



Edwards Editor

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January 2014

2013 Annual Meeting

When: Sunday, January 26th following worship

Where: Baxter Fellowship Hall

What: Potluck / Annual Meeting

Snowdate: Tuesday, January 28th at 6pm



Table of Contents

Ministerial Musings.....	2
Edwards Worship.....	3
Faith Formation	4
Council Highlights	5
Church Business.....	6
Stewardship.....	7
With Our People.....	8
Birthdays.....	8
Fellowship	9
This & That.....	10
Mission.....	10
Social Justice	10
Thank Yous.....	11
Who, What, When.....	12
Calendar	12

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Ministerial Musings

Hearing the Christmas story told seamlessly at Christmas Eve services and throughout the season distances us

from the angst and fear that both Mary and Joseph must have felt when they were visited by the angels. The days and weeks of travel to get to Bethlehem in the last month of pregnancy couldn't have been easy either (Kendra, do you want to ride a donkey for a few days?) And by most scholarly accounts, the wise men from the East didn't arrive until Jesus was about 2 years old. Then they left by a different route because of fear of Herod's anger and retaliation at not revealing Jesus' whereabouts. But we don't talk about that much; those things aren't lifted up in the story we tell and retell. The reason for retelling the story is not for historical accuracy, but to remember what God has done for us, that God came to earth and dwelt among us – Emmanuel. We remember that God came to earth in the form of a small, weak, vulnerable baby.

But I think it might be good to remember, from time to time, the hardship, angst, and fear that Mary, Joseph and others experienced and endured. The courage and strength that they found within themselves with God's spirit empowering them to be God's agents in the world. Otherwise we might wonder when we encounter hardship, angst and fear if we are doing something wrong or if we are misinterpreting God's call.

Making decisions about the directions of our lives, discerning God's voice and living as Jesus' disciples are not easy matters. Perhaps like the Christmas story, we have a tendency to share our epiphanies and stories of triumph, remembering successes and when all the pieces of the puzzle came together rather than all the hard work and perseverance that went into those stories. Some would call this hard work the cost of discipleship, for others its spiritual disciplines, but for all of us it's some kind of discernment, perseverance and commitment.

In January, the leadership of the church will gather on a Saturday morning to look at the calendar for 2014 and together we will work to discern where God is calling us. Of course, there will be coffee and food and we'll play a little as well as pray! And we will balance our visioning with the practicality of budgets, time and talent sheets, and the pledges that we have received from the congregation. *If you have not yet turned in a pledge or time and talent sheet, please contact the church office and we will send you the appropriate form for you to complete.* There is some hardship, angst and fear in this process, but as we move into 2014 (the year Edwards will celebrate its 175th year) I am sure that we too will find within the members and friends of our congregation, courage and strength with the help of God's spirit empowering us to be God's agents in the world. God has done great things for us, in us and through us. God is with us and will continue to do great things for us and in us and through us.

Peace to you, **Pastor Christine**

Edwards Worships...

January 5, 2014

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

January 12, 2014

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 19, 2014

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

January 26, 2014 ~ 174th Annual Meeting following worship

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

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

Christmas Prayer

Gracious God,
God of light,
God of life,
God of all that is

You come to us
in the darkness
of the night
and call us by name

Give us, we pray
the grace
to hear you -
the hope
to see you -
the love
needed
to mend
a broken world.

Help us
to be your
hands -
your
heart
your hope.

Be with us, we pray
with those
who suffer,
with those
who weep,
with those
dying
this night/day
and give us, we pray
your peace.
Amen.

<http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.com/2012/01/sunday-prayer-christmas-iholy-namenew.html>

Altar Flowers ~ Sign up on the weekly announcement sheet if you would like to provide Sunday altar flowers! You can also email kathy@edwards-ucc.org to reserve your date. Flowers are sometimes offered in memory of loved ones or in celebration of a special day or event. Providing flowers is also a nice way to surprise a member of the congregation by honoring them for their commitment to church work or for their outstanding volunteer work. Order flowers from the florist of your choice and have them delivered between 9am and Noon on the Friday before church.

Faith Formation News...

Children's Chapel

What is it? An alternative to Sunday morning worship for our children.

Who is it for? Kids, preschool through fifth grade, are welcome to participate. But no pressure, if your child prefers to sit with you in worship that is A-OK, too.

When does it start? It begins immediately following the Children's Story in worship. We pray and then dart off to the orange rug room for chapel.

What happens in there? As of last fall, we now split into two age groups. After a brief activity or lesson, preschoolers and kindergartners, with their teachers, go across the hall to the "Centers" classroom for age-appropriate play-based learning. Older kids, along with me and other volunteer leaders, then get an opportunity to study our theme at more depth with games, crafts, and reading exercises. We gather again at the end of chapel for music with our Children's Choir Director, Elaine Lippert.



**THERE WILL BE NO CHILDREN'S
CHAPEL ON JANUARY 5TH!**
See you January 12th
when our program resumes.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? - CE BOARD

This year, if you are looking for a new way to serve, consider joining the Christian Education Board! This will be an opportunity to help plan fun events, brainstorm new ideas, and join a team whose goal is to continue to provide quality faith formation programs, resources, and events at our church. And we have fun in the process! Contact Pastor Kendra if you are interested. We would love to have you on board.

TOUCHSTONES

On Wednesday, January 15th we will resume Simple Supper and TouchStones programming. TouchStones is our midweek program for children pre-K through 5th grade. We start with dinner, followed by children's choir, and then split into age groups for faith formation learning.

SOME OF THE WAYS WE GIVE...

Thank you, children, families and youth. In 2013 we were able to:

IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER – we gathered school supplies as a part of our fall TouchStones programming to give as a "Thanksgiving Basket" to our neighborhood school, Eisenhower Elementary.

IN NOVEMBER – we raised \$80 as a "Stewardship Project" to purchase a flock of chicks and a trio of rabbits through Heifer, International.

IN DECEMBER – because the holiday season is lonely and or sad for some, we made cards, ornaments and chrismons for our homebound members of the congregation.



Church Council Highlights...

Nelson Mandela was recognized during the opening prayer as the international leader he certainly was.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Christine thanked the congregation for their outreach to both the Jesse Evans family during their time of mourning and her own family during her installation. She also reminded the board chairs of the planning and leadership retreat on Saturday, January 18, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Treasurer's Report: Elisabeth Norwood reported that the budget for 2013 will probably be balanced as a result of using up the Trustees Reserve Fund and the Building Maintenance Fund. The Sharing the Vision capital fund giving is exactly where expected at this time.

New Business: There was a discussion on "Intellectual property" and how it concerns our recently retired pastor, music minister, and Christian Education minister. By council vote, a letter will be sent to all three specifying that they will be granted irrevocable and unlimited license to any and all materials written or otherwise created by them during their employment at Edwards. The letter will also state that Edwards Church waives any compensation that could result from use of their intellectual property. By voice vote the motion passed with thirteen yeas, two nays, and one abstention.

Board Reports: All boards explained their work in the coming months and presented proposed budgets for 2014.

Worship: There will be two worship services on Christmas Eve. The first will be at 5:00 pm and the second at 8:30 pm.

Personnel: The personnel board is preparing a Personnel Manual for all hired employees of the church. It will address things like job description, work and vacation times, and duties associated with a specific job.

Social Justice will initiate a new program called "Talk it up." There will be informal discussions after church during coffee hour on issues such as strengthening our democracy, wind power electricity, food choices, health care and gun violence.

The **Mission** board reported that Endowment donated \$1,000 for disaster relief in the Philippines.

The **Nominating** committee reported on their progress. Many positions have been filled, but there are still vacancies on some boards so if you have been overlooked, please contact either Shirley Johnson, Van Lewis, or Dick Jirus and tell them of your desires.



Church Business...

2013 Annual Reports Due January 2nd

The 174th Annual Meeting of Edwards UCC will be Sunday following worship on **January 26th** (snowdate – Tuesday, January 28th).

All Board and Committee Chairs and Edwards Staff – Please email your report to kathy@edwards-ucc.org by 9:00 am ~ Thursday, January 2nd.



Reimbursements

If you have any **2013 expenses** that will require reimbursement, they need to be turned into the church office **no later than Thursday, January 2, 2014.**

Leadership & Planning Retreat

Saturday, January 18th

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

“The primary purpose of every church committee is to discern God’s will for church life. This may seem like a lofty, theological-sounding goal, but it is this purpose that sets church committees apart from committees in non-religious settings. A company focus group or departmental team may not care about God’s desires, but the church exists to glorify and serve God, and therefore church committees must take into account god’s expectations for their work. If church groups neglect to consider God’s will, then they cease to operate as bodies of Christ, for to be bodies of Christ requires that churches acknowledge their dependence on Christ’s leadership by acknowledging the one who is their head. And how can we be led by Christ if we do not ask what God would have us do? Whether we are deacons planning for a Christmas Eve service or outreach committee members deciding how to spend our budget for this year, we need to ask ourselves, What would God want? Otherwise, we may just be putting on a good show or behaving generously without doing all within our means to testify to the full depth and power of God’s love.” (Attentive to God: Spirituality in the Church Committee, p. 7)

Calling all Board chairpersons from 2013 and all future chairpersons for 2014, all Council members, all Staff, everyone holding a leadership position in the church. We are gathering on **Saturday morning, Jan. 8th** to ask together, What would God want for Edwards UCC in 2014? We will discern together and build the church calendar for 2014; so bring your notes, your calendars, and your Board’s plans.

Events, Rehearsals, Meetings, etc.

If you are scheduling a meeting or rehearsal, planning a church event or would like to use church space, it is **necessary** to call, email, or stop by the church office to check the church calendar for room availability and to make a reservation. This makes for efficient room scheduling and prevents conflicts. Please contact Kathy Bowerman (563-359-0331 or kathy@edwards-ucc.org) to reserve your meeting time, location, and room set-up needs.

Church & Office Closings ~

When Bettendorf or Davenport Schools are closed due to weather conditions, the church & office are also closed.

If school events are cancelled on Wednesday evenings, there will be no church programming.

Not sure? Check the website for the most up-to-date information on cancellations.

Stewardship...

Stewardship Report

The reported results of the stewardship drive for 2014 have much for which to be thankful. Thirty-one of our pledging units have increased their pledges. The average pledge is now \$2,352, a 4% increase from 2013. There are 13 new additional pledging units for 2014. Great news...but there's still an opportunity to do more!

God calls the church to engage in ministry and to be stewards of all that we have been given. We give to support the programs, ministries and outreach that we believe God is calling us to. The congregation of Edwards is engaged in a wide range of activities in support of God's work—and all of those programs and ministries have a cost. We need congregational giving to be about \$15,000 higher to maintain our programs at the same level as 2013.

The stewardship campaign will continue until January, when we finalize the 2014 budget. Members and friends of Edwards UCC are asked to prayerfully consider their ongoing support of these ministries and programs with their time, talents and financial resources.

Financial Statistics through November

	<u>Actual</u>
Expense	\$252,528
Income	<u>240,225</u>
Loss	(12,303)

In January, the congregation approved a budget with deficit of \$8,085. Through November, expenses are running \$6,145 below budget, but congregational giving is \$14,879 below budget. November giving was affected by the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend falling in December, and December giving looks promising so far. We will be using some reserve funds and not making a sabbatical contribution to narrow the deficit. Please be as generous as you can in fulfilling pledges and making other donations so that Edwards can continue in the ministries to which we have been called.



With Our People...

Important Reminder about Sunday parking

Please park in the back lot unless you are truly in need of the shorter walk. Some of our disabled folks are having to park out back lately because the front parking is full. Thank you for your consideration and kindness!!

PARKING LOT REMINDER



Because of privacy concerns related to information available on the internet, Edwards has chosen to remove the names of those for whom we are praying from our on-line newsletter.

We lift in joy those moments of celebration in our lives – anniversaries, births, and marriages. We continue to pray for those in the hospital, those who are home-bound, and those who battle illness. We lift up those who grieve the loss of a loved one and remember those who carry heavy burdens. We trust that as we lift one another in prayer, God's presence brings strength, hope and wholeness to us all. Amen.



In the Hospital?

Please let the church know if you are hospitalized, and want a visit from the Pastor, Caregiver Coordinator or the Caregivers! Changes at both hospital systems have meant that even though you may say what church you attend, we do not automatically get notified. Unless you notify us, we will not know! So, please, give us a call!

January Birthdays

3	George Gallaher	9	Tim Reier	23	Frank Hurtte
3	Sharon Hege	11	Nolan Stratton	24	Gilly Miller
3	Ella Scales	12	Pat Cresap	25	Shirley Wiele
6	Kerry Fear	13	Steve Knoche	27	Diane Anderson
6	Stephanie Kieffer	13	Britt McCoy	27	Kira Beitzel
6	Aidan Kyte	13	Molly Taft	28	Brady Weller
7	Fay McCarrel	15	Danny Henderson	29	Robert Norwood
8	Dao Molis	22	Robert Dean	31	Sam Olsen
8	Aidan McCormick	22	Ellie Van Howe		



Edwards Members and Friends You're Invited to a Baby Shower!!

The Christian Ed Board invites you to join us for a baby shower for Pastor Kendra and John Thompson and help celebrate this exciting time as they prepare for their new baby.

When: **Sunday, Jan 19th** following worship

Where: Baxter Fellowship Hall

They are registered at Amazon, Babies R Us and Target.

Fellowship Opportunities...

Women's Night Out

Keep your eyes on the Weekly Announcement sheet for details!!

Potluck Sunday ~ Moved to January 26th with Annual Meeting

Mark on your calendar!! Potluck Sunday will be on the 26th of January, with the Annual Meeting following.

Movable Feasts Begin in January

Movable Feasts will be starting in January 2014, and will run through March of 2014. Movable Feasts are monthly, informal social gatherings open to all friends and members of Edwards. The host family chooses the weekend and provides the main course. They contact the list of attendees with the date and time and a request for a dish to pass. These social gatherings are a great way to get to know other people from the church in a relaxing environment.

All are welcome to participate. You do not have to be a member and you do not have to host. A desire for fun and fellowship is the only requirement.

Please sign up on the tear-off sheet in Sunday's bulletin, indicating if you would like to host and/or participate. (Indicate which month you would be able to host and how many guests you can accommodate at your home - if you would like to be a guest - or if you can do both.) You can also email Chris Kenneke at kenneke2003@yahoo.com to sign up.

Membership Coordinator, Geri Dulaney, has a list of responsible young adults from the congregation if you are in need of a sitter for the evening.

If you have any questions please contact any member of the membership board.

Welcome New Members...

Our church family continues to grow. Clair and Libby Weiss united with Edwards Sunday, December 8. Before settling in the Midwest to be near a daughter and grandchildren, they have lived on the East and West coasts. Both Clair and Libby have been very active in community organizations and in the churches they have been members, most recently the First Congregational UCC Church of Bellingham, Washington. (Trustees, Stewardship, taught Sunday School, tutors, finances)

Libby grew up in Columbus, Ohio and graduated from The Ohio State University with a BS in Home Economics. She was a stay-at-home mom and did volunteer work with the Girl Scouts and a family business. Clair grew up in Holmes Co., Ohio and graduated from The Ohio State University with a BS and MS in mechanical engineering. He was with the US Army for 2 years and served 31 years as a civil servant in West Virginia and Virginia, retiring in 1988.

Clair and Libby reside at 5714 Castlewood Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722. Phone: 563-332-7658
E-mail: esweiss57@gmail.com or clairweiss57@gmail.com

Sponsors: Richard & Martha Jirus

Libby and Clair, welcome to Edwards. We are blessed to have you join our family.

~ Membership Board



This and That...



Please remember... the front parking lot is for PROXIMITY parking on Sundays and Wednesday evenings.

We have labeled two spaces “officially” handicapped, but we have left the others “unofficial.” This is so that folks who need “proximity parking” but who are not “officially” handicapped can also use the lot. That might include families with small children or folks who are temporarily experiencing difficulty walking. **Please use the front parking lot during weekday office hours though, as we keep all the doors locked except the front for building security!**

Mission...

We may sometimes wonder if the announcements in church are important. Recently the Mission Board informed the congregation about the website address for donations to the UCC relief effort for the Philippines. After the service, we learned from a member of the Endowment Fund committee that funds were available for such emergencies. Following a request from the Mission Board, a donation of \$1000 from the Endowment Fund was approved. This is an excellent example of Edward's active mission program which supports both local and world-wide efforts.

Quad Cities CROP Hunger Walk

Despite chilly, overcast weather, the 42nd annual 2013 Quad Cities CROP Hunger Walk was another successful walk. We had 563 walkers representing 45 faith groups and other organizations who have raised, to date, just under \$40,000. I'm certain more will be coming in and we'll remain in the top 10% of the walks nationwide. As most of you know, all money collected goes to help hunger programs locally and globally.

The walkers were let at the start by Fred Siebenmann, who at 85 years old was participating in his 40th CROP Walk. Lojo Russo provided wonderful music during the registration time and set a good beat for the walkers to begin their journey. Rev. Randall Surey provided the invocation and local disc jockey Dani Lynn Howe congratulated and encouraged the walkers.

Before we head off to walk the 43rd annual CROP Hunger Walk, we are looking at adding a Facebook page (with lots of pictures), adding another bathroom stop to the walk (yay!), and promoting Walk on the Web even more. Watch for other changes, too. Questions can be directed to me at qccrophungerwalk@gmail.com.

Many thanks to all of you for your support and contributions to another successful Quad Cities CROP Hunger Walk. Wishing you all the happiest of holidays. **Rick Martin**, QC CROP Hunger Walk Committee (reprinted from Churches United December Newsletter)

Social Justice...

Heath Insurance Reform Information

For information on the Affordable Health Care Act, visit enrollqc.com and click on the “Enrollment Events” tab or www.RICHD.org. Or call 563-421-ENRL (3675). Both websites have a calendar of where and when a professionally trained health insurance navigator/in-person counselor will assist you in finding the best options. RICHD (Rock Island County Health Department) website also lists the documentation that you will need.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !!

Thank you to **Ray and Mike Ball-Trevor** for coordinating the Thanksgiving Baskets and to all the folks who assisted him: **Anita & Annette Dietz, Donuts & Hammers guys, Fran Wolfe** and the **Confirmation kids**.

Many thanks to the many persons involved in the planning, set-up, participation, gifts, donations, cleanup, words of support, and attendance at the Edwards Congregational UCC Installation Service for Christine last month! In particular we thank Ray and Mike Ball-Trevor, Anita and Annette Dietz, Sandy Doran, John and Nikki Keraus, Deena Miller, Woody Perkins, Fran Wolfe, and an anonymous donor for financially supporting the costs of the Installation Service, flowers, pastor gifts, and the fine reception cake, mints, and flowers.



A Note of Thanks...

Thanks to all who made the 2013 Christmas Pageant a success! I especially thank **Cathy Wetzel** for all her help with the children on Wednesday nights, **Elaine Lippert** as she directed the Children's Choir, **Kathy Lafrenz** for practicing, practicing, practicing with our liturgical dancers in preparation for our big event. Special thanks to the **CE Board** for "hosting" our Pizza Party for the Dress Rehearsal. I also appreciate the piano support of **Nikki Keraus** and **Norma Wren** at all our practices. **Lyle Stratton**, thank you for running sound on the night of our dress rehearsal. **Parents, Chancel Choir, Pastor Christine, Children, Youth, & Confirmation Students** – THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU! It takes a village, doesn't it?

Thanks to all who participated in the Green Grass Toy Drive for the children on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation! Thirty-nine gifts were sent along with \$100.00 in cash donations. The Toy Drive was especially important this year for that community in the midst of its many challenges of poverty, unemployment, and poor health. **Lyle Stratton**

THANK YOU EDWARDS UCC!

Thank you so much for a wonderful Service of Installation! Thank you for calling me to be your pastor and teacher, for your attendance and participation, for your support and for entering into ministry with me! **Pastor Christine**

Thanks so much for allowing us to have our marriage ceremony at your church. We appreciate your openness to and affirmation of us. **Kathy & Marion**

We would like to thank you and the donors of Edwards UCC for the blood drive you recently held with Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. Your group provided 31 donations for local hospitals served by MVRBC. Because each whole blood donation can be processed into multiple blood components, your blood drive provided at least 93 products for patients in need.

With the support of blood drive host organizations like yours, we provide lifesaving products to hospitals throughout our region. I hope you found hosting a mobile blood drive was a rewarding experience. Please express my appreciation to your organization's Blood Drive Coordinator and to those who gave blood at your event, and thank you for joining in our mission to help save lives! Sincerely, **Amanda Hess**, Director, Donor Relations

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

	January 5	January 12 Potluck	January 19	January 26 Annual Meeting
Preacher	Kendra Thompson	Christine Isham	Christine Isham	Christine Isham
Chancel Set-up	Judy Stouffer John Thompson	Dick Dulaney	John Keraus	Sandy Doran
Flowers			Kathy & Dick Lafrenz	
Scripture Reader	Chuck Collins	Lisa Hixon	Anne-Marie Gephart	Tim Huey
Communion Servers	Ray Ball-Trevor, Curly Curl, Darrell Hillyer, Dee Hillyer, Kathy Lafrenz			
Special Music	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir	Alleluia Ringers	Promised Land
Ushers	Ray Ball-Trevor Curly Curl Darrell Hillyer Dee Hillyer	Brad Hixon Tom Kenneke Sandy Reinders Margaret Wilber	Angela Elliott Joyce Paustian Terry Schlabach Dick Vallandingham	Anne-Marie Gephart Pat Sterk Steve Wildemuth Fran Wolfe
Greeters	Ruth Bowers Beverly Simpson Sandy Sohr Pat Sterk	Dorothy Hammond Joel Sullivan Wendy Shaw-Sullivan Fran Wolfe	Bill Coker Lisa Hixon John McDowell Terry Schlabach	Curly Curl Sue Curl Margaret Wilber Sharon Wildemuth
Coffee Hour				
Lock-up	Milo Smith	Steve Wildemuth	Vince Holdridge	
Snow Removal	Richard Jirus	Dick Dulaney	John Harnung	Robert Riedesel
CareGivers On Call	Sandy Reinders	Elaine Lippert Fran Wolfe	Carol Hart Kay Stiles	Dee Hillyer Lois Larew

**Where there are blanks, we may need your help!!
Please call the church office to sign up.**

Calendar...



For the most current up-to-date calendar information go to www.edwards-ucc.org and click on the calendar link

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