



Edwards Editor

3420 Jersey Ridge Rd., Davenport, IA 52807

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Annual Meeting!!!!!!

Mark your calendar NOW - The 166th Annual Meeting of Edwards UCC will be Thursday evening, January 26, 2006, at 6:30. (Don't eat dessert - we will provide it!) We will look back on the highlights of 2005 and look forward to the dreams for 2006. We will vote on the budget and elect leadership. We will sing and pray and give thanks for this wonderful faith community - Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ.

In case of bad weather, call the church office for the plan. Our snow date will be Tuesday, January 31st (so mark that date as well!).

All Board and Committee Chairs and Edwards Staff Annual Reports are due in the Church Office before Sunday, January 8th. (Please submit your report either on a computer disk or by e-mail if possible.)



Maya Angelou, poet, writer, storyteller, teacher and stage director, wrote this poem for the lighting of the national Christmas Tree on December 1, 2005 in Washington, DC. It touched my soul deeply, and I trust that you, too, will be moved by her eloquence and her dream. I pray that 2006 will be a year when the Christmas dream of peace on earth will find expression in our human realities.

Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem by Maya Angelou

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Floodwaters await in our avenues.
Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and gray and threatening.

We question ourselves. What have we done to so affront nature?
We interrogate and worry God.
Are you there? Are you there, really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Floodwaters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children.
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth, brightening all things,
Even hate, which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.

(Continues on next page)

We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We clap our hands and welcome the peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait awhile with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.
Peace.
Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,
I implore you to stay awhile with us
So, we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion and see community.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

On this platform of peace, we can create a language
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.

At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ
Into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues the coming of hope.
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices
To celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Nonbelievers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves,
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation:

Peace, My Brother.
Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.

January Scriptures



January 1:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

January 8:

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11



January 15:

I Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20



January 29:

Deuteronomy 18:125-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Keep Not Silent!

A New Year's Reflective Worship, with harp, native American Cedar flute and communion. Start the New Year with worship led by our Student Pastor, Sue Harrington with HeartSong: Mona Terry and Jean Norton.

Calling All Liturgists!

Are you one of the folks who is called upon to read scripture in worship? Would you like to read scripture in worship? On January 15th, following morning worship, we will gather all the readers for lunch, conversation about the challenges and the blessings of serving in worship as a reader, and some training with a professional reader from St. Ambrose University. Katherine will be sharing biblical resources that can help make the passages come alive in your understanding, and we will do some practicing with the microphones in the sanctuary. When we serve in worship, no matter what we do, we offer our best to God and trust that God will touch the hearts and minds of the people gathered with new insight and understanding. This is an opportunity to improve your skills and your ability to be an instrument for God's Word. Come, join us!

Contemporary Worship!!

The 5:30 pm Contemporary Worship Service will resume on January 22nd with worship at 5:30 and a potluck following. This is an opportunity to worship in a small, informal setting. It is a time to sing and celebrate, to pray together and to grow in faith. Come join us!

Rayburn's Loaner Christmas Music Lights

For years, there weren't enough music stand lights for all the instrumentalists especially on Christmas Eve. Even in his 80s, Rayburn Pierce, former director of many musical groups, including the Edwards Choir, played his violin and each year offered the use of his four stand lights. Even when Rayburn was not well enough to play last year, he still loaned us his lights. Interestingly, this year we came up four lights short. Rayburn's four.

Rayburn died this past year, and has been deeply missed in the congregation this fall. Several days before Christmas Eve, Rayburn's daughter called to provide flowers for worship in his memory. Upon learning that many lovely flowers already graced the sanctuary, she offered those funds for music. Four lights were purchased.

Rayburn will be remembered throughout the year, but especially at Christmas when we need extra lights. In the meantime, those four lights will be specially marked, and will be our loaner lights. If you need some stand lights, let us know! We will be happy to share Rayburn's lights with you. We remember his gifts of music that lit up this community for many, many years, and will light our sanctuary each Christmas.

Rehearsals

Band: January 12 and 26, 6:30 - 8 pm

Choir: No choir the 4th, resume normal 7-8:30 on January 11th.

The Gift of Piano

Edwards member Judy Collins graciously gifted our church with a lovely spinet piano this fall. It fits wonderfully into the Orange Rug Room and is available for the children's programming and church school. Many thanks to Judy for her generosity! The large upright piano it replaced, too large and stationary for the room, has been sent to Rick's House of Hope. There it now is available for young children who are recovering from grief and traumas through this special program. Music continues to be made available for healing for many places, thanks to these gifts!

Promised Land Concert

Save the date - Evening of February 19th.
Watch for more details in the next editor!

Church School and Midweek Programming and Youth Ministry...

News from the Tribal Gatherings Church School

Church School starts Sunday, January 8th: During the season of Epiphany the children will explore the Light of Christ and how they can be beacons of that light in the world.



Faith Stepping Stones and Touch Stones (Pre-K through 5th Grade) resumes January 11th.

Children in Mission: Thursday, January 26th our children will serve supper at the East Moline Meal site. Kids should be at church by 4:00 to prepare the meal; we will leave church at 5:20 for the meal site. For more information contact Susan Chesley at 332-2300.

Children in Worship: Our children will be singing in worship on Sunday, January 29th.

TGI F (Tribes Gathering in Fellowship): Children and youth are invited to an evening of Super Bowl Games Friday, January 27th 5:30-7:00, supper included. Bring your friends for Sock Soccer, Bingo, Beach Ball VolleyBall and more!

Youth News

My New Year's Wishes and Resolutions for Edwards Youth:

Wishes

1. Much Laughter
2. Great Peace
3. Transformative Faith
4. Deep Friendships
5. Heightened Compassion

Resolutions

1. Mission for each other and the community
2. Know each other as faithful people
3. More games, more fun.

Thank you, Youth Group, for the wonderful year (2005) you will never know the gifts you have given me.

Peace and Love,
Marta

Director of Youth Ministry, 324-4404

Youth group will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

Check out the January Calendar of Events!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.....

During the Dec. 11th worship service, 3 people united with Edwards. They are:

RON & PAT BAXTER REBAL

Ron grew up in Iowa City where he worked in the family-owned grocery store. After graduation, he attended college in Muscatine, IA and Missouri.

He has worked as a credit counselor and in Inventory Management for 32 years at Case and Sears Mfg. Ron has worked with inner-city teens in Junior Achievement and has been active in politics at all levels. Ron is an avid golfer, a Hawkeye fan, and loves weiner dogs.

Pat was born and raised in Davenport where she became interested in politics during her senior year in high school, writing a weekly newspaper column. She has degrees in Political Science, History, English, & Religion. As a social worker, she's interested in mental health issues of children. Currently she is a member of the Progressive Action Committee for the Common Good. Spare time activities include her family, pets, and walking.

They reside at 1110 Iowa Dr., LeClaire, IA 52753 (#289-3666)

Sponsors: Milo Smith and Ruth Bowers

JULIE HENKE

Julie was born and raised in Schenectady, New York. Julie entered college and majored in Hotel & Resort Management. For the past 15 years she has worked for Marriott Hotels. She came to the Quad-Cities in July 2004 as the General Manager of the Courtyard by Marriott.

In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, cooking, and hiking.

Julie resides at 3725 Cedarwood Ct., Bettendorf, IA 52722 (#563/508-4220).

Sponsor: Joyce Paustian

We are so blessed to have Julie, Ron and Pat join our Edwards family and look forward to their involvement in the life of the church.

WELCOME HOME

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

Erica and Taylor Schroeder, singing in the Women's Chorus

Lyle Stratton, Brian Dugan, Michelle Hukvari, Kaela Swarts, Jazzy Rankin, Kailan Lafrenz and Mona Terry for special music during Advent.

Dick Dulaney, Dick Jirus, Dave Reinders, Milo Smith and Steve Wildemuth, who with much muscle, moved Judy Collins piano to Edwards & to Judy for the piano!!

Bob Riedesel for much needed pencils in the music room, Brian Dugan for the loan of his amp for Christmas Eve.

The MANY WONDERFUL musicians in the Christmas Eve candlelight ensembles the choir with added members Bob Dean and Christine Wren, the Handbells, directed by Sandy Reinders, and a ten piece orchestra made up entirely of the extended family of Edwards, including Emily Spaude, from Chicago, Paul Trapkus home from Michigan, and Zela Terry, visiting sister Mona from France! The gifts of music abound in our church home. MANY THANKS to all who took extra time for rehearsals for those services.

December Newsletter assembly- Evona Petherick, Jean Neavor, Ardis Kasper and Geri Dulaney

The hauntingly beautiful music of the first service of Christmas Eve, given by Carolina Warren-Collison, home from college, Kailan Lafrenz and Amanda Loughead on her baritone horn.

John Raap for making new member name tags

Chuck Slack for taking new member photos

Kailan Lafrenz for childcare during Newcomer's Inquiry Class

New Member Sponsors: Ruth Bowers, Joyce Paustian, Milo Smith

November/December Moveable Feasts Hosts: Sandy Carlson/Reva Thoeming; Terry & Marty Schlabach, Bonnie & Ned Walling, Janet & Rick Sedgwick, Karen & Bryan Dixon, Sharon & Steve Wildemuth

The fabulous liturgical dancers, with director Kathy Lafrenz

December Nursery Attendants - Suzanne & Karen Hawkinson, Emily & Sarah Kenneke, Mary Hein, and Cathie Miller

Cindy Kuhn for baking cupcakes for the Christmas Eve early service

With Our People. . . .

Keep in Your Prayers

"Judy, Brian and Kelli Van Blaricome, as they mourn Keith's sudden death.

"Ed and Robin (Hillyer) Tesch's daughter, Madeline, home from the hospital.

"John Raap and family on the death of his sister, Jean

Stewardship 2006

Total	\$184,450.92
No. Units	102

If you have not turned in your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Clyde Durrah, Financial Secretary

An Interfaith Forum

Trafficking of Women in the Midwest: Can it happen here? co-sponsored by: Temple Emanuel, Congregation of the Humility of Mary and St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Featured speaker: Leslie R. Wolfe, Ph.D., Pres. of Center for Women Policy Studies, Washington, D.C. Reservations are desired but not required - call Temple Emanuel, 325-4419

January Birthdays

1 - Immanuel Huerta	19 - Alexis DeLay
3 - George Gallaher	21 - Heath Billingsley
5 - Jim Groenenboom	
5 - Mike Groenenboom	22 - John Raap
6 - Kerry Fear	22 - Robert Dean
7 - Fay McCarrel	23 - Margie Jirus
8 - Sarah Dixon	23 - Robert Johnston
11 - Nolan Stratton	
12 - Pat Cresap	24 - Gilly Gilbreath
12 - Sandy Bateman	27 - Jim Heaton
13 - Marki Sparks	29 - Fred Clapp
13 - Steve Knoche	29 - Forrest Clingerman
13 - Britt Hein	
13 - Molly Taft	29 - Robert Norwood
15 - Danny Henderson	
	31 - Sam Olsen

If your birthday was inadvertently omitted or incorrect, please notify the church office with the correct information. Thank you.

Change of Address

Katie Groenenboom, 4150 E. 60th st., #803, Davenport, IA 52807, phone: 505-6148

January Who... What..... When..... Where.....

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Preacher	HeartSong and Sue Harrington	Rev. Katherine Mulhern	Rev. Katherine Mulhern	Rev. Katherine Mulhern	Rev. Katherine Mulhern
Guest Guides	Sharon Wildemuth	Anne-Marie Gephart			
Greeters	Susan & Steve Chesley Ruth Bowers Kay Stiles	Cathy & Amanda Loughead Joyce Swartz Ardis Kasper	Vonnie & Jack King Mila & Milo Smith	Sharon Wildemuth Sandy Sohr Virginia Seifert	Carol & Don Carroll Bonnie & Ned Walling
Ushers	Dick Dulaney Tom Kenneke Russ Dircks Mary Hein	Anne-Marie Gephart Ned Walling, Margaret Wilber Olive Gallaher	Barb Bleedorn Mike Fleener Steve Wildemuth Steve Hukvari	Tom Kenneke Tim Mandell Michael Brokloff Anne-Marie Gephart	Randy & Noreen Kuhlmann Jim Groenenboom Steve Knoche
Nursery 10:15 a.m.	Cathie Miller Bev Bergert	Mary Hein Bonnie Walling	Chris Zippe Anne Swartz		Deanna Thomas
Caregivers on Call	Sharon Wildemuth Kay Stiles	Martha Jirus Barb Fleener	Phyllis Yike Carol Bachellor	Lois Larew Sandy Reinders	Rhoada Molleston Chris Fessler
Scripture Reader	Tracy Miller	Dick Dulaney	Anne-Marie Gephart	Mary Hein	Kathy Lafrenz
Chancel Set-Up	Tracy Miller	Dick Dulaney	Sarah Kenneke Pat Rosburg	Carolyn & Ron Walters	Tracy Miller
Sound System	Dave VanderKamp				
Lock-Up Trustee	Richard Jirus	Richard Jirus	Clyde Durrah	Milo Smith	Brad Miller

Where blanks appear, we need your HELP!!! Please call the church office, 359-0331 to sign-up. Thank you!!