



UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

United Evangelical To Mark 100th Year

United Evangelical Church will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding in September, it was announced by the pastor of the church, the Rev. Paul A. Rasche, and Mr. J. Edwin Myers, chairman of the anniversary committee.

United, which has been located in Canton at the corner of East Avenue and Dillon Street for its entire history, was founded on September 14, 1873 by people largely of German extraction as the German United Evangelical Church of Canton, and called as its first pastor the Rev. Andrew Schwartz, who also was a Doctor of Medicine.

The first sanctuary was dedicated on April 12, 1874 on land leased from the Canton Company, replacing a small schoolhouse on the same site from where services had previously been conducted.

In 1885 the building was destroyed by fire. Baltimore City firemen were unable to assist, being prohibited from crossing the city line which, at that time, ran down the middle of East Avenue. A new and larger building was built, and over the years the congregation grew and prospered

along with the Canton-Highlandtown area.

In 1894, confirmation instruction was begun for the first time in English, having been conducted until then solely in German. In September of 1896 the Rev. William Batz was called as pastor and served in that capacity until his death on June 10, 1926. Because of this tenure of almost 30 years, during which thousands of young people were baptized, confirmed and married, the church was often referred to as "Batz' Church." In 1945 the name of the church was officially changed to the "United Evangelical Church."

The present school building was opened in 1936 with religious instruction for both young people and adults held every Sunday since that time.

The Rev. Titus Lehmann became pastor in April of 1934, serving for more than 26 years until his retirement in June of 1961 at which time Pastor Rasche was called to serve. The present church building was dedicated in December, 1957, having been completed at a cost of ap-

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proximately \$300,000.

United Evangelical Church presently has nearly 800 communicant members, along with a church school enrollment of 300. It is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, a Protestant denomination of over 2,000,000 members.

A wide variety of activities are planned to commemorate the anniversary, including a major fund-raising effort for the purpose of making numerous improvements and additions to church property and enhancing the church's endowment funds.

In addition the following special functions are planned: Special communion services, Sunday, Sept. 9; Mardi Gras night, Friday, Sept. 14; Homecoming and Confirmation Reunion Sunday, September 16; Primary Anniversary Celebration with guest speakers, Sunday, Sept. 23; Gala Banquet at Eudowood Gardens, Saturday, Sept. 29; and Anniversary Celebration Finale-

Chancel drama, Sunday, Sept. 30.

Mr. Myers and Pastor Rasche both expressed the hope and expectation that United Evangelical Church will continue to minister to the needs of its members and to take an active part in serving the community for many years to come. The entire community is cordially invited to participate with the members of the church in celebrating the beginning of the second century of its existence.