

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1972  
Baltimore, Md.

Overshadowing everything else in the story of the life of United Church, as we come to the close of '72, and look backward, is the preparation for the 100th anniversary in the new year of '73. The Committee has been meeting for some months now and here in January have the broad outlines of the anniversary quite well firmed up. The various sub-committees are beginning to flesh out their individual responsibilities. If all plans materialize and come to fruition, this celebration will truly be an outstanding one, as befits a centennial.

What is there to report concerning the state of the church? What progress has been made. What declines have been registered? What is our status at year's end?

In terms of progress, the organizational life has been moving along in first rate fashion. Some have shown growth in '72, others have remained static in size but not in activity. In the Youth division there has developed two very fine groups. Special mention needs be made for the willingness of Mr. F. Long, assisted by Mr. A. Block, in giving time to the two youth groups in their meetings and activities, assisted by a corp of dedicated youth who fervently put forth much effort to the success of these groups.

Other evidences of progress or success include the "Canton Happening," the summer experience with children, an ecumenical endeavor with St. Brigit's Roman Catholic Church. This event was most successful and a word of appreciation needs be said to the volunteer workers, because of whom the success could be registered. Further, has been a slight gain in the membership of the church, a gain of 8 persons over the total of a year ago. Our choirs are moving forward and a fine enthusiasm is prevalent in the music department. The group of Acolytes for the services is growing. The Fellowship Nights of '72 were excellent and rather frequent.

Added to the good things was the manner in which the staff cooperated in the year. I am grateful to all on the staff for fine service given. Also this is true of the Church Council. I thank these gentlemen for loyalty to God and to the church. I express appreciation to those who had to relinquish membership on the Council because of term limitations or who resigned because of other reasons, for their loyalty, in name - John Lenning, Richard Single, Henry Schneider, Ernest Jones. Thank you, gentlemen for your great help

On the debit side of the picture is the fact of the failure of the Mission Study group, announced for early in the year. This failure, together with the disinterest shown at earlier attempts at Bible study, or mission or current event seminars, dishearten the Pastor in attempting any other such venture. Further, in the story of our losses was the resignation of Mrs. Carrie Bentrup, as caretaker and housekeeper, after 17 years of loyal service with the church. As Pastor, I desire to express appreciation to her for this long and loyal service to the church, and wish her health and happiness in the years of retirement.

Another fact of concern is that again our Sunday worship service attendance has fallen as compared with that average for 1971. This fact can only be accounted for in the realization that more and more of our folk are putting other interest of life before the church. The advent of the long 3-day labor vacations also had its part in this decline, for more folk are using these occasions for week-end journeys. Other week-end events on the part of our folk added to the intensity of this decline. It can only be hoped that in 1973, with our special Centennial events, this average will be heightened.

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Here are the statics for the year:  
Baptisms, 40; weddings, 44; funerals, 65, of which 16 were members. In addition to the Confirmation class, 25 adults were received into membership. 8 transferred out of the church, 1 departed by self-removal. The figure of 325 was acheived across the Sundays as average attendance. The total membership of the ~~church~~ church now stands at 738. The Church School had an enrollment of 243, not including the non-attending Cradle Roll. The average attendance of 50% of enrollment was achieved in 1972.

Our year began in the name of the Lord, and it ended in our new Year's Eve Service, in the name of the Lord. We are a congregation under God and our entire effort should be to give glory to His Name, and His Cause. May this be our motive as we together enter this year of our Centannial anniversary. Praise be to God and glory be given to Him in His Church.

Respectfully submitted,

*Paul A. Roach, pastor*

Jan. 26, 1973