

ANNUAL REPORT TO UNITED EVANGELICAL CONGREGATION  
for year 1970

We exist individually, under the grace of God, the power of God within us and our world. By no stretch of the imagination can we proclaim that we are prolonging our life from moment to moment, year to year, by the sheer strength of our own will. We recognize the basic fact that it is God who gives us the strength to draw every breath, to keep our heart functioning and blood coursing through the body.

Similarly, God gives life to His Church, and at this annual meeting, we desire to bring into the fore our gratefulness for His blessings on our congregation during the past 12 months. With 1971 we begin our 98th year of existence as a congregation and as we so do, we not only thank God for past guidance but request His blessings as we begin a year together in His Name.

An important part of the Pastor's Annual report is to give the statistics of church life in past months. In a continuous time of pressure upon the church and of signs of decreasing loyalty to the work of God as a part of many folk in many congregations, the facts demonstrate the United Church has not decreased in power, has not only held it own, which takes great effort in these days, but has shown growth in activity and even a slight increase in attendance.

First, the records indicate that the attendance at Sunday services in 1970, save the summer months, has increased to the figure of 399 for the 9 months. However, our attendance during the warm months, mid-June to mid-September, generally speaking, has decreased over that of 1969, bringing our overall figure for the year to 362. This says to me that even though we have air-conditioning, our folk are either not stirring out of their homes on warm Sundays or are going away from the city more and more week-ends. What we can do about this, I do not know, but it is a face with which to reckon.

Other statistics:

Church School enrollment is at 395, including the Cradle Roll, of approximately 85 on the roll. Average attendance for the year is at 50%, excluding the Cradle Roll, which is better than last year. The Average offering is at \$31.00

33 Baptisms

45 Weddings

82 Funerals, including

11 deceased envelope-holding members

4 transferred out of membership

23 Junior Confirmands

27 ADULTS received into membership

Membership at beginning of 1971, 717, an increase of 12

Looking at the year in review we note nothing spectacular occurred but it was a year of growth, of bringing into greater reality a sense of soundness in the congregation, a nurturing of the philosophy of togetherness of youth, mature adults and Senior Citizens into a unity in the House of God. Toward this end we have had several Task Forces in operation during the year, under the direction of Pastor Weisser. Also under his direction we set up a series of adult conversations and lectures on Confirmation Refreshment, in which we had the opportunity of looking at the elements of our faith.

From the Task Forces and under the direction of the Spiritual Committee, a series of Family Fellowship nights are set up for the season of acti-

ivity, each designed to heighten the sense of fellowship and awareness of each other in our church family. We are members together, and we want everyone to know he or she is always included. Some of the outworkings of the Task Forces have not yet come into being to heighten even more this concept, but are still in the planning stage.

The groups of the church have been in a very active condition and show signs of great strength, and manifest great concern for the total work. The Church School is alert and looking at its task in a constant manner, eager to always do a better job, a more effective job. The choirs have done a good job on the Sundays of the year and we are happy to see the ~~reorganization~~ reorganization of the Children's Choir, and wish it well.

I cherish the opportunity in each of these reports to officially express my gratitude to all who have combined together to make the year the peaceful and strong year it has been. I begin with the excellent staff: my valuable assistant, Pastor Weisser; my capable secretary, Mrs. Fader and her ~~assistants~~ <sup>assistants</sup>; the caretakers, Mrs. Bentrup and Chris Woelferman; Mr. Schnader at the organ and in directing our ~~choral~~ <sup>choir</sup> groups, and all committees which have functioned so well. All have worked together in a most splendid manner, and this report of growth and strength could not have been possible but for them.

Then too I want to thank the personnel and leadership of our organizations and groups, including our Scouting program. It has been a good year. Thanks to all.

And now, finally, I think of that important body that keeps all things going and in its governance - the Church Council. It served faithfully under the capable direction of its president, Mr. J. Albert Fader. All committees were active and there was no portion of church life left unattended. Thanks to you all for wonderful progress. Some, because of term limits or personal preference, have left the Council. To them I saw a special word of appreciation - to J. Albert Fader, Wm. Benser, Louis Parker, Jr. Your efforts of love and service to the church have been deeply appreciated.

I close my report with a plea that definite action be taken at this meeting or by the Church Council in setting up the 100th Anniversary Committee very shortly, so that long range plans for the Centennial of our beloved church in 1973 might be formulated. That is the event toward which much thought should be given and for which definite plans should soon be made.

And now, may I close with these words by an Anonymous author about the church -

Love is the doctrine of this church,  
The quest of truth is its sacrament,  
And service is its prayer.  
To dwell together in peace,  
To seek knowledge in freedom  
To serve mankind in fellowship,  
To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the  
Divine  
Thus do we covenant with each other and with God.

Respectfully submitted,

*Paula Rauh*

Jan. 22, 1971