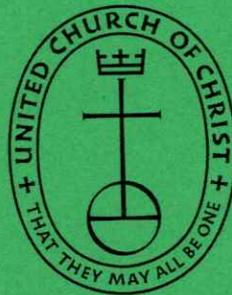


ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**United Evangelical Church, United Church of Christ
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 27, 2019
Fellowship Hall**



3200 Dillon Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21224
410-276-0393 * uecucc@comcast.net
www.unitedevangelical.org
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Catherine J. Oatman, Pastor
Mr. Robert Gundlach, Director of Music
Paula Whitacre, MID

REPORTS

Pastor's Report

Submitted by Rev. Cathy

2018 was a year of change, a year filled with new things. It brings to mind Revelation 21:5, "Behold, I am making all things new." It began in February with a new Lenten series. In 2017 I noticed that attendance for the Wednesday evening worship services had dropped to the point where it wasn't worth the effort. I knew we needed to do something different but I also knew we couldn't just not have Lenten services as they are so meaningful to people and people enjoy raising money for Heifer animals.

The idea to do a Sunday series followed by a luncheon and short discussion came from a journal I subscribe to called, Reformed Worship. But I was concerned that lunch and a discussion wouldn't be enough to hold people's attention for 6 weeks. That is when the idea of an art project was birthed. With a little tweaking, the cross project, which also came from the journal, was adapted for our congregation.

The entire thing, especially the art project, felt like a big risk. I didn't know if it would be received well or if it would mark the end of our Lenten services. And so I was simply amazed by how much people enjoyed it, especially how meaningful it was when the cross was incorporated into worship. I knew that the Holy Spirit was moving powerfully through this change, making things new.

Part of the newness that was happening was within me. The flexibility I needed to put the art project together is not how I usually operate. I like to have loose ends tied up when doing big projects like this, but this required that I fly by the seat of my pants each week. Each week I had to adjust, catch up and prepare material for the next Sunday. But each week everything worked out and I knew God was behind it. God was the One who brought the right amount of people each week. God was the One who brought the needed tools and materials from a variety of sources. God's fingerprints were all over the new things that composed the Lenten series. And I thank God for Patti Baier and her sister Linda who helped it all come together.

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Having gone through a whole year of this ministry it kind of feels like the Knotty Pine is a satellite campus of the church. When we are there as a church on the first Fridays, people are genuinely glad that we are there. It is sort of like the people feel supported by the church even though they don't go to church. Eventually some people may start to attend but regardless if they do, they know they have a spiritual community to turn and that supports them. If you have not been to a Holy Happy Hour, I encourage you to give it a try.

One of the hardest things that was new last year was learning to live without Clarence Rowell. Clarence's tragic death was difficult for everyone to process, including myself. It is not an exaggeration to say that when we lost him we lost the patriarch of the church.

We continue to feel his loss as he was active in many of the ministries of the church in ways that no one knew about except for him. His behind the scenes way of doing things was the embodiment of Matthew 6 where Jesus teaches that we are to approach what we do for God with quiet humility by not letting the left hand know what the right hand is doing.

Clarence's death inspired a new ministry as we revived an old ministry of providing food baskets at Thanksgiving. Even though it wasn't a new ministry for the church, it was new to many of us and it took on a new format as we worked with Highlandtown #237 school to distribute the food to families in need. This food give away was a very fitting way to honor a man who took his faith so seriously, and I thank Cissy Funk for organizing it.

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Even though my call agreement contained provisions for a sabbatical every seven years, I struggled to ask for it. It felt a little dishonest not sharing with the congregation the reason for the request, and at the same time I knew I needed time away to process everything I was going through. So once again I thank you for affording me the time to care for myself and my family.

My sabbatical helped me in many ways; the first way was the week I spent on a silent retreat. I spent 5 days reading, praying, going to worship and meeting with a spiritual director.

It was so healing to do nothing but spend time with God and do self-reflection. I was able to read 5 books over those three months, books on marriage and relationships. They helped me take a long look at myself and my marriage. And in addition to letting me get settled into a new house, my time away also allowed for me to start a CPE unit.

This CPE unit has continued to be a healing and growth experience since returning from sabbatical. I look forward every week to attending class. And even though it increases my workload, I enjoy all the reading and writing assignments because of all that I am learning about myself and God. I am so grateful for all the support of this congregation that allows me to participate in this police chaplaincy program.

Clarence's death and my separation from Cindy point out that sometimes the new things that God brings into our lives also bring grief. We have to grieve as we let go of what has been, in order to make space for the new. Just because we have closed 2018 doesn't mean that we are finished grieving all the changes that have affected our lives. Grief doesn't have a calendar. But one thing my faith tells me is true, is that we can trust in the new things that God brings to us.

As we stand at the beginning of a new year, we already see some of the things we will be letting go of as a church so that new things can come in. With the demise of the boiler we anticipate that the Sunday School building will be sold in 2019. Along with its sale, we will say goodbye to the PACT program. Both the boiler and PACT started the same year...hmm, maybe God is telling us something... "Behold, I make all things new."

In Christ's love,
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With Clarence's passing both Jennifer Borkman and I knew we would need to do something special to honor him and all his good works. During the eulogy at his funeral we learned of Clarence's desire to keep what had been a church tradition of giving food baskets to needy families at Thanksgiving. As soon as we learned this we knew this would become a mission for us and the fundraising group. Needless to say it was a healing experience putting together this memorial. In Clarence's memory and with the church member's help of food and funds we touched 28 families in need this past Thanksgiving. This will be an annual memorial, celebrating the life of Clarence Rowell.

In all of this reflection, I also found so many reasons to celebrate and to give thanks. We have a dedicated pastor who is underpaid and at times overworked. Always in mission mode, Rev. Cathy strives to find new ways for us to reach out to each other and our community. Then we have Rob Gundlach, our joyful choir director. Rob's talents are not only his musical direction but also his ability to engage the choir in new music, instruments and always meaningful fellowship. We have an awesome council, made of a diverse group of caring individuals who are always willing to use their gifts to help their church in so many different ways. Finally, we must give thanks for our strong loving, wonderful and welcoming congregation. Everyone here has something to give and it shows in your dedication to the church and each other.

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Peace be with you,
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Please join us on any fundraiser you feel comfortable working on; your help would be greatly welcomed.

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Status as a Member in Discernment from Paula Whitacre

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As I was putting this information together, I stopped to reflect on the work I have done this past year. It has been significant in terms of my continuing spiritual and pastoral formation as well as being “out” as a same gender loving Christian minister in my local community.

Just wearing my rainbow color UCC comma pin gets me invited into conversations I might never have had. It is a welcome presence in communities that are disparaged and bullied by the majority culture in Harford County. I have the unique opportunity to talk about a loving God, a loving denomination and the compassionate, hopeful community of United Evangelical which sends and supports my vision of UCC community in my hometown. Marge and I continue to be grateful for your prayers and support for the work we do.

Goals for 2019

- Complete MID process and become eligible for ordination pending call
- Locate and secure a site for a worshipping community
- Continue conversation with New Plant Committee with the hopes of obtaining resources for this community.
- Will attend UCC Cutting Edge Faith Formation Class – Meeting the Needs of All God's people April 2019. The focus of this class is educating children about racism, ministering to youth and young adults, how to create inclusive classroom, ministry to and with LGBTQ youth and other topics.
- Locate and secure site (s) for bible studies, conversations, whatever/wherever the Spirit leads
- Complete SARC companion training and become involved in the volunteer rotation.
- Investigate chaplain opportunities at Upper Chesapeake Hospital.

Respectfully,
Paula Whitacre

CHURCH RECORDS FOR THE YEAR 2018

BAPTISMS

5/3/2018 Jordan Zane Forrest
 7/29/2018 Layla Rose Matthews
 7/29/2018 Mariah Leanne Rothenhoefer
 11/11/2018 Lorelei Grace Kay Hornsby

FUNERALS

1/6/2018 Lena Manning	7/14/2018 David Frederick Pachilis
1/7/2018 Lorie Ellen Caricofe	7/20/2018 Mary Evelyn Baier
2/28/2018 Hilda Isabella Mullaney	9/6/2018 Marie S. Geiger
4/9/2018 Rhonda Mae Means	12/1/2018 Steven Francis Buchanan, Jr.
5/18/2018 John Earl Neal	12/19/2018 Margaret Pauline Seppet
5/19/2018 Ford Clarence Rowell	12/22/2018 Edna Senseney

WEDDINGS

4/28/2018 Joseph David Jackson and Jennifer Lee Glosenger
 9/8/2018 Jeffrey Mark Simmers and Kelly Louise Rydock

NEW MEMBERS

3/18/2018 Theresa A. Bragg
 3/18/2018 Richard Charles Geisendaffer
 3/18/2018 Kimberly Joyce Kramer-Zamenski
 3/18/2018 Belton Kenyon Moore
 3/18/2018 David Carl Olson

MEMBERSHIP AT START OF 2018	189
NEW MEMBERS	5
MEMBERS LOST	3
REMOVED FROM ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	0
TOTAL MEMBERS	191
TOTAL ACTIVE CHILDREN	4

REPORTS

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- Election Judge in both primary and general election

As I was putting this information together, I stopped to reflect on the work I have done this past year. It has been significant in terms of my continuing spiritual and pastoral formation as well as being “out” as a same gender loving Christian minister in my local community.

Just wearing my rainbow color UCC comma pin gets me invited into conversations I might never have had. It is a welcome presence in communities that are disparaged and bullied by the majority culture in Harford County. I have the unique opportunity to talk about a loving God, a loving denomination and the compassionate, hopeful community of United Evangelical which sends and supports my vision of UCC community in my hometown. Marge and I continue to be grateful for your prayers and support for the work we do.

Goals for 2019

- Complete MID process and become eligible for ordination pending call
- Locate and secure a site for a worshipping community
- Continue conversation with New Plant Committee with the hopes of obtaining resources for this community.
- Will attend UCC Cutting Edge Faith Formation Class – Meeting the Needs of All God's people April 2019. The focus of this class is educating children about racism, ministering to youth and young adults, how to create inclusive classroom, ministry to and with LGBTQ youth and other topics.
- Locate and secure site (s) for bible studies, conversations, whatever/wherever the Spirit leads
- Complete SARC companion training and become involved in the volunteer rotation.
- Investigate chaplain opportunities at Upper Chesapeake Hospital.

Respectfully,
Paula Whitacre

CHURCH RECORDS FOR THE YEAR 2018

BAPTISMS

5/3/2018 Jordan Zane Forrest
 7/29/2018 Layla Rose Matthews
 7/29/2018 Mariah Leanne Rothenhoefer
 11/11/2018 Lorelei Grace Kay Hornsby

FUNERALS

1/6/2018	Lena Manning	7/14/2018	David Frederick Pachilis
1/7/2018	Lorie Ellen Caricofe	7/20/2018	Mary Evelyn Baier
2/28/2018	Hilda Isabella Mullaney	9/6/2018	Marie S. Geiger
4/9/2018	Rhonda Mae Means	12/1/2018	Steven Francis Buchanan, Jr.
5/18/2018	John Earl Neal	12/19/2018	Margaret Pauline Seppet
5/19/2018	Ford Clarence Rowell	12/22/2018	Edna Senseney

WEDDINGS

4/28/2018 Joseph David Jackson and Jennifer Lee Glosenger
 9/8/2018 Jeffrey Mark Simmers and Kelly Louise Rydock

NEW MEMBERS

3/18/2018 Theresa A. Bragg
 3/18/2018 Richard Charles Geisendaffer
 3/18/2018 Kimberly Joyce Kramer-Zamenski
 3/18/2018 Belton Kenyon Moore
 3/18/2018 David Carl Olson

MEMBERSHIP AT START OF 2018	189
NEW MEMBERS	5
MEMBERS LOST	3
REMOVED FROM ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	0
TOTAL MEMBERS	191
TOTAL ACTIVE CHILDREN	4

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Financial Report 2018-Budget 2019

	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019
REVENUE			
Regular Envelopes	50,000.00	51,923.00	50,000.00
Christian Education Dept. Offering--Regular	200.00	30.00	0.00
Communion Envelopes	2,300.00	2,797.50	2,600.00
Holiday and Special Day Envelopes	6,400.00	5,293.00	5,000.00
Initial Envelopes	100.00	158.00	125.00
Improvement Fund	2,000.00	3,014.50	2,500.00
Memorials	5,000.00	8,956.00	6,000.00
Love Gifts	4,000.00	6,150.00	5,000.00
Unity Candle	50.00	20.00	50.00
Poor Box and Pennies	5.00	17.00	20.00
Cash Donations	2,500.00	2,458.00	2,500.00
Holiday & Altar Flowers	600.00	389.00	500.00
Organization Gifts	0.00	46.00	0.00
Charities, Benevolence	1,700.00	2,705.00	0.00
Oktoberfest and Related Events	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Fund Raisers	7,000.00	5,967.30	7,000.00
Building Fund Raffle	1,500.00	1,953.00	1,500.00
Sale of Misc. Items	0.00	0.00	0.00
Use of Facility	4,600.00	5,523.00	5,900.00
Interest on Accounts	50.00	28.55	25.00
Sprint Rental Income	21,900.00	21,900.00	21,900.00
Parsonage Rental Income	20,000.00	19,250.00	20,000.00
PACT Donation	4,000.00	3,325.00	4,900.00
Estate Bequests--Received	0.00	0.00	0.00
Estate Bequests--Transfer to Investment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distribution from Endowment	11,000.00	10,921.00	13,250.00
Endowment Fund Disbursements	(5,745.00)	(5,605.45)	(5,422.00)
Other, General Fund	0.00	20.00	0.00
Total Revenue	139,160.00	147,239.40	143,348.00
COST OF REVENUE			
Oktoberfest & Related Events (Exp.)	0.00	124.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Fund Raisers (Exp.)	600.00	566.99	700.00
Building Fund Raffle	600.00	600.00	600.00
Envelope Costs	300.00	231.66	250.00
Other Direct Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Cost of Revenue	1,500.00	1,522.65	1,550.00

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Financial Report 2018-Budget 2019

	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019
PASTORAL EXPENSE			
Pastor's Salary	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
Housing Allowance	20,000.00	19,999.92	20,000.00
Auto Expense Stipend	1,750.00	1,749.96	1,750.00
Insurance, Health and Life--Total	12,936.30	9,470.54	13,087.00
Insurance payments	25,509.87	21,706.76	25,914.00
Insurance reimbursement	(12,573.57)	(12,236.22)	(12,827.00)
Pastor's Pension	7,320.00	6,311.17	7,320.00
Professional and Education Exp.	800.00	1,391.14	800.00
Supply (Guest) Pastor	750.00	5,323.33	750.00
Total Pastoral Expense	61,556.30	62,246.06	61,707.00
OFFICE EXPENSE			
Secretaries' Salaries	14,491.00	14,490.84	14,491.00
Social Security and Medicare	1,108.00	1,108.12	1,108.00
Office Supplies & Bank Charges	1,200.00	1,829.11	1,800.00
Copy and Computer	1,600.00	2,003.00	2,000.00
Bookkeeping	1,200.00	1,300.00	1,200.00
Postage	1,300.00	1,630.75	1,500.00
Church Telephone & Internet	2,500.00	3,516.20	3,250.00
Total Office Expenses	23,399.00	25,878.02	25,349.00
MAINTENANCE EXPENSE			
Janitor Salary	11,700.00	11,700.00	11,700.00
Social Security and Medical Care	895.00	894.92	895.00
Church Insurance	16,500.00	17,047.55	16,500.00
Gas, Church	6,000.00	9,731.21	9,000.00
Electric, Church	7,500.00	6,014.30	6,500.00
Water and Sewer, Church	2,500.00	2,725.85	2,500.00
Repairs, Supplies, Maintenance	2,500.00	6,627.90	3,000.00
Cleaning Supplies, Service	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Maintenance Expense	47,595.00	54,741.73	50,095.00
SANCTUARY AND MISCELLANEOUS			
Music Director Salary	14,338.00	14,337.96	14,338.00
Social Security and Medicare	1,097.00	1,096.80	1,097.00
Ass't. Organist/Pianist/Musicians	0.00	800.00	250.00
Music and Choir Expense	1,000.00	1,070.89	1,000.00
Organ/Piano Service	2,500.00	1,882.31	2,000.00
Altar and Sanctuary Supplies	600.00	372.00	450.00
Flowers and Decorations	1,500.00	1,424.20	1,500.00
Receptions and Refreshments	900.00	316.36	400.00
Education and Study Materials	700.00	907.41	900.00
Advertising	400.00	0.00	300.00
Recreation	300.00	0.00	0.00
General Synod 2017	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONA	300.00	200.00	200.00
Misc. Expenses	500.00	(17.71)	300.00
Total Sanctuary and Misc.	24,135.00	22,390.22	22,735.00

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Financial Report 2018-Budget 2019

	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019
CHRISTIAN ED. DEPT. EXPENSE			
Curriculum and Lesson Supplies	0.00	0.00	500.00
Mission Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	500.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Group Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Christian Ed. Dept. Expense	500.00	0.00	500.00
BENEVOLENCE			
Heifer International	600.00	460.00	600.00
Central Atlantic Conf.,(OCWM)	1,800.00	900.00	1,800.00
Chesapeake Association	1,850.00	965.00	1,850.00
Hoffman Home	500.00	500.00	500.00
Homewood Home	400.00	200.00	400.00
Eden Seminary	400.00	200.00	400.00
Lancaster Seminary	400.00	200.00	400.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	500.00	460.00	500.00
Earl's Place	800.00	500.00	800.00
Other Benevolence	900.00	1,241.00	900.00
Total Benevolence	8,150.00	5,626.00	8,150.00
IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT			
Repairs and Improvements	3,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Purchase of Equipment	1,000.00	0.00	500.00
Total Improvements and Equipment	4,000.00	0.00	2,500.00
PARSONAGE RENTAL EXPENSE			
Property Management Fees	2,100.00	1,925.00	2,100.00
Improvements & Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs & Maintenance	2,000.00	564.69	2,000.00
Utilities	0.00	(241.63)	0.00
Property Taxes	3,300.00	30.00	3,300.00
Total Parsonage Rental Expense	7,400.00	2,278.06	7,400.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	176,735.30	173,160.09	178,436.00
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	137,660.00	145,716.75	141,798.00
AMOUNT UNDER (DEFICIT)	(39,075.30)	(27,443.34)	(36,638.00)
Total all Church Funds as of 12/31/2018:			
Bay Bank (checking account)	31,205.94		
Bay Bank (savings account)	2,000.00		
Petty Cash--Office	200.00		
Petty Cash--Fundraisers	400.00		
The Cornerstone Fund CD	35,362.53		
United Church Funds Endowment Account	293,775.83		
TOTAL:	362,944.30		