



# *SOUNDINGS*

CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATION  
OF THE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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APRIL 1, 1972

VOL. 2 - NO. 2

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ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING  
MAY 7 AT GRACE CHURCH

The annual spring meeting of the Chesapeake Association will be held Sunday, May 7, from 2:30 to 6 p.m. at Grace United Church of Christ, 1404 S. Charles Street.

The meeting will not include supper, so that reservations will not be necessary, but each congregation has been urged to send a full complement of delegates for what is expected to be an unusually important session.

Among items to be discussed will be a report from the Central Atlantic Conference committee on structures which includes the possibility of forming "clusters" of congregations within the Chesapeake Association.

Also up for discussion will be recommendations by the association committee on structures suggesting (a) that the association meet bi-monthly instead of annually, and (b) that the association council be eliminated and its functions taken over by the elected officers of the association.

The meeting will also include a report by a special committee which has been investigating the feasibility of the association establishing a facility for care of the aged.

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## ASSOCIATION NOTES

The association nominations committee, at the request of the Central Atlantic Conference, has nominated Mrs. Carolyn Gerhold of Zion Church (Golden Ring Road) to fill out the unexpired term of Mrs. Ann Emery of Heritage Church on the conference board of directors.

The Rev. John Hollis, a black Presbyterian minister from Portsmouth, Va., has accepted a call from Huber Memorial Church to serve as co-pastor of the congregation. The 49-year-old pastor is expected to assume his new position in April or May.

Messiah Church has scheduled an all-day "goal-setting" event Sunday, April 9, designed to help the congregation clarify the focus and purpose of their church. The Rev. Michael Linn Eldridge of Bethel Church is serving as consultant, assisting in organizing and planning the event.

D. Jean Kelbaugh, chairman of the association Christian education committee, has reported that no decision has been made yet on the annual summer camp scholarship program which, in its first four summers, sent hundreds of inner-city boys and girls to church camps. Final word on the future of the program should be forthcoming, she said, by the time of the spring association meeting.

The Rev. Eugene Bartell, formerly pastor of First United Church on Eastern Avenue, is scheduled to complete work on his master's degree in social work (M.S.W.) in May. He hopes thereafter to work in the area of population control with an organization such as planned parenthood.

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## COOPERATION IN ACTION

With the association's annual meeting on May 7 scheduled to receive a report from the conference structures committee recommending "clustering" for some Chesapeake Association congregations, it is interesting to note examples of such cooperation already underway.

St. John's Church and Immanuel Church in Catonsville have completed their second year of joint Wednesday evening Lenten services, held alternately at each church. Last November they also held a joint Thanksgiving morning service, and since September they have been holding joint leadership training sessions twice a month, aimed primarily at church school staff but open to all who are or aspire to be church leaders of any kind.

On the other side of town, Faith and St. Mark's, Protestant Community, and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church have been making tentative moves toward "clustering" by planning cooperative youth activities, holding partially joint Lenten services and organizing an upcoming teacher training program.

The youth groups of Messiah Church and First and St. Stephen's Church are jointly sponsoring an Easter Sunrise Service April 2 at 6 a.m. on the south lawn of Messiah Church, 5615 The Alameda. (The service, which will include communion, will be held in the sanctuary in the event of bad weather.)

There are probably other cases of congregational cooperation within the association which can be shared through this newsletter. The editor would appreciate being informed of any and all such cases. It is his personal belief that, more often than not, it is true that "united we stand, divided we fall." And even if we are able to stand alone, we stand a little taller when we stand together.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

At last Vol.2--No.2 of "Soundings" has made it into print. As editor, I would first like to acknowledge the fine effort of the Rev. Harry Carolus in getting out Vol.2--No.1 back on January 1. No.1 was very well received all around and Harry deserves full credit and the thanks of us all.

As many of you know, I have been prevented from fulfilling my responsibility for "Soundings" since last fall by a rather serious illness. I am happy to report I am now functioning again on a nearly normal basis and sincerely hope this newsletter can regain the normalcy and regularity given it by the Rev. Ralph Cook during its first year. (Present plans call for a June 1 edition, and then regular monthly editions in the fall.)

Production-wise we have decided to stick with a bulletin-size "Soundings." Moreover, by gracious arrangement with Zion Church (Stemmers Run), we have printed this edition (and hopefully will print future editions) on their newly acquired photo-offset printing machine. Among other advantages, this may well mean a savings of more than 50 percent to the association on the cost of printing "Soundings."

Finally, it is generally true that newspapers rely on "tips" for many of their best stories. "Soundings" is no exception. Editors are neither omniscient nor omnipresent, but need to be "tipped off" by those with stories. Every congregation should ensure its news gets told, from church suppers to guest speakers to major events. So let's hear something from all of you "big tippers."

Thanks (in advance) for your help.

(The Rev.) Chiles Bowersock  
Editor

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# *SOUNDINGS*

CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATION

OF THE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 1, 1972

VOL. 2, NO. 3

## ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING FOCUSES ON CONFERENCE-ASSOCIATION RELATIONSHIP

The question of which should be the focus of leadership and finances--the conference or the association--took center stage at the annual meeting of the Chesapeake Association on Sunday, May 7, at Grace UCC in South Baltimore.

The end result was unanimous adoption of a resolution continuing and expanding the work of the association's "structures" committee to include (1) studying the financial relationships and geographical boundaries within the conference, and (2) studying the feasibility of the association employing its own "executive secretary." The structures committee was given until the fall to prepare a new report.

During the meeting the possibility was raised of dividing the existing Central Atlantic Conference--which extends from northern New Jersey to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia--into several smaller conferences, each with its own staff, office and budget. (A conference-level structures committee, scheduled to report at the CAC annual meeting in June at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, has specifically refused to consider such a division of the conference and instead points toward focusing even more at the conference level.)

Although such a division is not impossible, the likelihood at present is that both conference and associations will continue but that some shift of emphasis toward the associations may take place.

BALTIMORE ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHMEN'S FELLOWSHIPS  
PLANS 26TH ANNUAL CAMP MICHAUX MEN'S RETREAT

Revs. Klingerman, Nevin Smith Slated  
As Featured Speakers September 8-10

The Baltimore Association of Churchmen's Fellowships of the United Church of Christ has announced plans to hold its 26th annual retreat at Camp Michaux, Gardners, Pa., Friday-Sunday, September 8-10.

Featured speakers will include the Rev. Kenneth L. Klingerman of St. Louis, chairman of the National Organization of Concerned Churchmen of the UCC, and the Rev. Nevin E. Smith, retired pastor in this area.

Highlights of the retreat will include vesper services on vesper hill, planned and conducted by the men of Immanuel UCC, Catonsville (Victor Skillman, chairman); morning watches planned by the men of Faith and St. Mark's UCC (Milton Burns, chairman); and food preparation by the men of Grace UCC (Bill Burck, head chef).

Cost of the retreat, which is being directed by Milton Burns, will be \$22.50. Further notices will be sent out during the summer months. In the meantime, for further information call J.M.Crum at 945-1660 or write him at 1007 Walnut Ave., Baltimore 21229.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS NOTES

The Rev. Eugene Bartell, who will shortly receive his Master of Social Work Degree from the University of Maryland School of Social Work in Baltimore, has accepted a position effective July 1 as resident administrator of Fairhaven, a UCC home and hospital for the aged in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. The former First United Evangelical Church pastor, his wife Karen and their two children will be leaving Baltimore for Ohio in late June. We wish them happiness and success.

After a Christmas visit to a convalescent home the senior youth group of Bethany Church, Woodlawn, decided to "adopt" the residents there and have been working on a program of regular visits, redecorating some of the rooms and finding other ways to share life with the residents.

ASSN. NEWS NOTES -- continued

The Bethany Church, Woodlawn, consistency is sponsoring a pastoral counselling and therapy office in the church parish house. Pastor H.S. Jan Ports serves as the clinically trained professional counselor. Fees are based on a sliding scale according to clients' incomes.

After an 11-hour program last fall to train members in planning and goal-setting processes, Bethany Church, Woodlawn, decided to form four "task forces" to deal with specific areas of congregational need: (1) stewardship, (2) Christian education, (3) involvement in Bethany, and (4) involvement in the world. Those persons involved in the training and task forces have contracted with Mrs. Shirley Noll to serve as their "consultant" for ten months. A Christian enlistment program and events for the whole congregation have resulted so far. Conference minister Frank Pirazzini spent one whole day at Bethany; "Becoming Free" was shown and discussed at an 11 a.m. worship service and plans are being made for a better Christian education program for all ages. (The CAC Advance Program is providing financial help for the consultant's fee.)

A conference on organizing and developing effective religious library services for the local congregation will be held Thursday-Saturday, June 17-19, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, under the auspices of the Church and Synagogue Librarians' Association. This will be the group's fifth annual conference and will feature workshops on library procedures, a tour of Baltimore libraries, and exhibits of books and other materials. For information call Mrs. William J. Hyde at 243-2139. For registration contact Mrs. Harry F. Cross at 265-1640. Registrants may register for a single day or for the whole conference and college dormitory space is available.

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Central Atlantic Conference Annual Meeting--Friday to Sunday, June 9-11, University of Maryland, Baltimore Co. If you aren't going, find out from your church's delegates what went on--know what's happening in your denomination. Be an informed Christian and let your voice be heard....

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**ASSOCIATION TO MEET FIVE TIMES YEARLY;  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPLACES ASSN. COUNCIL**

Two significant changes in the operation of the Chesapeake Association were also brought about at the annual meeting at Grace UCC as the result of changes in the by-laws adopted unanimously in accordance with the recommendations of the structures committee.

First, full-fledged meetings of the association will now be held five times yearly--in September, November, January, March and May--in response to "a deep-seated feeling of need for more frequent opportunities for our people to meet together."

Second, administration of the association now rests with the "executive committee," consisting of the four elected officers of the association: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, at least two of whom must be laymen. This committee replaces the old and much larger association council which had reportedly become unwieldy.

In other annual meeting action, the association: (1) voted to study further, with Homewood Church Home Inc., the possibility of establishing an aged-care facility within the association;

(2) re-elected J. William Frack of Bethel and George J. Ulrich of St. Matthew's as association vice president and treasurer respectively (for 2 year terms); (3) received the usual committee and organizational reports, voting in the process to reduce the size of the Lay Life and Work committee from 12 to "six or eight" members;

(4) adopted an association budget of \$8,350 for 1973, an increase of \$1,200 over the current figure--\$7,150.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE**

With this June 1 edition of "Soundings" we suspend publication for the summer. The next issue will be dated October 1, God willing. We plan subsequent issues monthly through June 1, 1973.

Please have a safe and happy summer.

(The Rev.) Chiles Bowersock