



The United Endeavor

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

EAST AVENUE & DILLON STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21224

DECEMBER 1974



ADVENT AGAIN

Before there can be a Christmas again there must be an Advent, just as before a family can sit down to a meal at the dining table that meal must be prepared.

We prepare for Christmas in a physical way for weeks prior to the great day. Christmas lists are drawn up: Christmas cards are received: plans for the family on Christmas Eve begin to jell as do the plans for the festive days of Christmas week. Though it may be hectic for some whose plans for Christmas do not begin soon enough still for the majority of individuals and families all is in readiness when Christmas Eve and the day of Christmas arrive.

Even as much and perhaps moreso should we prepare for Christmas in a spiritual manner. And this is what Advent is, a period of four weeks during which the church bids us make spiritual preparation and provides the wherewithal: ie. ceremonies, Scriptural homilies, carols and Anthems, by which this preparation can be fruitful and advanced.

This preparation is programmed to bring us from afar off in our spiritual thought up to the glory of Christmas in a gradual yet a meaningful manner. Beginning with the 1st Sunday in Advent and the "hanging of the Christmas greens" up to the bringing in of the Christ-child figure to place in the creche crib on Christmas Eve, the journey through Advent to the day of Christmas serves well the need of each of us to prepare ourselves to welcome the Christ-child anew.

Thus, we invite you to make use of the Advent season for spiritual preparation for Christmas even as you make use of the preceding wake of physical preparation.



**CHURCH
SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS
9 A.M. SUNDAY
DEC. 22**

The class members and staff of our Church School gather at 9 A.M. in the sanctuary for the annual Christmas Service (do not go to departments first). This service will last ¼ hour and following it the departments will meet for an individual Christmas celebration of their own.



POINSETTIA AND MEMORIAL FUND

Each year we bank our altar with the lovely flower of Christmas. These are provided by the gifts of money to the Church as Poinsettia Memorial Gifts or as donations for Poinsettia.

Also many people desire to present Christmas Memorials to the Church.

Both the Poinsettia Fund gifts and the Memorial Gifts are acknowledged through a Christmas Memorial Booklet, and a memorial service as a part of the 8:30 P.M. Christmas Eve service.

To make certain your gifts are noted in the Memorial Booklet, they must be in the church office no later than Sunday, Dec. 15th.



DECEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, Dec. 1 - 7:45 and 10:15

Services of Holy Communion
Hanging of the Greens in the late service. This is the traditional manner in which we enter Advent, by beginning to decorate our sanctuary.

Lighting of the Advent wreath candle.

Sermon by Pastor Kitchen
This is Pastor Rasche's last communion service here.

Sunday, Dec. 8 - 8:00 and 10:15
Service for 2nd Sunday of Advent. Hanging of Christmas wreaths in the sanctuary, a second step on the road to Christmas.
Sermon by Pastor Rasche
"Let Us Now Go"
Lighting of the 2nd Advent candle.

Sunday, Dec. 15 - 8:00 and 10:15
Service for the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Display of beautiful nativity scene.
Special choral music.
Lighting of the 3rd Advent candle.
Tinsel Day follows 10:15 service.
Sermon by Pastor Rasche
"The Messiah Promised"

Sunday, Dec. 22 - 8:00 and 10:15
Service for the 4th Sunday in Advent. This is Christmas Sunday.
Display of Sanctuary Christmas tree.
Display of our poinsettia altar with many plants.
Singing of carols and special choral music.
Church School Christmas at 9:00 A.M.
Lighting of the 4th Advent candle.
Sermon by Pastor Rasche
"The Messiah Comes"

Sunday, Dec. 29 - 10:00
Pastor Rasche's farewell sermon followed by a reception in his honor in Friendship Hall.
Please note that this is the only service for this Sunday.





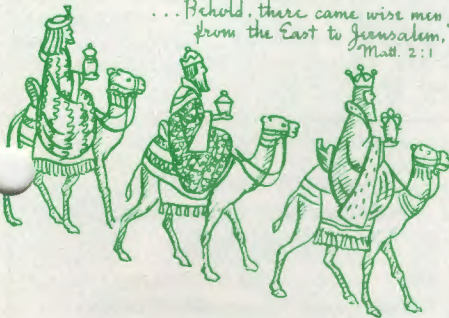
1975 ENVELOPES

The 1975 sets of envelopes will be ready for you to pick up early in December from the tables in Friendship Hall.

Please remember if you did not make a contribution to the church through your envelopes last year there will not be a set for you this year.

If you do not find your name among the envelopes this year and would like to use the envelopes for your contributions please speak to either pastor.

...Behold, there came wise men,
from the East to Jerusalem,
Matt. 2:1



ADVENT HIGHLIGHTS

There are many extras provided by your church during the Advent and Christmas season. We amplify the announcement of these, that you may know that many activities other than the Sunday morning services are available and that you are urged to be in attendance at all of these events: -

1) Tinsel Day, Sunday, Dec. 15 from noon to 4 P.M. A delightful day on which your entire family can fellowship together here at the church with a dinner at the church following the 10:15 a.m. service. This is a hot buffet dinner, for which there is no charge but a contribution from each individual or family is requested as well as advance reservations for your family so that the committee knows for how many to prepare. Following the meal the decoration of the departments of the Church School occurs and the decoration of the sanctuary tree. The afternoon is ended with a carol sing in the sanctuary and a birthday party for the child Jesus in Friendship Hall.

2) Church School Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 22 at 9 A.M. in the sanctuary. Members of the Church School will meet in the sanctuary rather than in departments for the 9 to 9:30 A.M. Christmas Service. After the service the departments will all meet for a departmental Christmas celebration.

3) Youth Caroling, Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6 P.M. Our youth are planning to sing Christmas carols again this year at the homes of our shut-ins in the near vicinity of the church. The group will return to the church for light refreshments.

4) Youth Christmas Service, Christmas Eve at 7 P.M. The service last year was so well received that our youth are producing another for this Christmas Eve.

5) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 8:30 P.M. For details please see the preceding article.



CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

Samantha Lee, daughter of John A and Joan Butrim on Nov. 10

Vincent Lee, son of Robert E. and Estelle Elliott, on Nov. 10

Funerals

Mrs. Marie A. Scheber, age 88 on Nov. 1



PASTOR RASCHE'S FAREWELL SERVICE

Sunday, Dec. 29 is the final Sunday of my pastorate at United Church. I will present my farewell sermon at the 10 A.M. service on this day. Please note that the 8 A.M. service will not be held, only one service, that at 10 A.M. Likewise the Youth Service at 9:30 A.M. will be eliminated. Mrs. Rasche and I will then be moving from the parsonage as soon after that as can be arranged.

These past thirteen years have been good years for United Church and for the parsonage family. They have sped by rapidly, though each year has been a very busy year. Even during the summer months the hectic schedule does not diminish appreciably. Each week has been almost a 60 - 70 hr. week for the Pastor, being on duty practically 24 hours of every day. The schedule has been extremely confining.

But it has been a satisfying ministry among you. Deep friendships have come into being with many of the congregation. Blessings of various natures have come to us even as we hope our presence here has been a blessing to the congregation. Much has been accomplished in the growth of the church, accomplishments which have continued to make this congregation a strong church. Spiritually as well as physically things with the church are in good order. The Lord is to be praised for all the advance in His Course we have together made these dozen or so years.

And now we move into a much quieter type of life. We will still be busy in the church at large, somewhere, and in some capacity. We will not be idle but the pressure and the hours of labor will not be so great.

We leave you with a prayer for the continued betterment of this congregation. We leave you in the capable hands of Pastor Kitchen and with the expectation of your securing another senior pastor in the near future. We leave with a feeling of Christian love and respect for everyong of you and with grateful hearts for the many blessing which have come to us. We will let you know where we will be and hope to hear from you and perhaps to see you sometime in the days to come.

Pastor Paul A. Rasche

RECEPTION FOR THE RASCHE'S

A reception will be held in honor of Pastor and Mrs. Rasche immediately after the service on December 29. This will be the last opportunity that we as a congregation will have to express gratitude to him and Mrs. Rasche for his many years of dedicated service to this church.

We hope that many members will be able to attend his farewell service and be there for the reception which follows to wish the Rasches a fruitful retirement.

Please remember that on this Sunday there will be only one service at 10 A.M.

THE UNITED ENDEAVOR

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by

The United Evangelical Church
United Church of Christ
East Avenue at Dillon Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Paul A. Rasche, Pastor
Mary E. Kitchen, Associate Pastor

Office Phone BR 6-0393

Parsonage BR 6-0621

Worship

Each Sunday — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

(7:45 a.m. each Communion Sunday)

Church School — 9:00 a.m.