

Directory

OK

Item	Page	Paragraph
Rev. Steinhauser.....	1	I
Rev. Schwartz.....	1	II
First organization meeting	1	II
First church named.....	1	II
Lease of property.....	1	III
Corner stone laid	1	III
Church dedicated.....	1	IV
Dedicated the steeple.....	1	V
Pipe organ and bells purchased	1	V
Sunday school organized	1	V
Rev. Schwartz retires	1	VI
Rev. Paul Menzel.....	2	I
Confirmation in English.....	2	II
Mid week Lenten service.....	2	II
Rev. Paul Menzel resigns.....	2	II
Ladies aid presents painting.....	2	III
Rev. Batz.....	2	IV
Improvements to Church	2	V
Leased ground purchased	2	VI
Young peoples league	2	VII
Stained glass windows.....	2	VIII
Oak floor new carpets	2	IX
Rev. Pastor Batz ETERNAL REWARD	2	X
Rev. Franklin Shaefer.....	2	XI
Sunday school.....	3	I
Loyalty Crusade.....	3	II
North American Synod	3	III
Rev. Shaefer resigns.....	3	IV
Rev. Titus Lehmann.....	3	V
Rev. Titus Lehmann retires.....	3	V
Daily bible school.....	3	VI
Ground breaking Sunday school	3	VII
Corner stone for school building.....	3	VIII
Dedicated Sunday school hall.....	3	VIII
Corner stone for present parsonage laid.....	3	IX
Mortgage burned	3	X
Name of church changed	3	XI
Rededication.....	4	I
Church school organized.....	4	II
School destroyed by fire	4	II
Present church school dedicated.....	4	II
Ladies Aid.....	4	III
Large contribution by ladies aid.....	4	III
Young Women's Guild.....	4	IV
Mother daughter banquet.....	4	IV
Carpets purchased for church and offices.....	5	I
Boys brigade.....	5	II
Men's Club.....	5	III
Father son banquet	5	III
United dramatic club.....	5	IV
Church Choir	6	I
Girl scouts troop 199.....	6	II
Brownies troop 736.....	6	III
Cadet girl scouts troop 67.....	6	IV
Junior girl scouts troop 694	7	I
The Adelprians.....	7	II
Our men in service	7	III

HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH IN CAPSUL FORM

Pages 1 to 7

HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF DATES

Pages 7 to 10

HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH IN STORY FORM

Pages 10 to 17

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH FOR A NEW PASTORS' EDIFICATION AND INFORMATION

*Taken from 60th 75th 90th and 100th anniversary booklets and presented in a capsule form. Authors unknown
Reproduced in 2001 by John M. Price*

I--In 1873, Canton was a sparsely settled and thinly populated community with streets of mud and clay. At the intersection of East Avenue and Dillon streets stood a small red brick building, which served as a schoolhouse. This intersection has over the years become a familiar corner and the small red brick building has since become a thing of hallowed memory to many. For it was at this corner that our beloved church had its beginning some 128 years ago. Services had been held in the schoolhouse as far back as 1872. At that time, Rev. Mr. Steinhauer had been preaching regularly to a group of people of German extraction. Since his time, A new and larger building was built on the corner and was used as a Sunday school building and as a place for social activities for many years. In its place now stands a modern two story brick dwelling; our parsonage.

II--In September 1873, Rev. Andrew Schwartz founded our church as Zion Evangelical. Soon after, organizational plans were under way and the first organization meeting was held, and the name was changed to "German United Evangelical Church of Canton". Three days later another meeting was held and the decision was made to build a church beside and to the North of the little schoolhouse.

III--On October 5th 1873 one hundred and four feet of ground were leased, and on October 19, the cornerstone was laid. Rain marred the festivities but the ceremony of laying the cornerstone for the church took place in the market house at Canton Market.

IV--On April 12th, 1874, in less than one year, the church was dedicated to the glory of God.

V On May 9th, 1884 the steeple for the church at that time was contracted for, and was dedicated in September. The old mechanical clock was installed in the tower sometime later. At about that same time, a pipe organ and the two tower bells had been purchased and installed. "The little congregation was all ready to go forward "in the service of the Lord". Two years later a Sunday school was organized. (That same clock mechanism and bells were reinstalled in the present church tower when the new church was built in 1957. However, in 1992 the old mechanism was removed, and the clock at this time is now electronically controlled by a computer that allows the bells to ring on the hour and at predetermined times.)

VI--In 1889, after sixteen years of service, Pastor Schwartz retired. Canton was now rapidly growing and with it the congregation of the new church was making rapid strides. Pastor Schwartz had served the little church well and faithfully and had gotten it off to a good start in the "Lord's service."

I--In 1889 the Rev. Paul Menzel was called to become the second Pastor of the congregation.

II--In 1894, Pastor Menzel decreed that the confirmation instructions were to be taught in the English language for the first time and has continued to this day. His consuming passion for the causes of his missions brought a new phase of Christian service to the congregation. He also began the mid-week Lenten services which were at first held in the Sunday School Hall. In 1896, after years of dedicated service, Pastor Menzel resigned to take up new work in Washington DC. He has faithfully led our congregation in the advancement of the "Lords service."

III-- Sometime during the tenure of Pastor Menzel, the Ladies' AID Society had presented the congregation with a beautiful painting of Christ walking the Sea of Galilee for the chancel niche.

IV-- In September 1896, election was held to choose a new minister and the Rev. William Batz of Buffalo was chosen as the new Pastor. In September 1897, it was decided to build a parsonage and in April 1898, the new building was dedicated.

V--In 1903 extensive improvements were made to the interior of the church, requested by the now rapidly growing congregation.

VI--1904 one hundred and four feet of leased ground was purchased.

VII--In 1907 a Young People's League was formed to meet the needs of the young people of our church.

VIII--In 1915 stained art windows were installed in the church.

IX--In 1923 the Ladies Aid organization presented the church with a fine oak floor and new carpets for the aisles and the chancel.

X--On June 6th, 1926, after a long and faithful service to a rapidly growing congregation, the beloved and sorely to be missed Pastor Batz was called to his eternal reward. It was during his ministry that Methodism and Presbyterianism mingled its waters with Lutheranism. No one can truthfully estimate the value of this faithful shepherd's life to the thousands with whom he came in contact during his ministry "in the service of the Lord"

XI--So it was that on August 11th, 1926, at a special meeting the Rev. Franklin W. Schaefer was called to be the fourth Pastor of United Church and was installed on November 14th. While he was Pastor, the office of the Church Secretary was established and continues until the present time.

I--In 1928, A building fund was begun for the building of a new, larger and more adequate Sunday school building.

II--In April 1929, a Loyalty Crusade was held at which time subscriptions amounting to over \$40,000.00 were secured for this purpose.

III--In 1929 the church took another step forward and became affiliated with the Evangelical Synod of North America, and thus broadened its sphere of service and enlarging its program of work.

IV--In January 1934, Pastor Schaefer left the ministry of our church to take up new duties in San Antonio, Texas. Many new members have been added to the membership list during his tenure. Rev. Schaefer for the time of his ministry at United had also worked faithfully and had substantially advanced the church *'in the Lord's service"

V--In April 1934 Rev. Titus Lehmann was call to be the 5th Pastor of our church. Prior to his arrival, a Mr. Ernest young, a student from Eden seminary had been serving the congregation from January to April 1934. There was also a Rev. Werner who served as an assistant Pastor during part of Pastor Lehmann's tenure. One of Pastor Lehmann's first actions was to hold Sunday service in the English language. In 1961, this well loved pastor retired and moved to Pennsylvania.

VI--In 1935 Pastor Lehmann began the daily Vocational Bible study school during the summer months, which is now an interfaith program.

VII--On March 8th, 1936, the groundbreaking ceremony was held for the eventual building of a new Sunday school and hall.

VIII--On April 19th 1936 the cornerstone was laid and on November 8th the new building was dedicated to the service of the Lord.

IX--In March 1937, the cornerstone for the present parsonage was laid and was dedicated on May 23rd. This building was erected on the corner of East Ave. and Dillon Street where the old hall once stood; and the new school and hall now stands where the old parsonage once stood. A debt of 25,000.00 was incurred by the building programs, and the congregation went to work with zeal and a great passion in an effort to erase this debt, which they did.

X--In October 1943, at the time of the 70th anniversary, the mortgage for the school hall was burned and we were once again debt free. However, the building fund has been kept up and to date over 50,000.00 is in the bank for the building of a new church in the future.

XI--In 1945 the name of the church was changed to United Evangelical Church

I--In 1946 a rededication service was held on the 10th anniversary of the original dedication of the school and hall. See Page 3 VIII

Below is history of some of the organizations within our church that were active during the early years of our church. The information was taken from the anniversary booklets. Most of the organizations have since been disbanded.

HISTORY OF Church School

II--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 8th, 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 past year. 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.

History of LADIES' AID SOCIETY

III--Although there seems to be no definite date available as to when the Ladies' Aid Society was organized, its organization took place around the time of the founding of the church. Its first meetings were held on Sundays in the homes of the different members. Then as now, its purpose was, and is, to help in anyway possible to promote the welfare of the church and offer the women of the church a place where they may find fellowship, as well a chance to be of service to others, and a place to find spiritual inspiration for their daily living. Through the years the organization has beautified the church and the parsonage by purchasing furnishings and helping to pay for improvements whenever possible. The society had contributed over thirteen thousand dollars to the building fund of the church. It was once active in the activities sponsored by the regional and synod groups of this area. We are thankful to God for this help in the past. The Ladies' Aid Society looked to the future with a prayer for continued guidance and inspiration.

History of YOUNG WOMEN'S GUILD

IV--In March 1944 The Young Women's Guild was formed by fifteen young women to provide social fellowship with the younger women of the church and to provide fellowship to all. Later service projects were started, such as the annual Mother and Daughter banquet held in the spring of each year, visiting old age homes, tending the Lenten Food Sale etc.

I--The Guild was able to purchase the carpeting for the church and offices through two of its service projects, "The flea mart and Lenten sale profits." The organization extends a welcome hand to all the women of the church. At this time, we meet on the third Wednesday of the month

History of THE BOYS' BRIGADE

II--On May 2nd, 1930 the company "B" United Boys' Brigade of America was chartered. The boys are taught to drill with precision. The Company offers the boys fellowship, Bible study, first aid, athletics, and every two months, parties. The Regiment has competitive drills between companies, offers church services and banquets. The object of the Boys' Brigade is the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect, and all that tends to a true Christian and to further such principles as will make the youth of the Nation loyal, patriotic and law-abiding.

History of THE MEN'S CLUB

III--In February 1945, a group of men of our Church met in an effort to form a men's organization to aid in the social and spiritual activities of our returning servicemen. After several organizational meetings, the first regular meeting was held on June 1st, 1945 with fifteen charter members present. Since its inception the club has sponsored a softball team which was completely uniformed and competes at Patterson Park. A bowling league was formed the 1st year and has grown from six teams to fourteen last year. The bowling league has also fostered interfaith competition with Sacred Heart Church. An annual event has been the Father and Son Banquet held each January, served by the Ladies' Aid and Young Women's Guild and addressed by outstanding sports figures of this time. It is an occasion that is now awaited with eager anticipation by young and old alike. The membership has grown from the original fifteen charter members to the membership of 165. The Men's Club always met on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

UNITED DRAMATIC GUILD

IV--In 1944, The United Dramatic Guild was organized. The purpose of the Guild was to raise money to send boys and girls to our church camps and to promote chancel dramas in the church, It was also organized to help promote entertainment for the young people of our church, and to give worthwhile plays.

History of the church CHOIR

I--The past history of the church does not mention our choir or the date it was formed. However, the writer feels sure that it was among one of the first inceptions of the first church. Our Senior Choir is a volunteer group 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. Male singers are always needed, but there has always been poor responses to any requests for men. New members are always welcome.

History of GIRL SCOUT TROOP No. 199

II--In 1947 in the early spring, five members of the young People's Guild volunteered to take the Girl Scout Leaders' course in an attempt to start a Girl Scout Troop in our vicinity for all girls between the ages of 10 and 14. On September 22nd, 1947, the first Troop Meeting was held at our Sunday school Hall with fifteen girls interested in becoming scouts. The aim of the troop was for the girls have fun in their own group, help them render service wherever possible in their community, assume responsibilities as well as accept the privileges of citizenship and to live up to the high ideals set before them in the Girl Scout Laws and Promise.

History of BROWNIES TROOP No. 736

III--In September 1947, the Brownies were organized for girls from 7 to 10 years of age. The purpose was to prepare them for Girl Scouts and to help to make them better citizens. The original troop number was 379 but was changed when the troop re-registered in 1966.

History of CADETTE GIRL SCOUTS TROOP No. 67

IV--In December 1952 the Cadette girl scouts was formed for girls age 12 to 15. Prior to this, the girls were part of the original troop 199. Membership increased to 31 girls who enjoy many activities such as inter-trooping, community projects, camping and other projects too numerous to mention.

History Of
JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS TROOP No. 694

I--On September 22nd, 1947 the junior girl scouts were organized by 5 members of the Young Women's Guild. The troop number at that time was No. 199 and girls were 10 to 14 years of age. In 1952 this age group was split into two groups. Girls 9 to 12 years of age were now junior Girl Scouts. This troop was re-registered in October 1963 at which time they received their present number. These girls enjoyed crafts, games, intertrooping and camping activities. Membership of this group was 30 girls.

History of
THE ADELPHIANS

II----In January 1922, the Sunday school class of Sister Lena Nos, decided to organize. They met at the home of one of the members for their first meeting and have kept up this custom through the years. The name "Adelphi" (sisterly) was chosen and the group became known as the Adelphians. Their motto is found in 1 John 3:18 "Let us not love in the word, neither in tongue; but in deed and truth".

History of
OUR MEN IN SERVICE

III----About 429 young men served their country during world war II, six of them paying the supreme sacrifice.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF DATES
United Evangelical Church

1873---Church founded in September by Pastor Andrew Schwartz as Zion Evangelical Church, and later changed to German United Evangelical Church. Ladies. Aid Society was organized sometime the same year.

1873---October 19th the cornerstone for the new Church was laid at the Canton Market on account 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. The firemen watched from across the street as the building burned, and could not service us because they were county and we were within the city

1889---Pastor Menzel called to minister to Church.
A--English confirmation instructions begun.
B--First Lenten services conducted.

- 1896---Pastor Batz began his ministry of thirty years.
- 1898---First Parsonage built.
- 1904---Ground leased by the Church was bought.
- 1907---Founding of Evangelical League.
- 1911---Stained glass windows placed in Church.
- 1917---The first newspaper called the endeavor was published.
- 1920---The lighted Tower became evident over Canton.
- 1926---Pastor 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 \$44,000.00 were pledged toward building.
- 1934---Pastor Lehmann assumed duties as minister.
- 1934---English morning service begun.
- 1935---First Daily Vacation Bible school project undertaken.
- 1936---March 8th the ground breaking for the Church school building.
- 1936---April 19th the cornerstone was laid.
- 1936---November 8th the hall was dedicated.
- 1937---March Cornerstone laying for parsonage, which was dedicated on May 23rd. Buildings cost 67,000.00 with equipment. A debt of 25,000.00 was incurred at the completion of buildings. Paid off since 1938, mostly through free-mail offerings. Continued building fund toward a new Church. Now have about 100,000.00 on hand. Word "German" dropped from Church name.
- 1941---Mrs. Charles Whittlif, as organist, organized and instructed various choirs.
- 1942---Dedicated new- hymnals: new organ and choir robes on September 20th, making for a more worshipful service.
- 1943---Burned 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.
- 1957---Dec. 15th new church dedicated.
- 1950---April 12th First performance of the Tableau (Palm Sunday "evening")
- 1961---April 16th burning of church mortgage.
- 1961---November, Pastor Paul A. Rasche installed as Pastor of United Church.
- 1962---July, Pastor T. 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.
- A--Baby sitting begun for 10:15 service.
- B--Dr. T. Lehmann's association with United terminated as of November 1965.

- 1966---June, Sunday school building rededicated.
 1966---Dec., New organization known as Youth of United held its first meeting.
 1967---Jan., Ecumenical services for Christian Unity Week with Roman Catholic Church.
 1967---July, Pastor Ralph Weisser accepted call to United as visiting Pastor
 1967---Teen night held with paid recreation counselor.
 1967---October, sewing group formed to meet on Tuesday mornings to make articles for needy and hospitals.
 1967---United officially became member of Canton Christian Council.
 1968---January, Dr. Ralph Weisser was installed.
 1968---New Windsor retreats held.
 1968---Parsonage repainted.
 1969---Girls to be admitted as Junior Council members.
 1970---Confirmation presentation service from Sunday to Thursday.
 1970---Confirmation instructions changed to 2 years for the course.
 1970---Good Friday service eliminated.
 1970---Amendment to by-laws concerning annual meetings.
 1970---Meeting now to be held in January at which time reports from all organizations are to be presented.
 1970---Election of church council members to be held in November.
 1970---June, Pastor Rasche celebrated 35th anniversary as ordained minister.
 1970---First meeting scheduled to prepare for church's 100th anniversary.
 1970---Church school to be held in conjunction with St. Bridgit's Roman Catholic Church.
 1971---Nov. 7th Pastor Weisser's final preaching service.
 1973---Preparations underway for 100th Anniversary of the Church.

*These are the Pastors who faithfully served our church.
 Their dedication and commitments has been the backbone of our existence.
 To them we say, "Well Done Kind and Faithful Servants".*

Dates of Service-----Pastors Names

- 1873—1899 Rev. Dr. Andrew Schwartz organized our church
 1889---1896 Rev. Paul Menzel ***Resigned in 1896 went to Concordia
 Washington D.C.
 1896---1926 Rev. William Batz***Died June 10th 1926 Buried in Loudon Park. His favorite hymn was "Old Rugged Cross" A monument was erected at gravesite by the members. A wall plaque, in his honor, was placed in the narthex by the members.
 1926---1934 Rev. Franklin W. Schaefer***Resigned 1934

- 1934---1934 Mr. Ernest Press, Seminary student served from January to April
 1934---1961 Rev. Titus Lehmann ***Retired in 1961 and moved to Pennsylvania
 1961---1974 Rev. Paul A. Rasche ***Resigned in 1974 and moved to West Virginia
 1974---1975 Rev. Mary Ellen Kitchen was called as Associate Pastor
 1975---1976 Rev. Bruce Wickhizer was called as interim Pastor and Resigned in 1976
 1976---1984 Rev. Scott W. Hengen III
 1984---1984 Rev. Schaeffer Called as interim Pastor ***Resigned in 1984
 1984---1990 Rev. Stephen Fair** *Resigned in 1990
 1990---1999 Rev. Robert M. Armstrong Retired July 1999: Passed away November 14th
 1999 after a long illness.
 A---Instrumental in Starting the P,A,C.T. program
 B---City Hospital on call Minister.
 C---President of the Think Tank program.
 D---Great believer in; and established the food bank and super pantry.
 E---Helped organize the interfaith programs.
 F---Organize the blessing of pets program between neighborhood churches.
 G---Helped organize the carrying of the cross in the neighborhood at Easter.
 1999---2001 Rev. Corinne O. Baker called as interim Pastor in September 1999 and
 completed her two year commitment in September 2001

HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH IN STORY FORM

Taken from the 60th, 75th, 90th, and 100th anniversary booklets. Authors unknown

Reproduced in 2001 by John M. Price

It is 1873, Canton, to the casual observer, seems to be a succession of swamps and small hills, a place where streets are nothing but mud and clay, sparsely settled and showing but a thinly populated community. Although it seems to be such a dismal waste of land, the landscape is dotted here and there with farms and pastures where cows are seen grazing. Very close by are woods and fields where autumn is already beginning to paint all nature with her glorious brush.

East Avenue at Dillon Street is a steep hill of clay and dirt. There are no pavements, no orderly rows of houses. A short distance from East Avenue is another steep hill and quite nearby a large gully flows along. From Robinson Street Eastward for a number of blocks, scarcely a dwelling can be seen. Canton is still in its infancy.

Amid this dreary sweep of commons at East Avenue and Dillon Street a small, red brick building with a slanting roof and a square front of but a single story in height stands. A glance at this small building would show nothing of importance just another schoolhouse perhaps. Yet this small structure is of great importance to thousands of people; its memory now a thing of sacredness and honor. For this small building is the nucleus around which our beloved United Church was born.

It is the little German school house which had been founded some time before by its German citizens. It was here that for some time worship services had been held since the nearest German church was located on Eastern Avenue near Broadway. The farmers and Dairymen of old shell road vicinity had found it quite a long distance to travel to this church every Sunday. Especially, when the weather was bad and the roads were well nigh impassable. They, together with the businesses and laboring men of German extraction felt the need for a church that they could call their own. A Rev. Steinhauer, as early as 1872, had been prevailed upon to preach regularly to them in the little school building. No congregation, however, had ever been organized until Rev. Andrew Schwartz, who was also a doctor of medicine, came to them in 1873. Prior to this, he served as Pastor of the United German Church on Eastern Ave and Broadway for 13 years.

So it was that on the fourteenth day of September 1873, that a group of men met and decided to organize a church, the name of church was to be the German United Evangelical Church of Canton. The first board of Trustees was elected as follows: William Zimmerman President; John A. Schwartz, Secretary; John Ulrich, Treasurer; George Norris, Henry Guenther, Louis Kiefer, Henry Moll, H. L. Boeschee, Samuel Nitzel, Charles J. Spruth, M. F. Reinhardt, R. Winkelmann, Rev. Dr. Andrew Schwartz Pastor. So eager to begin was the little band of earnest worshipers that three days later another meeting was held and the decision was reached to build a church beside the little schoolhouse. Events moved swiftly now and on October 5th one hundred and four feet of ground was leased and a contract was awarded to E.W. Robinson contractors. Decisions meant actions to these busy forefathers, and on October 19th 1873 the corner stone was to be laid. How anxious the little group was to mark this eventful day with a fitting ceremony.

A platform had been built, special speakers had been secured; special music had been rehearsed; and the young lad and lassies journeyed to the nearby woods and returned with arms laden with boughs which became part of the gay festivities. The day, October 19th, at last dawned. All was in readiness and in due time the parade formed, for a parade must be held as a fitting part of this ceremony. Sturdy men on the backs of stalwart horses formed in line with the imposing figure of Mr. Rau at the head. The signal was given and the parade began. But what of those black clouds that scurried overhead, piling higher and higher in the sky. A storm, a heavy downpour and a group of wet bedraggled people hurriedly made their way to the market house in the old Canton Market. What a sorry sight were the gay plumes and colored flowers, which decorated the very stylish hats of the young lassies and the matrons as they entered the building. A storm might drench the clothing of these sturdy folk, but it could not darken their spirits. Thus it was that the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the German United Evangelical Church of Canton took place in the market house at Canton Market.

Immediately Rev. Schwartz saw to it that the Ladies' Aid Society or "Frauenverein" was organized. The members of the organization immediately began to collect funds for the purpose of building a house of worship.

Enthusiasm was high, and so many were the willing hands, that on April 12, 1874, less than a year after the church was born the dedication service of the church to the worship of God was held. Before this date, a pipe organ and the present two bells had been contracted for and the little congregation was ready to begin a new life in their own building. And, where the beloved tongue of the Fatherland was the language of the day and where "Ein feste Burg" and other old German hymns could be sung to their hearts' content. What of the sacrifices and hard work of these founders of our beloved church? The group was small, the task was big, but the spirit of the people was indefinable for their faith was in Christ, who, "is the same yesterday today and forever."

Rev. Schwartz seemed to have visualized that the Canton section was soon to enjoy an influx of population and industrial growth. His analysis seems to have been correct for in the Sunday edition of the Baltimore Herald dated May 2nd, 1897. Two whole pages were given to descriptive reading matter and pictures portraying the rapid growth of the Canton suburb. Large half-inch letters flashed the news of a Busy and Prosperous Canton where willing hands found plenty of work.

Rev. Schwartz saw the need for a German congregation in this Southeast section of Baltimore where the industrial tide was causing such a rapid shift of the city's population. He seemed to understand that the German speaking people could not find full happiness without an opportunity to express themselves in worship in their mother tongue. He gave unreservedly of his time and worldly goods to the organization, and the upholding of the small congregation when it was in its infancy. A Sunday school was organized two years after the dedication of the church and on May 9th, 1882, the steeple was contracted for and was ready for dedication in September. Sometime later the clock was installed. In March, of 1885, fire destroyed the old school building. The fire wagons of the city fire department came out and watched the little building burn. They could not cross to the east side of East Avenue for that was county property and the old building was just across the boundary line. No lives were lost and subsequently the present hall was then built.

After sixteen years of service, Rev. Schwartz retired in 1889, because of old age. Gone were the bleakness and the dismal waste that was Canton's. Now orderly, clean houses with snowy white steps and bright green shutters were seen everywhere, and the smokestacks of many industries met the eye. Clinton Street, in the early morning hours, was a busy thoroughfare crowded with men on their way to work. They carried shining dinner pails and wearing stiff and odd brimmed hats, and whose upper lips in many instances were covered with flowing mustaches and whose chins wore a covering of downy growth. Housewives with their tight waisted and long skirted frocks were seen going busily about their work of keeping the home happy and contented. The streets, with the exception of a very few, were still in a very bad condition and complaints had been made with the commissioner at Towson, the county seat. The little old schoolhouse had become a large two-story building now and a church now raised its lofty spire heavenward at its side. The congregation had in these sixteen years grown from a small flock of less than fifty families to a congregation of substantial proportion, well organized and unafraid of the future.

This gives evidence to the fact that Rev. Schwartz had expended all his energy and time faithfully. He had loved his people and was deeply loved by them.

Rev. Paul A. Menzel was then called to become the Pastor of this growing congregation. Of slight build and delicate health and with a soft voice this minister nevertheless won the respect and admiration of his flock and was the stern disciplinarian to the restless and mischievous lads of the confirmation class. How many of the members recall an extra session of confirmation instruction at the home of Pastor Menzel, because a lesson had been neglected and had to be restudied before dismissal was granted? How many can still see, in the mind's eye, the confirmation class as it rises in a body as Rev. Menzel enters the room, and the class greets him with "Guten Tag Herr Pastor.?" and do still see him as he bows in acknowledgment?.

Upon request of the members of the congregation, Rev. Menzel began confirmation instruction in English in 1894, still keeping the German instruction for those who desired it. He also began the mid-week Lenten services, which were held in the hall because the attendance was small.

Rev. Menzel introduced a new line of thought to his congregation, that of, foreign missions. He kept in constant touch with his people and could often be seen coming home from a visit to one of his flock in the market wagon of his host. In 1896, after seven years of faithful service he resigned to take the pastorate of Concordia church at Washington, D.C.. Old records indicate that this was a great shock to the congregation, for the flock learned to love the soft voice and the courtly ways of the missionary-minded pastor.

A new minister was needed. Overtures were now made for capable candidates to fill the vacancy; an ad was even inserted in a daily paper advertising for the services of a minister. The Revs. William Batz of Baltimore, Flier of Milwaukee, A. Menzel of Chicago, Noehring of Cincinnati, and a Rev. Rudolph whose address is not given in the records. The latter happened to be traveling through Baltimore at that time, saw the ad in the paper and came to the church and was interviewed. Election was held in September 1896 at which time Rev. Batz was elected. He began his ministry on October 11th, 1896.

Rev. Batz was not a stranger to the United Church. He had been a college mate of his predecessor and during the seven preceding years had been Pastor of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's Church on Eager street near Broadway. He was born in Buffalo, and his first field in the ministry had been the Pastorate at Christ's Church in Locust Point in Baltimore. Here he also took over the added duties of missionary at the Seamen's Mission, a project that had just begun by a Rev. Huber and other Evangelical ministers of Baltimore. He remained at Locust Point for two years, after which he accepted the call to the United Evangelical Church now "St. Paul's Church," at Taylorville, now Taylor, Pennsylvania. He remained there two years, next serving the church on Eager Street and then accepting the call to our United Church.

This growing congregation has long felt the need for a parsonage. In September 1897, not quite a year after Rev. Batz came, it was decided to build such a home and in April 1898, the parsonage was dedicated. Thus the earnest workers of the church had now added another valuable property to the church.

On September 18th or 21st 1898, a fitting celebration was held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the church. Again this growing congregation felt the need of further improvements and so in the year 1903 extensive improvements were made in the interior of the church and in 1904 one hundred and four feet of the leased property was purchased at a reasonable figure. New members were being added to the membership list, attendance at worship service was growing. The midweek Lenten services were now held in the church auditorium because the attendance had so greatly increased, even though they were still conducted in the German tongue. Sunday school attendance had increased, confirmation classes were growing larger every year, and In 1907 a small band of young people meet and formed a Young People's League to meet the growing needs of the church.

In 1915, art windows were placed in the church, each organization, and various friends, contributed to this fund. Some few years before, our Ladies' Aid Society had also presented the church with a beautiful mural painting of Christ walking on the waters of the sea of Galilee which was placed in the chancel niche.

In 1917, electric light fixtures were installed in the church and in 1923, at the golden jubilee, the Ladies aid Society presented the church with fine oak floors as well as carpeting for the aisles, altar, and the pulpit platforms. New chairs for the pulpit niche were also purchased. In 1920 a new tower clock electrically lighted was installed. United Church had grown beyond the boundaries of old Canton and her members could be found in every section of the city and the suburbs as well.

And thus the 30th anniversary of Rev. Batz's ministry, at Old United was fast approaching. He was known everywhere as the faithful shepherd of his flock. His slight build was recognized wherever he went and he was a familiar figure, invariably with a book in his hand, on the streets of Canton. His generosity and kind deeds cannot be recorded or numbered. His health had been failing for some time and his physical condition greatly weakened.

However, he still kept on with an indefatigable spirit that could not be quenched. On May 10th, 1926, the minutes read that Pastor Batz was still active in the work of his church. Shortly thereafter, however, the congregation was plunged into anxiety. Unconsciously, the members spoke in hushed tones and in reverence when a loved one is seriously ill. The faithful shepherd of so many years was seriously ill. The final blow came on June 10th, 1926, when his untiring spirit left his immortal body to go to the eternal reward of all true servants of God to hear His "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord." No service was held that Sunday out of respect for the faithful Pastor. On Monday, June 14, his Immortal remains were laid to rest in Loudon Park Cemetery. Who knows of the hundreds and hundreds who passed before his casket and of the silent thanks that were raised to the heavenly Father because of the influence this man of God had on the lives of those who looked down on his still form?.

A bronze tablet to his memory has been placed in the church by the Brotherhood and a fitting granite memorial, signifying the "Old Rugged Cross," has been erected by the congregation at his grave.

Again the congregation was faced with the problem of selecting a new minister. On August 11th, 1926, the congregation met in special session at which time Rev. Frank W. Schaefer was elected. He came to us from St. Paul's Church, Taylor, Pennsylvania. He began his work here on the first day of November and was installed on November 14. Enthusiasm among the members and the community had reached a high pitch since the younger generation had never witnessed such festivities as were incident to the induction of this new young minister. It was not an easy field for a young man to take upon himself, since it was still necessary to preach a sermon in German and English every Sunday. The magnitude of the tremendous amount of work that was suddenly thrust upon this young minister, no doubt, often times overwhelmed him.

But he forged ahead and has now been with us almost seven years and has won the respect and love of his congregation. He loves people and the theme of love runs through all his preaching and he seeks earnestly to be Pastor to both young and old. During the first two years of his ministry more than six hundred members were added to the membership list.

May God bless him in his work through the coming years. During all these years United Church had been a free church, belonging to no denomination, although she had been served by Pastors of the Evangelical Synod of North America. About this time the congregation began to consider that it would be a fine thing for the church to become affiliated with that denomination and thus more definitely embrace her program of larger kingdom work. Accordingly, the congregation was received into the membership of the Synod on August 7th, 1927. The president general Dr. John Barter presided over the ceremony.

In 1929 the services of a parish worker in the person of Sister Lena Nos was secured for the church. Many are the acts of love, mercy and kindness that could be recorded of her work among us. This work was terminated by her marriage that same year.

The congregation had now grown far beyond the vision of its founders. The Sunday school had long since outgrown its present quarters. Thus it was that several farsighted members voted to begin a building fund in the year 1928 in the hopes that some day more adequate building facilities might be built for the growing needs of its people. From time to time sums were added to this fund and in April 1932, a loyalty Crusade was held, at which time subscriptions amounting to more than \$40,000 were secured with which to build a new school hall and to renovate the church. From time to time improvements and repairs have been made to the church property. It is the hope of every sincere and loyal member of our United Church that the day is not far distant when a beautiful, yet practical commodious building shall take the place of the present hall. Additionally, it is also hoped that the entire church property shall be remodeled and thus become of greater use than ever before in Christ's work.

In January 1934, Pastor Schaefer left the ministry of our church to take up new duties in San Antonio Texas. Many new members had been added to the membership list. Rev. Mr. Schaefer for the time of his ministry at United had also worked faithfully and had advanced the church in "The Lord's service".

Mr. Ernest Press, a young student from Eden seminary (now serving a church out in Iowa) served the congregation until April when Rev. Titus Lehmann, our present pastor, was installed as the fifth pastor of our church. Rev. E. Werner served as an assistant pastor in 1939 and is now serving a church in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Pastor Lehmann instituted English morning service in 1934. In 1935, he began the Daily Vacation Bible School during the summer.

In 1935, the congregation decided to build a new Sunday school Hall and on March 8th 1936 the ground-breaking service was held. On April 19th the cornerstone was laid and on November 8th the new hall was dedicated to the service of the Lord. In March 1937, the cornerstone was laid for the present parsonage and was dedicated on May 23rd. This building was erected on the corner of East Avenue and Dillon Street where the old hall had stood and the new hall now stands where the old parsonage and yard had been.

The building programs incurred a debt of 25000.00 but nothing daunted the congregation and they went to work with zeal to reduce the indebtedness. On October 24th 1943 at the time of the 70th anniversary the mortgage was burned and the church was once again debt free.

The building fund has been kept up however, and to date over \$50,000.00 is in the banks to be used when a new church is built. The congregation decided on January 10th 1945, to build a new church some time in the future. In November 1946 rededication services were held on the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the new hall. Since 1941, Alma Bladin Whittlif has been our organist and under her direction three choirs, the senior, the Youth, and the Junior Choir now serve and help in the worship services. In March 1944, Young women's GUILD was formed to give the younger women of the Church a place of service and fellowship. In the same year, 1944, the United Dramatic GUILD was formed for those interested on dramatics. In February' 1945, the United Men's Club was formed and offers a place of fellowship and service to the men of the church. In the spring of 1947, a Girl Scout and Brownie Troop were formed to give the younger girls of the church opportunity for service. Also in 1945 the name of our church was changed to United Evangelical Church.

In 1961, Pastor Lehmann retired and became Emeritus and in July of 1962 he celebrated his 50th year in the ministry. In 1965 he terminated his association and moved to Philadelphia. With Pastor Lehmann's leadership, the church advanced farther along life's pathway "In the Lord's service".

So much for the facts of the history of our church, but let us ponder the following! Who among us can estimate or give an accurate value to the service that our beloved church has rendered to the many thousands who have worshiped in her portals. There have been heartaches and disappointments along with joys and accomplishments, but the congregation has steadily forged ahead, ever seeking to be "In the Lord's service" and looking to the Master for guidance and strength. Let us salute our beloved church this some 128 years after its inception and pray that it will go steadily forward and that it may ever be said of her "In the Lord's service since 1873". May God bless and strengthen all who seek the guidance of our church and may He richly endow us all with His spirit of love and grace.