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January 2007

What: Chili Cook-Off & Annual Meeting
 When: January 30
 (February 1 snow date)
 Supper: 6:00 pm
 Meeting: 7:00 - 8:00pm

Needed: Chili-makers to donate a pot of chili! We'll vote for our favorite! (Call the church office or sign up on the tear-off sheet in worship) Childcare Provided. Supper is a gift!

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From Our Pastor's Desk...

January is the time of year when many of us take stock of our lives. We make those New Year's Resolutions that often involve losing weight, quitting smoking, exercising and eating right, coming to church every Sunday, and all those things that we KNOW are good for us (but are so hard to do). And for most of us, the resolutions don't last long enough to become new habits (which is why we make them year after year).

We have long known that there is an important connection between our physical health, our spiritual health and our mental health. People who attend church regularly live longer and are happier than people who don't. This year, at Edwards, there will be a number of opportunities for all of us to work toward both healthier bodies and spirits. Look for them! Participate in them! The healthy habits in our lives affect our families, our friends, and every organization in which we participate. Giving God our best means working at those habits of health that support body, mind and spirit - every day.

Giving God our best also means doing the right thing in life - even when that may be difficult. The following Paradoxical Commandments came across my desk this month, and I share them with you as we begin a new year. Perhaps one of them might become a resolution.

1. People favor the underdogs, but follow only top dogs. Fight for the underdogs anyway.
2. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.
3. People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.
4. Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.
5. People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway.
6. If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.
7. If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.
8. The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
9. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.
10. The biggest people with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest people with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.

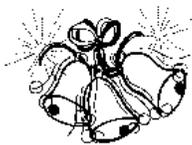
That's the kind of life Jesus lived, and we are privileged to follow in his footsteps. Happy New Year!

January Scriptures



January 7:

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
UCC Pulpit Exchange



January 14:

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11
Gifts and Graces



January 21:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-30
Words, Words, Words



January 28:

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13
Luke 4:21-30
Claimed by God

They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ~ Acts 2:42

Pulpit Exchange

On January 7th, the Eastern Association of the Iowa Conference of the UCC is having a pulpit exchange! Katherine will go to preach at First Congregational UCC in Clinton that morning, and we will receive Rev. Peter Wenzel into our pulpit. Peter is the Pastor at Peace United Church of Christ in Monticello, Iowa. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Conference, has been a delegate to General Synod from Iowa, and is Timothy Sylvias official mentor for his time in seminary. If that wasn't enough, Peter, and his family are all Green Bay Packers fans! Come and welcome Peter Wenzel to Edwards.

Contemporary Worship

The Contemporary Service took a break in December, but beginning January 7th, THEY ARE BACK! Every Sunday evening, beginning at 5:30, the Friends in Faith Band will lead us in song as we praise God and give thanks for the blessings of our lives. Quiet prayers lift up the sorrows and the struggles of our families and our world. Scripture guides our reflection each Sunday night. Join us for a small-group coffee-house style worship each Sunday evening at 5:30. We share communion on the third Sunday of each month, and have a potluck supper on the last Sunday. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and faith.

An Incredible Season of Giving:

This year, as so often is the case, the people of Edwards gave beyond measure. In small ways and in grand gestures, we heard the voice of need and answered without hesitation. Here are just some of the ways we stretched our spirits:

Cookie Walk produced over 1500 cookies and raised over \$500 to benefit the carpet fund. Thank you to everyone who participated.

An empty suitcase was filled to busting with toys for children in Ecuador. Thank you to everyone who brought toys.

The Warming Tree bent with the mittens, socks, underwear, scarves, and hats for local children. Thank you to each person who shopped.

The new food pantry received over 200 cases of food and paper products and \$180 in cash. Thank you...one and all.

Three boxes of toys were sent to the children in Biloxi, making Christmas merry.

One thousand peace cranes were folded and hung in the sanctuary and halls of our church, each representing a prayer for peace. Thank you.

Good job, strong and faithful servants!

Whoops!

Here's a recipe that was left out of the Cookie Walk cook book. We are unsure who provided these recipes, but the cookies are delicious!

Cranberry Orange Cookies

1 pkg Cranberry Quick Bread mix
1/3 C orange juice 1/4 C oil
1 tsp grated orange peel 1 egg

Frosting:

1/2 C powdered sugar 1/2 tsp grated orange peel
5-6 tsp orange juice

Combine cookie ingredients. Stir 50 strokes. Drop by teaspoon 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 10-13 minutes. Immediately remove from cookie sheet.

Combine frosting ingredients. Frost cooled cookies. Allow frosting to set on cookies before storing between sheets of wax paper.

Chocolate Peanut Butter Cookies

1 pkg devils food cake mix 2 eggs
1/3 C oil 1 pkg (10oz) peanut butter chips

Mix cake mix, eggs, and oil. Batter will be stiff. Stir in chips. Roll into 1 inch balls. Place on lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 for 10 minutes. Cool for 2 minutes before removing.

Year-End Finances

Take Note! The 2006 books will close on December 31st (which is a Sunday). All pledges received after that will be posted to 2007.

Keep in Your Prayers:

Donna DeMuynck, continuing cancer treatment
The Wetzel family on the death of Cathys father
Michellel Hukvari and children:
Benjamin and Jana on the death of Steve, husband and father
Arden McBride, recovering from surgery
The Pollard Family in the death of Kevin's father
Alice Robinson in the death of her son, Greg Aronson
Lois Prichard, home from the hospital
Janet Sedgewick, recovering from surgery
Bonnie Walling, home from the hospital
Bob Williams, recovering from angioplasty
Paul Vortriede, continuing chemotherapy
Our homebound members and friends:
Gen Bainter, Nancy Bolyard, Leona Davis, Betty Murray, Laurel Ogden

Moveable Feasts Update

Moveable Feasts will resume in February. Groups of 8-10 persons enjoy food, fellowship, and fun once a month. If you are interested in participating and/or hosting, please sign the bulletin insert or the sheet in the Narthex. Questions: contact Sharon Wildemuth (332-3761) or Barb Fleener (355-4064).

Sunday Morning Potlucks will resume in February.

Notes of Thanks

Thank you to all who kept our sister in law Janie in their prayers over the past few years as she battled cancer and sent cards, and offered words of encouragement at her death. My brother Ken and family thank you from the depths of our hearts.

Jean Norton and Dave VanDerKamp

Thank you to everyone who responded so quickly when Don collapsed before worship a few weeks ago. Carol & Don Carroll

Promised Land Returns

Have you wondered what happened to these gentlemen after they sang a concert and raised money for the carpet? They are busy men & finally they will all be at Edwards at the same time. On January 28th come and hear these gospel singers for several great songs carefully arranged by member Cec Chapman.

Rehearsals

Band: January 7, 4 p.m. and Tuesday, January 9, 5:30 p.m. - short, pizza and planning session, January 16, 6-7:30 p.m., and Sundays, January 7, 14, 21, 4:00 p.m

Choir and Alleluia Ringers, resume, January 10th.

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

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Preacher	Rev. Peter Wenzel	Rev. Katherine Mulhern	Rev. Katherine Mulhern	Rev. Katherine Mulhern
Greeters	Ron & Carolyn Walters Cathie Miller	Ryan Dye Katy Strzepak Ruth Bowers Kay Stiles	Cathy & Amanda Loughhead Joyce Swartz Ardis Kasper	Gilly Gilbreath Don Miler Mila & Milo Smith
Ushers	Steve Wildemuth Dick Dulaney Joe Hall Clyde Durrah	Eric Crawford Dave Wymore Ned Walling Russell Dircks	Pat Sterk Mary Hein Steve Knoche Pat Rosburg	Margaret Wilber Joe Hall Steve Hukvari Tom Kenneke
Guest Guides	Membership Board			
Nursery 10:15 a.m.	Sara Verdick	Kenneke Family	Mary Hein	Anne & Kaela Swarts, Chris Zippe
Caregivers on Call	Sharon Wildemuth Kay Stiles	Sandy Reinders Lois Larew	Kay Stiles Martha Jirus	Chris Fessler Lyle Stratton
Coffee Hour Hosts	Please sign-up in the Baxter Hall kitchen to help host Coffee Hour!!! Thanks!			
Scripture Reader	Erica Schroeder	Lyle Stratton	Dick Werner	Steve Chesley
Communion Servers -	Pat Rosburg, Dick Dulaney, Bob Riedesel, Erica Schroeder, Sue Harrington			
Chancel Set-Up	Pat Rosburg, Dick Dulaney, Sue Harrington	Emily Kenneke	Chris Zippe	Tracy Miller

Sound System	Dave VanDerKamp is back !			
Lock-Up Trustee	Michael Fessler	Brad Miller	Tom Kenneke	Clyde Durrah

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

January Birthdays

1 - Immanuel Huerta
3 - George Gallaher
5 - Jim Groenenboom
5 - Michael
Groenenboom
6 - Brian Dannenfeldt
6 - Kerry Fear
6 - Aidan Kyte
7 - Fay McCarrel
8 - Sarah Dixon
11 - Nolan Stratton
12 - Pat Cresap
12 - Sandy Bateman
13 - Marki Sparks
13 - Steve Knoche
13 - Britt Hein
13 - Molly Taft
22 - John Raap
22 - Pam Swanson
22 - Bob Dean
23 - Marjorie Jirus
24 - Gilly Gilbreath
27 - Diane Anderson
27 - Jim Heaton
29 - Fred Clapp
29 - Forrest Clinger
29 - Robert Norwood
31 - Sam Olsen

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

Men of Edwards News

Mark your calendars for our next meeting on Saturday, January 6th from at 8-9am, at Greg Moore's Mother Jones Café, 1810 2nd Ave Rock Island. If you would like to attend but need a ride, contact Lyle Stratton by telephone #570-7556.

Adult Education

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 - gather in the parlor for a cup of coffee, a chance to read the New York Times, and conversation about current events, public policy and our religious beliefs.

Edwards Book Club is reading Ponder Heart by Eudora Welty, and will meet Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 in Baxter Hall. Books are available through the Christian Ed office. Contact Susan Chesley for more information or a copy of the book.

Womens Bible Study meets the first and third Thursdays of the month from 12:30-2:00 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Riedesel, 5711 Belle Ave, Davenport. Bring a sack lunch. The group is currently exploring the sacred art of conversation. For more information please contact Susan Chesley, 332-2300.

New Members

During our worship service on December 10, two persons united with our Edwards family. . . .

JESSICA BUZZELL was born and raised in Wheatland, IA. She comes to Edwards with a UCC background. Jessica and husband Steven are the proud parents of 2 energetic boys and are expecting a baby soon. She is a stay-at-home mom and, for now, directs her energies toward her family.

Jessica resides at 2428 Arlington Ave., Davenport, IA. 52803 (# 563 / 514-4808)
Sponsor: Heather Wren

CAROLE WOODS was born and raised in Davenport. When she married husband Robert, who was in the U.S. Air Force, she began to travel extensively. They are the proud parents of 4 adult children. During her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her grand-children, sewing, crocheting, knitting, and singing.

Carole resides at 2567 Maryview Ln., Davenport, IA 52807 (# 563 / 355-2776)
Sponsor: Pat Cresap

We are blessed to have Jessica and Carole join our church family. WELCOME HOME.



Thank You! Thank You!!!!

- " Thank you to December Editor Helpers: Sue & Curly Curl, Dorothy Hammond and Geri Dulaney
- " Thank you to Advent Family Readers: Heather and Lars Wren, Shoney Family, Crawford Family, Swarts/Zippe Family, Ramsey, Doll, Vance, Family
- " Thank you to Pat Cresap and Heather Wren, sponsoring our new members
- " Thank you to children of Edwards and to the Chancel Choir for this year's Christmas Pageant. Thanks also to the Liturgical Dancers for leading us into worship, to Cathy Wetzell and Robert Riedesel for singing with the children, the extraordinary work by Susan Chesley creating the children's pageant full of music and fun of the angel choir in the pageant, and wonderful duets by Steve and Blaine Chesley on guitar and piano, to Jean Norton for her piano accompaniment, and to Emily Kenneke, Mary Beth Dircks and Carol Stratton for their back stage assistance.
- " Thanks to Chris Fessler, Mary Beth Dircks, and Katy Strzepeck and Ryan Dye for their help during Pageant rehearsal and dinner and to Russ Dircks for bringing dessert.
- " Thanks to Lisa Whitfield and Jennifer Jordening for their continued commitment to the Wednesday evening tutoring program.
- " Thanks to Chris Fessler and Lynn Warren for help stringing peace cranes.
- " Thanks to Mike Superman Fessler for bending metal to produce hangers for the pew wreaths.
- " Thanks to everyone who folded cranes during Advent.
- " Thanks to all the bakers who donated cookies for the Cookie Walk and to all who attended and filled their plates with goodies. Thanks to John Hammond for providing chili and Dorothy Hammond for providing cornbread at the Advent Cookie Walk.
- " Thanks to Kathy Lafrenz for her creative leadership with our Liturgical Dancers.
- " For the countless hours of preparation and leadership for the Alleluia Ringers by Sandy Reinders, director
- " Mona Terry with Jean Norton and Evangeline Lewis on the organ and piano, and various choir members singing solos during the month of December.
- " The MANY WONDERFUL musicians in the Christmas Eve candlelight ensembles the choir with added member Heather Wren, the Alleluia Ringers, directed by Sandy Reinders, and a lovely string ensemble including Paul and Isaac Trapkus, Kaela Swarts, viola, Suzanne Benson, violin and Mona Terry, harp, all of whom provided special and exceptional choral accompaniment, with extraordinary hymn introductions and solo by Bob Riedesel on trumpet
- " Lyle and Carole Stratton and Susan Chesley for organizing caroling food, and the carolers who traveled many miles and sang great songs for the home bound of our congregation.
- " Suzanne Benson who provided goodies for the Christmas Eve rehearsal.

News of the Tribal Gathering

Wednesday Christian Ed programming will resume on January 10th. There will be no Church School on Dec. 31st. Church School begins again on January 7th.

Kids-in-Mission: Our next East Moline Meal Site date is Thursday, January 25th. Meet at church at 4:30 to prepare supper. We will leave church by 5:25 and return no later than 7:00. As always, parents are welcome to serve along side their children.

Confirmation s Back!

Confirmation will begin again on January 10th. Supper starts at 5:15, class begins at 6:15. See you then!

Happy Holidays from the Youth!

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Peaceful holidays. The Youth had a great Christmas party on December 17th which concluded our youth activities for the year. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Youth group in 2006. Thanks so much for making it happen!

The project in December for the Youth collecting Christmas gifts for children in Biloxi, Miss. We called it Mission Possible , instead of Tom Cruise s movie Mission

Impossible . It was a success. Three big boxes were shipped off to Biloxi on December 4th. Thank you for making this mission possible for those less fortunate than us.

January 2007 will be a month of preparing for the Youth. We have two big events happening in February. The first event is the Souper Bowl of Caring . What is the Souper Bowl of Caring? The Souper Bowl is a nationwide youth led, grassroots movement of caring, the result of thousands of young people joining together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities. Edwards Youth will be out and about trying to fill up the huge soup bucket from the kitchen. The event will come to a close Sunday, February 4th with a Super Bowl (for those who don t know & National Football Leagues biggest game of the year) Party at Edwards. We will serve soup and other goodies that day with a free will donation. So please give generously in support of this event. Thank you. The second event is the Youth s yearly fundraiser, the Dinner Theater. This year our own Cathy Wiesel has written the play. We know it is going to be awesome. We will serve gourmet Hor doeuvres and fancy pies during the show. More information will be available soon. Don t miss it.

Announcement for the Parents: The schedule for TECT team will change only for January 7th and 28th. TECT will be from 5pm to 7 pm. Only for these two days. I will be driving to Chicago after TECT on Sunday nights to have class early Monday morning on the 8th and 29th.

Many Blessings and Peace!
Sue Harrington, Youth Minister

WE DID IT!!!

167 Cases - On December 14 Milo Smith, Dick Werner, and Julie Henke loaded up a van and a pick-up with approximately 200 cases of food and paper products and delivered them to the City Center Ministry's food bank, a new food bank begun after the ones at Sacred Heart and Miriam's House had closed their doors. In response to several parishioners' concerns that downtown Davenport was inadequately being served, Pastor Katherine challenged us to contribute a case of food for each year of Edwards' existence, 167 cases, to this new food pantry, in order to get them off to a strong start. We've done it, and more! Not only the food was contributed; the cash donations received, not needed to reach our goal, were also given to the food pantry, which they will use to purchase additional supplies at the food bank, for a fraction of the cost that we would have paid had we spent it at retail. Pam LaRoque and her husband, Dennis, who jointly run the City Center Ministry, were overwhelmed by our effort and are hugely thankful for what we have provided. They, too, know that "God is still speaking."

2007 Pledges are still coming in!

Currently, we have received 98 pledges totaling \$180,466!!

If you have returned your pledge, THANK YOU! If your pledge is yet to be included, please mail it to the church office as soon as possible.

Community Thanks

- " Community of Joy Food Pantry in Bettendorf also sends us their thanks for our contributions. Our earlier, normal food pantry collections were delivered to them in October.
- " We also have received a letter from Churches United for the financial support we have provided to Care Link, Winnie's Place (the new women's shelter), and extra undesignated funds to Churches United, all of which were part of Edwards' local mission outreach, administered by our Mission Board. The letter states, "The staff and volunteers that work with our ministries are blessed to have the support of you & we appreciate your faithful gifts and prayers."

Looking to the Future

Remember Godspell? Remember Messages from the Heart? Well, this year's musical will be an Edwards production from start to finish. Cathy Wetzel has written a heart warming musical called *A Day in the Park* to be performed February 16th and 17th. Would you like to be a part of the performance? We need actors, stage hands, ushers and theater folk to help produce a truly congregational event. We also need tables filled with an appreciative audience. There's something for everyone!!! If you would like to be a part of the play, please contact, Cathy Wetzel, 355-7114. Proceeds go to the Youth Mission Trip 2007.

A Healthy 2007

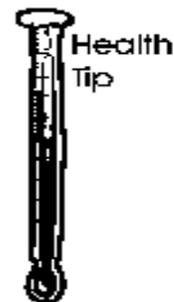
By every measure, health care is a major concern in our nation. As a people of faith, many see health care as an issue of justice that is critical to both the physical and spiritual health of our nation. The United States continues to struggle to find a way to meet the health care needs of all its citizens. With a population of 300 million, nearly a third has either no, or inadequate, health insurance. And in spite of that, our health care costs are nearly triple the costs of other developed nations. Who has insurance, who needs it, who can afford prescription drugs and who cant, who bears the cost for uninsured patientsthese are all questions of justice in our world. As Christians, the charge to care for the least and the last rings in our ears, and yet the problem is so huge that we wonder what can be done.

A bumper sticker, spotted recently, reads The American Health Care Plan: Stay Healthy! Wellness is the antidote to skyrocketing healthcare costs. Wellness could be the key to cutting costs so that health care can truly be accessible to all, rather than a privilege for those who can afford it. And we can do something about it! Watch for programs through the coming months, sponsored by the Social Justice Committee. Come and nurture both body and spirit!

Healthy Options

As we begin 2007, have you considered bringing a healthy option to share at a potluck - something low in fat or sugar or salt? When you bring snacks for an event at church, what about fruit instead of cookies? An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and we can help each other be more healthy simply by bringing healthy food to share when we come to church. After a season of too many cookies and sweets, a few fruits and veggies would be a good thing!

Watch for events and activities through the coming months which will help us all make lifestyle changes that can help us all to take charge of health and wholeness. Mind, body and spirit are all related!



Last Minute Addition

Womens Night Out: January 18, 2007, 6:00 p.m. at Thunder Bay Grill

EDWARDS CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Katherine A. Mulhern, Pastor

katherine@edwards-ucc.org

Rev. Jean Norton, Minister of Music

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Sue Harrington, Youth Minister

sue@edwards-ucc.org

Susan Chesley, Minister of Christian Education

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