of you a very " merry " Christmas in the deeper sense of that term, as you find joy in the Lord Jesus. Then we pray for you a blessed New Year, hoping and praying that 1945 will bring " peace on earth "

We are again enclosing a copy of the " Upper Room " which we are so glad to hear finds a place not only in your individual lives, but also in the hospitals, barracks and other public places. May the meditations help all of you in these critical times.

We pass on to you a few news items from the church. The Oyster Supper went across in a big way. Served about 1300 people in two nights. The year in the congregation has been a good one. We have over \$ 10,000 in the renovation fund for the church and hope to carry out this work " when the boys come home." We have received gifts from Lt. Vera Single in England, where she is nursing, likewise from parents and friends in honor of others in the service. The church attendance has been good and keeps up pretty well. The Sunday School and Young Men's Class is holding its own.

Christmas cards have come in already from the far Pacific, Frank Bowers, and from England from Lt. Howard Witzke, who is with the paratroopers. Two of the fellows have taken unto themselves a wife this past month, namely "Bill" Blimline and William Crispens. We wish them well. John Sachs and wife have a little girl, which was baptized recently. Roland Clough, who was in the hospital for an operation, is on the way to complete duty again. Frank G. Richter received the "Upper Room" and says especially that he would like to send greetings to all the fellows who recall him. Joseph Weidel wrote that the "Upper Room" followed him all around, finally caught up in France somewhere. Charles P. Mack tells us that he may get a chance to see Palestine. That would indeed be a privilege. Norman Armandt tells of an interesting experience in attending a Communion Service in France which was conducted in French, and in which the elements were served from a round altar and only one communion cup (large) was used for all. By the way, another one of the fellows has gotten married, namely Anton Matzdorf, who had been in the Pacific, Saipan, etc. Robert Thompson, now stationed for special work at the Naval Academy, was here for the week end recently. Some fellows were home on furlough, we didn't catch all of them. But one Sunday, Henry Ruppertsberger, "Bob" Hoffman, Henry Smit, and Ed. Wood were in church on the same Sunday. Donald Zinkand and August Resch were home on furlough. Max Hoffman is down in Camp Wolters, Texas, George Scheufel (Possibly many others) are in Germany, Ted Lehmann in Italy. John Sinclair likewise home on leave, as well as Ed. Meyers and his wife. Sad news comes also. John James, a prisoner of the Germans, Jacob James missing in action in Belgium, Ellsworth Keys reported missing, Warren Armandt killed in action in France. We will pray for all, as well as for these who suffer.

Best of wishes,
Cordially yours,
United Evangelical Church,
Rev. T. Lehmann.