

90TH
ANNIVERSARY



1873 - 1963

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

(UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)

EAST AVENUE & DILLON STREET

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Dedicated



"To the Glory of God"

THE 90th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

1873-1963

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1963

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

THE PRELUDE "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

Bach

THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

ADORATION

***THE PROCESSIONAL** "The Church's One Foundation"

No. 322

***THE OPENING SERVICE** "Benedictus"

Gounod

Pastor and Choir

***THE INVOCATION**

INSTRUCTION

THE ANNIVERSARY LITANY AND DEDICATION

O God, we pray for Thy Church, which is set today amid the perplexities of a changing order, and face to face with a great new task.

We remember with love and nurture she gave to our spiritual life in its infancy, the influence of the devoted hearts she gathers, the steadfast power for good she has exerted.

When we compare her with all other human institutions, we rejoice, for there is none like her. But when we judge her by the mind of the Master, we bow in pity and contrition.

O baptize her afresh in the life-giving spirit of Jesus. Grant her a new birth, though it be with the travail of repentance and humiliation.

Bestow upon her a more imperious responsiveness to duty, a swifter compassion with suffering, and an utter loyalty to the will of God.

Help her proclaim boldly the coming of the kingdom of God and the doom of all that resist it. Fill her with the prophets' scorn of tyranny, and with a Christ-like tenderness for the heavy laden and down-trodden.

Give her faith and espouse the cause of the people, and in their hands that grope after freedom and light to recognize the bleeding hands of Christ. Bid her cease from seeking her own life, lest she lose it.

Make her valiant to give up her life to humanity, that like her crucified Lord she may mount by the path of the cross to a higher glory.

Unison: Grant, Lord God, that we the folk of this church may today be baptized with the power of the Holy Spirit, that as we conclude our 90th Anniversary we may move forward as a church to a continuous potency of good in this community and in the lives of our people. Amen.

THE ANTHEM "Glory to God" Rachmaninoff
The Youth Choir

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COLLECTION OF ATTENDANCE CARDS

THE ANTHEM "Savior, Teach Me Day by Day" Holler
The Cherub Choir

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS (for 15th Sunday after Trinity)

The Epistle: Galatians 5:25-6:10 Gloria Tibi (497)
*The Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34 Laus Tibi (497)

THE APOSTLES' CREED AND GLORIA PATRI (492)

THE PERIOD OF PRAYER

The Call to Prayer (516)
Pastor: The Lord be with you
People: And with thy spirit
Pastor: Let us pray—Create in us a clean heart, O God
People: And renew a right spirit within us
Pastor: Cast us not away from Thy presence
People: And take not Thy Holy Spirit from us
The Morning Prayers
The Choral Response (501)

***THE SERMON HYMN** "Glorious Things are Spoken" No. 323

THE ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE "Questions after 90 Years"
Dr. Edward L. Schlingman

ORDINATION

THE OFFERING SERVICE

The Offering Announcement
The Offertory Prayer
The Offertory "Break Forth" Simper
The Senior Choir
The Response (505)

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***THE RECESSIONAL** "Lead on, O King Eternal"

No. 299

THE QUIET TIME

THE POSTLUDE "Choral Song"

Wesley

*—Congregation stands at these points, when choirs stand.

****—Indicates where latecomers may be ushered to seats.

THE MINISTRY AT UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Paul A. Rasche, Pastor

Titus Lehmann, D.D., Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Naomi Binko, Director of Music

OUR ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER

Edward L. Schlingman, D.D., is director of specialized ministries of our United Church of Christ, with offices in Pottstown and Philadelphia, Pa. He was born here in the Canton area of Baltimore and was baptized here at United Evangelical Church, in which his family held membership, therefore he is a son of this congregation. Getting his early schooling in Baltimore, he was graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa., with a Bachelor of Divinity. But during these years he was employed summers in Baltimore, working at American Can Company, even during the vacations from Seminary. He served in the pastorate of our churches until 1946 when he was called to a position with the Board of Christian Education of our Evangelical and Reformed Church. He has been in the general field of Christian Education with our denomination since that time. He received his honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio in 1956.

Two services were held on the first Anniversary Sunday, September 15, 1963 at which Pastor Rasche brought the Anniversary message, and the Anniversary Celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion was included. The Anniversary Banquet-Dance was held on Saturday, September 21, 1963 at the Sheraton-Belvedere Hotel, Charles and Chase Streets. Dignitaries of the Potomac Synod of the United Church of Christ were special guests at the occasion.

IN THE SERVICE OF OUR LORD

A history of the United Evangelical Church upon the celebration of its 90th Anniversary

In 1873, Canton, to the casual observer, seems to be a succession of swamps and small hills, a place where streets are nothing but mud and clay. At the intersection of two of these streets—East Avenue and Dillon Street—stood a small, one-story red brick building. It was in this little red schoolhouse that the United Evangelical Church had its humble beginning some 90 years ago.

As far back as 1872 a Reverend Mr. Steinhauer had been preaching to a group of people of German extraction in the schoolhouse. In 1873 the Reverend Mr. Andrew Schwartz, Preacher and Doctor of Medicine, was called by these people to be their minister and soon organization plans were under way. So it was that on the fourteenth day of September 1873, a group of men met and decided to organize a church, the name of which was to be the German United Evangelical Church of Canton. So eager to begin was the small group of earnest worshippers that three days later another meeting was held and the decision was reached to build a church beside the schoolhouse. On October 5th, one hundred and four feet of ground were leased and on October 19, 1873, the cornerstone was laid. Rain marred the festivities on this latter date and thus it was that the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of German United Evangelical Church of Canton took place in the market house at Canton Market. On April 12, 1874, the church was dedicated to the service of God.



A contract had already been let for the pipe organ and the present two bells. Two years later, in 1876, a Sunday School was organized. In March, 1885, fire destroyed the little brick building. It is interesting to note that even though the Fire Department was present at the scene of the fire, they could do nothing but watch the conflagration, in as much as the building—on the east side of East Avenue—was at that time situated in Baltimore County, and consequently, out of their jurisdiction. A new and larger building was then built on the corner and was used as a hall for social activities for many years.

In 1889, after sixteen years of service, Pastor Schwartz retired. Reverend Paul Menzel was called to become the second pastor of the congregation. In 1894, some twenty-one years after the inception of the church, Confirmation instructions were begun by Pastor Menzel for the first time in the English language. The beginning of the mid-week Lenten Services—at first held in the Sunday School Hall—can also be attributed to Pastor Menzel. In 1896, after seven years of service, this faithful servant of the Lord resigned to undertake new work in Washington, D. C.

In September, 1896, the Reverend Mr. William Batz was chosen as the new pastor. In September, 1897, it was decided to build a new parsonage and in April, 1898, it was dedicated. This first home for the pastors stood on the site of the present Sunday School Hall. In 1903, extensive improvements were made to the interior of the church by the rapidly growing congregation. In 1904, the one hundred and four feet of leased ground were bought. In 1907, a Young People's League was formed to meet the needs of the young people of the church. In 1915, art windows were installed in the church. The Ladies' Aid Society had previously presented the congregation with a beautiful painting of Christ walking the Galilean Sea for the chancel niche. In 1923, the same organization presented the church with a fine oak floor and new carpets for the isles and the chancel.

On June 10, 1926, after a period of illness, and after thirty years of faithful service to a rapidly growing congregation, the beloved Pastor Batz was called to his eternal reward.

So it was that on August 11, 1926, at a special meeting, Rev. Mr. Franklin W. Schaefer was called to be the fourth pastor of United Church. He was installed on November 14th. In 1929, the church took another step forward and became affiliated with the Evangelical Synod of North America.

A building fund was begun in 1928 for the building of a new, and larger and more adequate Sunday School building. In April, 1929, a Loyalty Crusade was held at which time subscriptions amounting to in excess of \$40,000.00 were secured for this purpose.

During the interim period between the building fund drive and the construction of the new Sunday School Hall, specifically, in January of 1934, Pastor Schaefer left the ministry of United Church. Mr. Ernest Press, a young student from Eden Seminary served the congregation until April of that year when the Reverend Mr. Titus Lehmann was installed as the fifth pastor of our church. Upon assuming the pastorate, one of Pastor Lehmann's first acts was to institute the English morning service in 1934.

In 1935, the congregation decided to build a new Sunday School Hall and on March 8, 1936, the ground breaking service was held. On April 19th the cornerstone was laid and on November 8th the new hall was dedicated to the service of the Lord. In March, 1937, the cornerstone was laid for the present parsonage, which was dedicated on May 23rd. This building was erected on the corner of East Avenue and Dillon Street where the old hall had stood, and the new hall now stands where the old parsonage and yard had been. Both of these projects were completed at a total cost of \$66,000.00 and resulted in the congregation incurring a debt of some \$25,000.00. By 1943, however, at the time of the 70th Anniversary, the mortgage was burned and the church was once again debt free. Two years after the amortization fo these debts, in 1945, the name of the church was changed to United Evangelical Church.



The most recent construction project undertaken by United Church was the building of a new church. Located on the site of the old church, this project was begun in April, 1956, and completed in December, 1957 at a cost of approximately \$300,000.00. It is interesting to note that some twelve years prior to the completion of the new church edifice, the congregation, on January 10, 1945, decided to build a new church "sometime in the future." Upon entering the Church, one will observe such beautiful appointments as the light-oak altar and reredos paneling; the intricate carving of "The Last Supper" affixed to the lower portion of the reredos; and the beamed ceiling exuding an atmosphere of warmth to the Sanctuary. Such innovations as air-conditioning, rubber-foam seats and inconspicuously placed amplifiers assure the physical comfort of the congregation. Our new church, a semi-Gothic structure, is linked with the former church building by the refurbished stained glass windows. On Sunday, December 15, 1957, the New Church was dedicated "To The Glory Of God."

In June, 1961, it was the election of the Reverend Titus Lehmann, D.D., to "retire" as active pastor of United Church, some twenty-six years after he had started ministering to the religious needs of his flock. His retirement is properly quoted, however, since he continues to actively engage in the work of the church. It was now necessary for the Church Council to select a new pastor to provide for the spiritual needs of an ever-growing church community. A special Pulpit Committee was organized to cope with so important a task. After a long and arduous search, the Reverend Paul A. Rasche was selected to handle this increasingly demanding position. Our present pastor began his pastorate here in November of 1961. Coming to United Evangelical Church from a pastorate in Chicago, Illinois, he has also served churches in Michigan, New York and Indiana. He has been in the Christian ministry for twenty-eight years, having received his A.B. degree from Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois and the B.D. degree from our Evangelical and Reformed Eden Seminary at Webster Groves, Missouri. He and Mrs. Rasche were married close after his ordination into the Christian ministry and they have two married daughters, Gerda (Mrs. Charles C. Proctor, Jr. of Alexandria, Virginia) and Kyra (Mrs. Richard T. Ault of Streamwood, Illinois) and two grandchildren.

Some ninety years have now elapsed since the founding of the United Evangelical Church. No one can accurately assess the spiritual force that has emanated from its walls, nor can one measure the solitude, comfort, learning and guidance that its congregation has found within its portals. For ninety years it has been a church ministering to the needs of its people and the community; for ninety years it has been a church "Building For God." What more need be said? For ninety years it has been a CHURCH!

