



# Edwards Editor

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 Published Monthly, Vol. 61 No. 11

## FEBRUARY 2014

Articles for next issue due by 9 am, Wed., 2/19/14  
 Submitted items are subject to editing.

### 2014 Youth Lock-In

This year's lock-in was a collaborative effort between Pastor Christine and myself as we pooled our creative efforts over cups of coffee at the Downtown Central Perk.

We decided that the theme would focus on Matthew 5:38-48 and also issues of nonviolent resistance. The youth worshiped around this text, did a scavenger hunt based on this text, watched a film (okay, it was Pixar's 1998 *A Bug's Life*, but still --) and also discussed cultural events like the civil rights movement in relation to this text.

Our youth also got to practice exegeting this biblical passage. After Christine unpacked some of the deeper layers of context and audience around this passage, one young person asked, "Is this what you do?" Meaning, is this what is involved in preparing a sermon. "Yes," Christine answered, and the youth seemed to light up. It was exciting for me to see youth engaging with and enjoying the Bible so much.

Our winter lock-in was quite a success. 14 youth participated; we had 5 adult sponsors to help throughout the weekend, and great parent involvement, too. One parent brought our pizza dinner on Friday night. Other parents sent snacks with their kids to share. Two parents showed up Saturday morning and served and cleaned up breakfast that our mentors had left with us for the weekend. Christine and I are both excited to see how this group of youth has bonded with one another and also feel comfortable inviting friends to events like these. Here's to many more fun and enriching youth events!

Pastra Kendra



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### YOUTH SUNDAY!

In some ways, our lock-in in January was in preparation for "Youth Sunday," which is coming up on March 2nd.

On Youth Sunday, youth of varying ages from confirmation on up will lead our service in all aspects of worship.

The text will be Matthew 5:38-48, a passage of scripture that we spent a lot of time on at our lock-in.

It has been awhile since the youth of our church have led worship. It will be exciting to hear from them how they interpret this complex passage, what music they will pick, how they will lead us in prayer, and how we will be challenged as Christian community to be the body of Christ.

I look forward to partnering with our youth once again in this worshipful experience. See you all on **March 2nd!**



## *Ministerial Musings...*

As I prepared my report for the 2014 Annual Meeting, I couldn't help but reflect on how much joy I have being your minister and being in ministry with you. It's a deep abiding joy that I feel and for that I thank you and I give thanks to God for bringing us together. Now, don't get me wrong, we aren't perfect – neither you – those gathered here as a congregation of faith here at Edwards - nor me. It has been some time ago that I gave up on notions of perfection. Striving for perfection always seemed to bring me grief, disappointment and migraines. I guarantee you there is no joy to be found in migraines. So no more striving for perfection (sorry Paul – the Apostle Paul, that is).

I experience joy, on the other hand, when I move in time with God's Spirit along life's journey, doing ministry, experiencing grace and engaging with others moving in rhythm with God's Spirit. When I look back at 2013 so much of it was a time of transition, moving into this wonderful new calling here at Edwards. It was about January 2013 that I was getting my ministerial papers in order to put them in circulation. Edwards Congregational UCC in Davenport, Iowa, wasn't even on my radar. But God's Spirit was at work in me, nudging, calling me to wonder what possibilities existed. At that same time the search committee at Edwards was beginning their work going through many profiles of ministers attracted to the opening here and discerning God's call for new ministerial leadership.

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*Make me to know your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths.*

*Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation, for you I wait all day long. Psalm 25*

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The interview with the Edwards search committee was like no other. To say we had chemistry makes it sound too much like a date, but God's Spirit was present in our conversation. The connection between the search committee and me went beyond the words that were spoken and resonated deeper on both sides of the phone. As we continued with a Skpye interview and then in-person interviews and neutral pulpit, the conversation deepened along with the sense of God's presence and blessing and the good fit we were one with the other – minister and congregation.

At the Candidating weekend in July, the congregation affirmed calling me to ministry at Edwards UCC – and celebrated! This is the beginning of our story together, the beginning of our ministry – seeking and following God's leading. Throughout my search process, my companion in discernment was Psalm 25. The search committee was intentional about their discernment as well and had appointed a chaplain within their group. At each meeting they took time to seek God's guidance, listen and discern God's voice. So it was, that through God's guidance we have come together for ministry.

It seems that the winds of the Spirit have been blowing with the same gusto as the winter winds this month. All the while, we have been working together to listen for God's guidance and follow in amazing ways: we had an synergistic Leadership Planning Retreat and began to look holistically at the calendar for 2014 with all the boards and committees; as our church secretary takes time off to care for her parents, numerous volunteers have stepped forward to fill that gap and work in the church office; when the Church Council brought a deficit budget to the Annual Meeting, all those gathered responded with positive, creative and compassionate discussion – moving in rhythm with God's spirit, engaging one another, inspiring one another to bring our gifts, skills and talents and even a larger percentage of our financial resources if need be, to follow God's call on this church.

Thanks be to God for calling us together in this time and in this place.

Peace, Christine

## Edwards Worships...

### February 2, 2014: Communion

Micah 6: 1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31; Matthew 5: 1-12

### February 9, 2014: Baptisms & New Member Sunday

Isaiah 58: 1-9a; Psalm 112: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12; Matthew 5: 13-20

### February 16, 2014

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20, Psalm 119: 1-8; 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9; Matthew 5: 21-37

### February 23, 2014

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 10-11, 16-23; Matthew 17: 1-9

### March 2, 2014: YOUTH SUNDAY & Communion

Exodus 24: 12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1: 16-24; Matthew 5: 38-48



### Coming in March ...

#### March 5: Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm

#### TAIZE SERVICES

Each Sunday morning during the season of Lent we will have an early morning meditative service at 8:30am in the style of TAIZE. A Taize worship service involves sung and spoken prayer, meditation, periods of silence, and Biblical readings. Using just a few words, [the chants] express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being.

Taize services will be held on March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 and 13. They will be held in the sanctuary from 8:30 to about 9:15am.

*"Taize is an ecumenical sung and silent participatory prayer service designed to achieve a contemplative state through music, song and silence."*

## Social Justice...

FEBRUARY 16: Jesse's Fair Trade Coffee Sales are the Third Sunday of each month.

The mission of the Social Justice Board is to educate. We would like to have a conversation about the issues of our world and "Talk It Up". Join us the first Sunday of the month after service in the Library. Sunday, February 2, 2014 the topic will be "Strengthening Our Democracy." We want to hear what you have to say. Judy Pavlak, Social Justice Board

#### 2014 ALL MY RELATIVES AWARD

In 2009 the board established the "ALL MY RELATIVES" annual award to be presented to an individual or group of individuals within our church community whose activities embody social justice mission. Each year the Social Justice Board solicits nominations from the congregation for this award.

At the Annual Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>, Judy Collins presented the 2014 ALL MY RELATIVES AWARD to **Kay Stiles**. Kay was almost speechless and deeply honored. The board is working on locating a place to hang the plaque.

#### Weekly Music Rehearsals

##### **Alleluia Ringers**

Bell Choir Director, Sandy Reinders  
Monday nights 6:30 pm

##### **Children's Choir**

Director, Elaine Lippert  
Wednesday nights 5:00 pm

##### **Chancel Choir**

Choir Director, Paul Renaud  
Wednesday nights 7:00 pm

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord!  
Newcomers Always Welcome**

## Faith Formation News...

### CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

*Children's Chapel is the alternative worship opportunity for children preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children leave the sanctuary with Pastor Kendra after the children's sermon and are invited to learn, play, and sing with Kendra and volunteers while the parents are in worship.*

*This is optional for families and provided in two classroom settings: the Orange Rug Room for Elementary students and the "Centers" Classroom across the hall from the Orange Rug Room in our Christian Education Wing for younger children.*

### Children's Chapel 2014

On these Sundays after the first of the year and leading up to Lent, we are spending some time getting to know "Famous Babies of the Bible" in Children's Chapel. So far, we have studied Isaac and Jacob. Here are the coming weeks – with a couple special Sundays thrown in – and some of the other Bible babies we will study and sing about:

**2/2 MOSES**

**2/9 SAMUEL**

**2/16 JOHN**

**\*On 2/23** we will take a break from our curriculum series to celebrate our GERBILS : Baby & Penguin. They've been with us since September of last year, it's time they JOINED THE CHURCH! You won't want to miss this celebration with our furry friends. ☺

### 3/2 YOUTH SUNDAY ~ NO CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children, please join the adults in worship to participate in Youth Sunday!

**3/9** is the FIRST Sunday in Lent and our LAST baby: **JESUS**. In preparation for this day, I will be asking parents to bring supplies for Winnie's Place – a local shelter for women and children – and to also email or send me a picture of your child as a baby. Both of these requests have to do with games we will play for our final "Famous Babies of the Bible" lesson!

### TOUCHSTONES

*TouchStones is our midweek program for children preschool through fifth grade.*

*Join us for dinner at 5:30 followed by music and Bible-based learning activities by age.*

*(Two classes: Pre-K – Kindergarten & 1st – 5th grade) For more information about these ministries, contact Kendra Thompson. [kendra@edwards-ucc.org](mailto:kendra@edwards-ucc.org) or (563) 359-0331.*



**2/5 NO TOUCHSTONES \*\* (Kendra Away)**

**2/12 BANNER: 'LU'**

*Continue with banner collage and with the next two letters: LU. Talk about praising God and being playful.*

**2/19 BANNER: 'IA'**

*Continue with banner collage and with the final letters: IA. Talk about praising God with exclamation and joy. YEAH! YA! JA!*

**2/26 BANNER: Bury It.**

*Now that we have contemplated all the letters and sounds of our banners, we will bury them! First we will preserve them in large plastic bags, sign our names to them, and then say a few words over the ALLELUIA before we bury these liturgical banners in the churchyard for the Liturgical season of Lent.*

## Confirmation News...

Thank you to all the Confirmation Students and all the Adults who helped for a great Lock-In January 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>! We had a great time!

We will continue to follow the same schedule as Touchstones in February (ie no class on 2/5). Our focus for February is getting to know the United Church of Christ and preparing to lead the church in worship on March 2, 2014, for YOUTH SUNDAY!

**Save the DATE:** July 10-13, 2014  
GREAT LAKES REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT  
Lakeland College, Sheboygan, MI



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014

Vacation Bible School will be offered June 9-13  
5:30 to 7:30pm ☞ Monday through Friday



"**Hildegard's Farm**" is the name of VBS this year and its theme is environmental stewardship. It was written by a UCC minister from Maine. The participants will learn how our good planet earth needs our care through Bible stories, outdoor ecology lessons, music, drama, and scrapbooking.

Planning is already underway and the following volunteer positions are available. Please let **Lisa Hixon** know if you can help. 563-343-5618 or [lghixon@gmail.com](mailto:lghixon@gmail.com).

**Song Leader** - The curriculum contains a music CD with original songs and a power point presentation, but you would be free to provide whatever music you choose.

**Scrapbooker** - The craft each day will be creating a keepsake of the week in the form of a scrapbook. This involves quite a bit of prep in putting the books together.

**Ecology Lesson Leader** - This position would best be filled with a naturalist,

conservationist, or someone with a background in biology or ecology.

**Set Designer** - The opening and closing skits call for 3 sets to be created, which enhance the story of 2 youth on a pilgrimage to find bald eagles.

**Registrar** - A detail oriented and organized person is needed to register the 30 or so expected kids.

## ***SOMETHING FOR ADULTS TOO...***

### **PARABLES STUDY GROUP**

**When?** Every Sunday in February, 9:00 - 9:50 am.

**Where?** By the fireplace in Baxter hall.

**Coffee?** YES.

Are you interested in what Jesus actually taught? Many of his teachings are in the form of parables (e.g. the sower; the prodigal son and many others) - these are as interesting and compelling as they are mysterious. Please join Miriam Prichard and John Thompson for a fun and informal discussion time before worship in February. Each session will include a creative retelling of one or two of Jesus' parables (Miriam), followed by the New Testament reading of the parables and a short interpretation (John). Beyond that we'll discuss these together to try to make sense of Jesus' teachings and apply them to life in the 'real world.' Note: no outside reading is required. Everyone is welcome to join each time (you don't have to commit to all four). Hope to see you there!

### **LENTEN DISCUSSIONS**

Each Wednesday evening during the season of Lent, join us in Baxter Fellowship Hall and travel around the world with Global Ministries. Catch a glimpse of our mission sites. See how threads of sharing and service connect. Sense deep needs wrapped in the fabric of critical presence. Choose to become a participant in the tapestry of partnership.

Join us in discovering the gifts of connecting with new friends around the world. See how we are making a difference in peoples' lives. Their stories of faith will lift your heart! These discussions will be facilitated by Jennifer Jordening and Pastor Christine. Soup Supper at 5:30, Discussion 6-7pm.

## ***Fellowship Opportunities...***

**Women's Night Out: Thursday, Feb. 20., 6pm at ???** If you have a suggestion for a location, let us know. Watch the bulletin for more details. All Women of the church are invited!

**Potluck Lunch~ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9.** Join us for a potluck meal following worship. Bring a dish to share as you are able. Come for great food and fellowship! Beverages and table service provided.

**MOVEABLE FEASTS:** Monthly, informal social gatherings open to all friends and members of Edwards. The host chooses the date and provides the main dish. They also contact the list of attendees with the date and time and a request for a dish to share. These social gatherings are a great way to get to know other people from church in a relaxing environment.

*Below are the groupings for FEBRUARY.*

Host: Van Lewis

Guests:

Katie Van Blair  
Chuck Collins  
Brad & Deena Miller  
Dick & Judy Pavlak  
Scott & Trisha Gehler  
Martha & Richard Jirus  
Mike & Ray Ball-Trevor  
Lee & Lisa Gaston  
Elaine & Merlyn Lippert  
Darrell & Dee Hillyer  
Dave & Sandy Reinders

Host: Bob & Marilyn Riedesel

Guests:

Julie Henke  
Mila & Milo Smith  
Caroline Evans  
Pat Cresap  
Ardis Kasper  
Lou & Norma Wren  
Christine Isham & Kristin  
Van Heyningen  
Sharon & Steve Wildemuth

Host: Kay Stiles

Guests:

Christine & Vince Holdridge  
Sara Verdick  
Jennifer Jordening  
Judy Collins  
Chris & Tom Kenneke  
Elizabeth & Sam Norwood  
Edith Egli

Host: Carol Hart

Guests:

Dick & Kathy LaFrenz	Miriam Prichard
Pat Baxter-Rebal	Heather Wren
Marty & Terry Schlabach	Ron Schumaker
John McDowell	

## ***Service Opportunities ...***

February 18: Community Kitchen  
1:30 Cook the meal at the church  
5:30 Serve the meal at the Salvation Army

February 23: Food Pantry Sunday

Wednesday Evenings: Packing Blessings in a Backpack Packs

Mentoring/Tutoring at Eisenhower Elementary School (on Jersey Ridge Rd)



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# Church Council

## Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ

Church Council Meeting

January 14, 2014

**PRESENT:** Judy Collins, John Keraus, Shirley Johnson, Bob Benson, Marilyn Riedesel, Deena Miller, Kathy Bowerman, Woody Perkins, Vince Holdridge, Elisabeth Norwood, Tim Huey, Dave Reinders, Rev. Christine Isham, Dick Jirus, Dick Dulaney

**OPENING:** Moderator Dick Jirus opened the meeting at 7:34 p.m.; Christine offered a participatory prayer.

**MINUTES:** The December Council minutes were approved by voice vote.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Reverend Christine Isham submitted a written report (*see attached*). She mentioned that there is new furniture near the fireplace in Baxter Hall, and additional furniture and a carpet is planned for that area. A Staff Development Retreat will be held February 21-22, and staff members will spend time at St. Mary's Monastery. All board members are asked to attend a Leadership Coffee at 9 am on February 1 in Baxter Hall.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Elisabeth Norwood) The budget deficit for 2013 was \$3700, considerably less than the \$8000 anticipated deficit. The deficit reduction was due in part to funds from Endowment, building reserve, Birdie's for Charity, Cookie Walk, April fundraiser, and other donations. The anticipated deficit for 2014 is \$21,000. OCWM payments for 2013 were made recently, and the cash flow is low. **It was moved and seconded that \$3700 in special funds for building maintenance be placed in the general fund to help with cash flow. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.** It was noted that no funds are being set aside for a building maintenance reserve. The total pledged to date for 2014 is \$221,000. A large amount of pledging for 2013 was not fulfilled. A letter to be sent by the Council to our members was proposed. The letter includes stewardship campaign status, accomplishments 2013, proposed 2014 budget preview, and opportunities 2014. **The letter invites members to "join us for conversation and discernment at our Annual Congregational meeting, Sunday, January 26". With some revisions, the letter was approved by unanimous voice vote.** It was noted that early payment of pledges can help with the cash flow problem. Also, deferment of spending by boards can be helpful. It was suggested that members could be asked to pledge for 13 months instead of 12 months, increasing pledging by more than 8%. More letters may be sent to members later regarding our finances

**NOMINATIONS:** (Shirley Johnson) A leadership list was provided to member of the Council, listing officers, staff, and board members for 2014. A task force will be needed to look at possible revisions in the By-Laws.

**SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP:** (Deena Miller) A retreat is planned for January 22. Potlucks are planned the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26 and for February 9.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** (Marilyn Riedesel) Kendra's due date is March 27. Lisa Hixon will coordinate Vacation Bible School this year. There will be a Youth Lock-In January 24-25. Christmas Eve services were discussed. A baby shower for Kendra will be after Sunday services on January 19; Annette and Anita Dietz will provide refreshments. Fabric squares will be available for members to sign, to be made into a quilt for Kendra.

**TRUSTEES:** (Vince Holdridge) Steve Wildemuth will serve as chair and Bob Riedesel as vice chair in 2014. A maintenance contract will be arranged with Ryan for our heating system. Schedules for snow removal and lock up have been prepared. The heating system in Baxter Hall needs to be repaired. Heating problems in the offices will be investigated. Additional lighting for the Chapel is being considered. Mid American Energy conducted and energy audit, and their recommendations will be reviewed. It will be necessary to find an auditor to audit the church finances. There was no audit last year, although an annual audit is required according to the By-Laws.

**WORSHIP:** (John Keraus) The Christmas Eve services were discussed. Youth Sunday will be February 23. Ash Wednesday will be March 5. Lent will be March 9 – April 20, and will include 8:30 a.m. Sunday services with 'Taize', but will not involve audio.

**PERSONNEL:** (Judy Collins) Work is being done on a personnel manual, and the staff will review it.

**MEMBERSHIP:** (Tim Huey) The past year was reviewed. A new photo directory was produced in 2013. Chris Kenneke is coordinating Moveable Feasts. A Newcomers Inquiry Class will be held in the Library at 3 pm on January 19. Pat Cresap will chair the board in 2014.

**MISSION:** (Bob Benson) The past year was reviewed. There were fewer people at the Salvation Army Meal Site in December, which is a common occurrence. Two board members have resigned. Terry Schlabach will join the board. Bob Benson and Caroline Evans will co-chair the board.

**MEDIA:** (Woody Perkins) Lyle Stratton will coordinate the audio system personnel. There will be no audio for the 8:30 am Lenten services. Volunteers are needed to operate the video equipment and the prepare power point slides. It was suggested that Brent Lafrenz might be contacted regarding the video equipment duties.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:** (Judy Collins) The All My Relatives Award will be announced at the Annual Meeting on January 26. A list of topics is being prepared. Possible discussion topics include how to strengthen our democracy, health care, and other issues. The discussions will be held in the Library on Sundays. John Thompson will be holding discussions of the Beatitudes with a theology group. .

**PASTOR-PARISH:** (Shirley Johnson) The Board will meet February 13 with Christine. .

**OLD BUSINESS - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:** (Woody Perkins) Issue now on hold.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Dulaney, Clerk

## 2014 ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

At the 2014 Annual Meeting the Congregation passed the 2014 budget with a \$21,000 deficit *after much discussion*. The discussion included ways in which to constructively address the deficit issue as those present expressed their enthusiasm for both current programs, missions and outreach ministries of Edwards as well as wonderful newly renovated and expanded building and our current staff.

As a result we have 2 new task forces set up to address this issue and a renewed commitment from all those present to reconsider their 2014 pledge and increase if possible. Immediately following the meeting, we received 18 pledge revisions and 2 new pledges for an increase of \$8,381. If you are able to increase your pledge for 2014, please notify Julie Henke either by email or by completing a new pledge card.

**Building Use Task Force:** Tim Huey, Tom Kenneke, Carol Ogletree, and Terry Schlabach (such as a day-care center, reception hall rental, etc.)

**Art and Craft sale:** Joyce Paustian, Marilyn Riedesel, Judy Collins, and Lois Larew

**Alternative Income Sources:** Terry Schlabach, Kristin Van Heyningen, Ray Ball-Trevor, Judy Pavlak and Kathy Lafrenz (Amazon smiles, fundraisers, etc.)

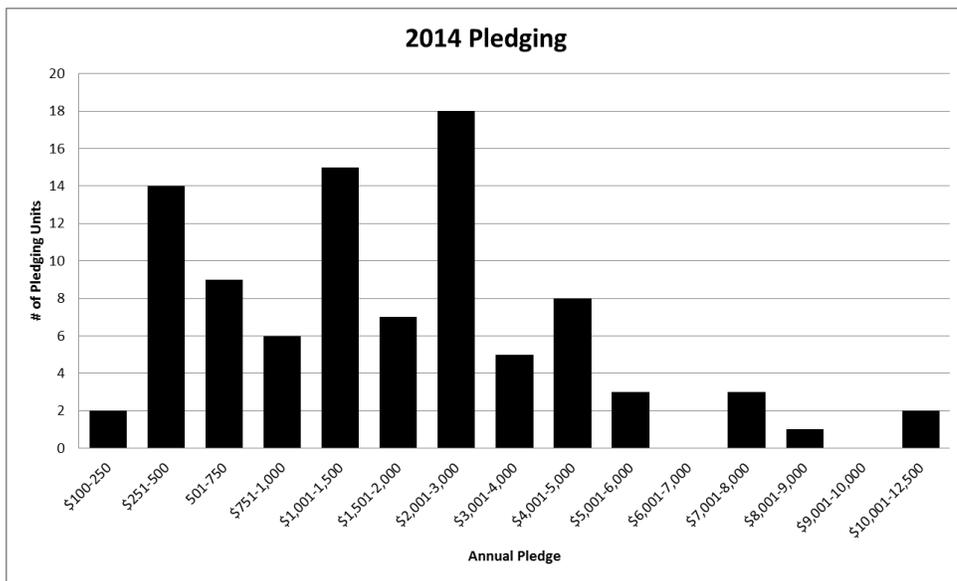
*If you have ideas, please pass them on to these task forces  
who will be meeting and generating ideas.*

### 2014 Dates to Make Note Of

On January 18<sup>th</sup> past and future Board chairpersons, staff and council members gathered to discern God's calling and begin planning for 2014. If you have been in Baxter Fellowship Hall you may have seen some calendars taped to the walls – some evidence of the work we did that morning. Here are a list of some of those dates, so that you might be able to get some of those dates on your calendar and make plans to join us in worship, fellowship service, growth and ministry as together, we respond to God's call on our lives individually and as a community.

Sundays in Lent: Taize Services @ 8:30  
March 29 Blood Drive  
April 12 Spring Clean-up Day  
May 3 Church Garage Sale  
June 9-13 Vacation Bible School  
June 28 Handbell Festival in Davenport  
July 27 Bix Weekend, Quad City Brass Quintet in  
worship  
Sundays in August Faith in Action

Sept 7 Homecoming Sunday and Edwards 175<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Celebration  
Oct 5 Crop Walk  
Oct 11-19 Back Bay Mission Trip  
Nov 1 Blood Drive  
Nov 9 Stewardship Fair  
Dec 7 Children's Program  
Dec 21 Christmas Cantata



At the 2014 Annual Meeting someone suggested it would be helpful to see the range of individual pledges that are made to Edwards and what the averages tend to be. Here is a chart that shows this breakdown. You can see how many pledges have been made at the different dollar amounts. Edwards relies on every gift – big and small – to continue the ministry we do together.

## With Our People...



**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!**

## Keep In Our Prayers

- \* Kathy Bowerman’s mother and father, Carolyn Willson & Hal Willson
- \* Kathy Bowerman as she cares for her parents
- \* Lisa Westbrook and Amber Whitfield, at home
- \* Diane Anderson
- \* Barb Bleedorn
- \* Bob Dean

- \* Sam Norwood
- \* Paul Petherick
- \* Louis Reicks
- \* Tim & Sandy Huey at the death of Tim’s nephew.
- \* The family of Kathryn Dean, who died on January 25, 2014.

**In Care Facilities:** Betty Collins, Rose Marie Edgerton, George Gallaher, Maureen Goulette, Carol Mahan, Fay McCarrel, Nelda Paustian, Frances Sanders, Joyce Swartz, Shirley Wiele, Bob Williams.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

## February Birthdays

- |                  |                       |                      |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Judy Collins   | 16 Maddox Sullivan    | 25 Carole Woods      |
| 2 Pat Sterk      | 17 Carol Mahan        | 25 Tammy Leamon      |
| 3 Ardis Kasper   | 19 Jeannine Miller    | 26 Marilyn Riedesel  |
| 9 Lisa Glessner  | 21 Jacque Lohmann     | 26 Crystal McCormick |
| 10 Ron Walters   | 22 Adam McCormick     | 27 Rick Sedgwick     |
| 12 Alex Sedgwick | 22 Taylor Schroeder   | 28 Beth Liefer       |
| 13 Judy Stouffer | 23 Judy Van Blaricome | 30 Vince Holdridge   |
|                  | 24 Glenn Baggerly     | 30 Keegan Smith      |

## JESSE EVANS KOTO MUSIC

Jeff Wichmann, who played and spoke at Jesse's memorial service, has also made one of Jesse's albums available at this web link:

<http://jeffwichmann.bandcamp.com/>

Downloads of the CD are free w/ a suggested \$10 donation to Quad Citians to Prevent Gun Violence. Thanks, again, Shirley

## Stewardship Message

### Stewards of Godly Language

*And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3:22b English Standard Version*

When I was coping with the sudden, severe onset of rheumatoid arthritis, a friend said, "God does everything for you that you can't do for yourself, and nothing that you can." Hmm... I wonder. Her words were neither comforting nor reassuring given my burning question, "Who am I, now?"

What God did do for me was to answer that question. "You are my beloved child." God assured me, "I know who you are and I am in this with you." That was all I needed to hear. I heard the echo of God's words spoken at Jesus' baptism. My pastor called this God's language of love.

Each one of us is God's beloved. In my year-round practice of generosity, I continually focus on how generous God has been... the beauty of creation, a circle of friends, a church community, the opportunity to serve, having enough, amazing grace, Christ. So, how generous are we called to be?

Generosity flows in many ways. What better way to honor God's love and affirmation than to speak God's language of love? To recall we're addressing another of God's beloved when we speak, and use Godly language? In the month of hearts and flowers (and chocolate!), may we practice God's language of love.

*A message by Doris Powell, author of Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship.*

*January/February 2014*

God is still speaking,

This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.



## **Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !!**

- ❖ Caroline Evans thanks all of the church members who prepared and served the fine luncheon after the memorial service for Jesse. The room looked so pretty, and it was so nice to have the flowers from Pastor Christine's installation.
- ❖ Thanks were received from many organizations that we, as a congregation, support, including:  
Café on Vine, Salvation Army of the Quad Cities, Winnie's Place, The Place 2 B, Central Community Circle Food Pantry, Churches United
- ❖ We received a gift and thank you from the book study that used our meeting room for their meetings of recovery and healing.
- ❖ Thanks to all who hung around on January 19th for my baby shower. It was a wonderful celebration and John and I were truly "showered with love" and so much generosity! (Seriously, you spoiled us rotten, Edwards!) Thank you so much. We look forward to raising our child among such a wonderful congregation.
- ❖ Thank you to everyone who has helped out in the church office while Kathy Boweman has been away! You are fantastic!

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

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Preaching	Christine Isham	Christine Isham	Christine Isham	Christine Isham
Chancel Set-up	Dick Dulaney Judy Stouffer	Judy Stouffer	Jennifer Jordening	
Altar Flowers			Dorothy Hammond, in memory of her husband	
Scripture Reader	Ray Ball-Trevor	Kristy Nabhan-Warren	John McDowell	
Communion Servers	Jay Kyte, Deena Miller, Kristy Nabhan-Warren, Marilyn Riedesel, (Ch) Dick Lafrenz			
Music	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
Ushers	Jay Kyte Deena Miller Kristy Nabhan-Warren Marilyn Riedesel	Erica Schroeder Gail McPike Tim Reier Angela Reier	Tom Kenneke Vince Holdridge Mila Smith Milo Smith	
Greeters	Marty Beck Jason Gephart Ardis Kasper Chris Kenneke	Mila Smith Milo Smith Sandy Sohr Kay Stiles	Edith Egli Jeannine Miller Angela Elliot Dick Vallandingham	Carol Bachellor Mary Beck Sandy Reinders Marilyn Riedesel
Coffee Hour	Sue & Curly Curl	Potluck	Brad & Deena Miller	Gehlers
Lock-up	Vince Holdridge	Angela Reier		Robert Riedesel
Mower- Trimmer				
CareGivers On Call	Fran Wolfe Kay Stiles	Dee Hillyer Carol Hart	Sandy Reinders Martha Jirus	Lois Larew Elaine Lippert

**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](http://www.edwards-ucc.org) and click on the calendar link.**

### EDWARDS CHURCH STAFF

<b>Rev. Dr. Christine Isham</b> , Senior Pastor	christine@edwards-ucc.org
<b>Rev. Kendra Thompson</b> , Minister of Faith Formation	kendra@edwards-ucc.org
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<b>Dr. Evangeline Lewis</b> , Moderator	elewis5354@aol.com

## FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> <b>10:15 AM</b> Worship <b>10:30 AM</b> Children's Chapel <b>11:30 AM</b> 174th Annual Meeting & Potluck	<b>27</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Diversity AA Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Alleluia Ringers	<b>28</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Al-Anon Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Snowdate for Annual Meeting	<b>29</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Children's Choir <b>5:30 PM</b> Simple Supper <b>6:00 PM</b> Confirmation <b>6:00 PM</b> TouchStones <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>30</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Al-Anon Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Diversity AA Meeting	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Parables Group <b>10:15 AM</b> Worship <b>10:30 AM</b> Children's Chapel <b>11:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>11:30 AM</b> Liturgical Dancers <b>11:30 AM</b> Promised Land Rehearsal <b>11:30 AM</b> TALK IT UP	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Women's Breakfast Group <b>6:00 PM</b> Diversity AA Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Alleluia Ringers	<b>4</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Donuts & Hammers <b>6:30 PM</b> Al-Anon Meeting	<b>5</b> No Touchstones or Confirmation <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>6</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> Worship Board Retreat <b>6:30 PM</b> 12-Step Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Al-Anon Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Diversity AA Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Leadership Coffee
<b>9</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Parables Group <b>10:15 AM</b> Worship <b>10:30 AM</b> Children's Chapel <b>11:30 AM</b> Liturgical Dancers <b>11:30 AM</b> Potluck <b>11:30 AM</b> Promised Land Rehearsal	<b>10</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Diversity AA Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Alleluia Ringers	<b>11</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Al-Anon Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Board Meetings <b>7:30 PM</b> Council Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Children's Choir <b>5:30 PM</b> Simple Supper <b>6:00 PM</b> Confirmation <b>6:00 PM</b> TouchStones <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> Pastor Parish Committee <b>6:30 PM</b> 12-Step Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Al-Anon Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Diversity AA Meeting	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Jesse's Fair Trade Coffee <b>9:00 AM</b> Parables Group <b>10:15 AM</b> Worship <b>10:30 AM</b> Children's Chapel <b>11:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>11:30 AM</b> Liturgical Dancers <b>11:30 AM</b> Promised Land Rehearsal	<b>17</b>  OFFICE CLOSED <b>6:00 PM</b> Diversity AA Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Alleluia Ringers	<b>18</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Donuts & Hammers <b>12:00 PM</b> CareGivers Meeting <b>1:30 PM</b> Community Kitchen food prep <b>5:20 PM</b> Serve at Salvation Army <b>6:30 PM</b> Al-Anon Meeting	<b>19</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> NEWSLETTER Deadline <b>5:00 PM</b> Children's Choir <b>5:30 PM</b> Simple Supper <b>6:00 PM</b> Confirmation <b>6:00 PM</b> TouchStones <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Women's Night Out <b>6:30 PM</b> 12-Step Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Al-Anon Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Diversity AA Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Staff Retreat	<b>22</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Staff Retreat <b>9:30 AM</b> Sanctuary Reserved <b>4:00 PM</b> Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved
<b>23</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Parables Group <b>10:15 AM</b> Worship <b>10:30 AM</b> Children's Chapel <b>11:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>11:30 AM</b> Liturgical Dancers <b>11:30 AM</b> Promised Land Rehearsal	<b>24</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Diversity AA Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Alleluia Ringers	<b>25</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Al-Anon Meeting	<b>26</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Children's Choir <b>5:30 PM</b> Simple Supper <b>6:00 PM</b> Confirmation <b>6:00 PM</b> TouchStones <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>27</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> 12-Step Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Al-Anon Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Diversity AA Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>