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United Evangelical Church

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Dear Neighbor,

As many of you are aware, over the past several years we have been exploring different options in attempting to find the best future use of our under-utilized four story education building.

The many changes through the years in the make up of our neighborhood has many churches searching for ways to serve with a continuing presence in the community and United Evangelical is one of them. Some churches have not been able to make the transition. Our congregation has made a commitment to stay in Canton. We have been studying and working on ways to increase our membership and continue to serve our congregation and neighborhood. The results of our efforts have recently been evident as we are seeing more new faces. Many more are certainly welcome!

Our parsonage at 945 S. East Ave. has been rented for the past year. This has been working well for the church and the community as we were not comfortable with it standing there vacant. The income is helping, of course.

The education building at 923 S. East Ave. is becoming an ever increasing burden financially with maintenance and utility costs constantly rising. With the demise of the Boy Scout troop the top floor has been vacant for the last several years. The entire building is not being used in a manner that the upkeep expense justifies.

Over the past year the building was listed for sale with a realtor specializing in the sale of church properties with the thought that it would be sold to a developer who would create condominium apartments. We only had one offer that we eventually turned down due to financial and other considerations desired by the developer.

Last November, we engaged Jubilee Baltimore, a highly recommended non profit organization that developed Messiah Lutheran's education building into senior housing as well as numerous other properties in Baltimore to do a feasibility study on the building.

We now have the results of their study and are having two information meetings with our congregation and the neighborhood to share the results of Jubilee's study and

discuss our options for the future development or use of the building. These meetings will both be at 11:40 a.m., with the first on Sunday, March 18th and the second the following Sunday, March 25th. The meetings will be in our church Fellowship Hall with the closest access being by the handicapped ramp entrance on S. East Ave. Please consider attending one of these very important meetings.

If you are planning to attend we ask that you call the church office at 410-276-0393 in order that we can plan on the number of people to be expected. Office hours are Tuesday – Friday, 8 – 4. We look forward to seeing you.

Best Regards,

The United Evangelical Church Congregation