

ANNUAL REPORT OF PASTOR TO
UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Baltimore, Maryland

December 12, 1950

In 2 Corinthians 4: verses 7-8 we read in Moffatt's translation these words: "The transcending (overcoming) power belongs to God, not to myself;--on every side I am harried, but not hemmed in, perplexed but not despairing--struck down, but not destroyed." The apostle Paul writes out of depths of harrowing experience. We feel the same way today about world conditions, but as Christians we realize that it is from God that real power flows; therefore we do not become discouraged. We need to carry on the work of the Church today, for it is as vital as ever.

We have inaugurated a number of changes in our Congregation this past year that seem to help solve a problem. The biggest change came when the evening services - long a tradition in our church - were discontinued and two morning services begun, at 8:15 and 10:15 A. M. The early service or matins has had a fine response and is worthwhile continuing. We experienced a change of caretakers, and have found in Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jenkins very willing and helpful persons. All of us need to be willing in every possible manner. The volunteers from the United Men's Club and the Sunday School, who helped wash down and paint the ceilings and walls of the Sunday School Hall deserve our appreciation. A change also took place in our Ministry of Music and Mr. Fred Kirk took over the organ and the directing of the choirs on November 1. We wish him well in this responsible work. We deeply appreciate the willing and fine work of our Church Secretary, Mrs. Elma Amrhien; and the work of addressing our mailings on the part of Mr. Fred Gross. All organizations worked well and we want to thank each one for assisting. We express appreciation to the members of the Church Council for their fine work throughout the year.

From the Pastor's records the following items are to be noted:

He conducted 112 services this past year; baptized 115 children and 1 adult; confirmed 70 children and 17 adults, a total of 87; gave the blessings of the Church upon 86 marriages; spoke words of comfort at 95 funerals; shared in the fellowship of the Lord's Supper with 2678 persons; made approximately 2050 calls in the interest of the Church in various homes; and with the aid of the minister's wife, to whom we express our thanks, had innumerable consultations in the parsonage. He had the opportunity to teach Confirmation Classes, Daily Vacation Bible School, as well as Teacher Training Classes. The pastor took a course on "The Doctor and the Pastor" at City Hospital this past year, so that all of us might be more helpful to our sick friends.

Our young men are again being called to the service of their country and we need to keep in touch with them. We need to have a more vital interest in the larger work of the Church. We need to plan - for it takes time - what to do with our Church Building. We need earnest prayer on the part of all, so we might do God's will. Attendance at Church and Holy Communion must reach higher levels.

We close with this thought - "Let us not be frightened by the feeling of our own inadequacy for this troubled hour. We are called to fill our own places, always to do the very best we can and to leave the rest to God."

Rev. Titus Lehmann,
Pastor