



# EDITOR

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**FEBRUARY 2018**

*In Christ we celebrate a living faith, as we worship, care for one another, and reach out to all.*

## **Church Office Hours**

**Monday - Friday**

10 am – Noon

## **EDWARDS LEADERSHIP STAFF**

**Rev. Becky David**

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## **What to do with Lent? Dig in.**

When we do things over and over, year after year, those things easily lose their power. They may even lose their meaning. While “because we’ve always done it that way” is a fine explanation for why we sing a closing benediction, it is not a very helpful approach to something as significant to the whole church as Lent. And yet the church, in all its variations, finds Lent to be significant enough to revisit every year in preparation for Easter. Why?

Lent is a roughly 40 day time period leading up to the Easter celebration. It is a time of repentance and renewal designed to get our hearts ready to welcome the mystery of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection - and ultimately our own. It is 40 days in length to remind us of Israel’s 40 years in the desert and Jesus’ own wilderness experience after his baptism (also 40 days). And the number 40 is a biblical symbol of God’s fullness. When we see the number 40 we know the time is right, just enough, a lot, even... but exactly the amount of time required. If we enter into the lenten season fully, it too will be the right amount of time for us.

Understanding the mystery of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection takes more like a lifetime of inquiry than simply 40 days. So we do it every year with great hopes that this year we will understand just a little bit more than last year. For forty days we are reminded of not only who Jesus is but who we are... what we are.... Dust. We are human; dust, earth and ashes. We are reminded not to send us on some shame spiral. We are reminded to offset our theological amnesia. Because we forget that there is a God and we are not it. We fall short of what Jesus and the reign he preached require of us. We refuse God’s extravagant love for ourselves and we refuse to offer it to others.

So let’s get honest about ourselves and all the ways we surround ourselves in death so that on Easter morning we can feel what it really means to rise up. Lent may feel like some left over, inconvenient and irrelevant season of the church year - an archeological artifact perhaps. If that’s the case then, let’s dig in. There is a treasure in here waiting for us.

*~ Pastor Becky David*

## **Fellowship Opportunities**

### **FOOD PANTRY – RIVER BEND AREA FOOD BANK**

The River Bend Area Food Bank is in the process of opening satellite areas in the schools throughout the Quad Cities. North High School is one of those. The guidance counsellor there reached out to Kay Anthony to see if our church would be interested in providing volunteers in their location. Marilyn Riedesel went to an initial meeting with NHS counsellor and food bank representative. During the meeting it was clear that it would be set up very similar to the food pantry at Back Bay Mission. It was at that point the realization that what we learned at BBM was to be shared in our own community. Projected start time would be mid February. The counsellor at NHS will identify families or students in need. The pantry would be open probably twice a month. Volunteer time would be about 3 hours per month. The Food Bank provides the shelving, refrigerator, and freezer. Marilyn has accepted the position to order food, receive and stock shelves and set up volunteers to distribute the food, working with the counsellor. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in this program you can talk to Marilyn Riedesel.

**DONUTS & HAMMERS** Every other Tuesday at 8:30 am in Baxter Hall. Dates are; **February 13 & 27**. Please join us!

### **WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT – Feb. 15**

All ladies from Edwards are welcome for an evening of food, friendship and a laugh or two. This month we will meet on February 15, at 6:00 pm at the Red Lantern, 4009 E. 53<sup>rd</sup> St. , Davenport. Please join us!

### **POST-VALENTINE FAMILY DATE NIGHT! –Monday, Feb. 19 - 5pm - 9pm**

**Where:** Pizza Ranch – 880 Lincoln Road in Bettendorf, (Located near the Burlington Coat Factory).

**Why:** 100% of the tips and a percentage of the sales that night will help offset the cost of Back Bay Mission Trip - to keep the fees affordable for all. As an added benefit – you will be served by friendly faces of some of your Edwards Family!

## **Thank you! Thank you!**

Thank you for the cards, phone calls and prayers during this time of struggle and adjustment to the loss of hearing in my left ear, called “Sudden Onset Hearing Loss”. At lunch, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, I could hear just fine; completely gone in my left ear by supper time that day. Tests, treatments and appointments have been non-stop; but so has your loving support and prayers during this frustrating and difficult time. I appreciate being in the Edwards Family. – *Sharon Wildemuth*

### **MOVEABLE FEASTS –**

There will be Feasts in February and March of this year. Movable feasts (potlucks) 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, 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 and you do not have to be a member or, you do not have to host to participate. If you are interested, please contact Chris Kenneke at 563-355-5273 or, Sandy Reinders at 563-940-1809.

## **Celebrating February Birthdays – Enjoy your day!**

2/1-Judy Collins; 2/2-Pat Sterk; 2/3-Ardis Kasper; 2/6-Michael Hart;  
2/7-Mary Coker; 2/9-Lisa Glessner; 2/10-Ron Walters; 2/13-Judy Stouffer; 2/16-Amber Beitzel,  
Maddox Sullivan; 2/17-Carol Hart; 2/19-Jeannine Miller, Caralyn Blackwell, Zachary Blackwell;  
2/21-Jacque Lohmann; 2/22-Taylor Schroeder, Elliot Knudson; 2/24-Glen Baggerly; 2/25-Carole  
Woods, Tammy Leamon; 2/26-Marilyn Riedsel; 2/28-Beth Liefer. **Happy Birthday!**

## **Please Keep In Your Prayers:**

Due to privacy issues we no long publish names on the website version. Please contact Brian Dugan with any questions or concerns. If you are hospitalized and would like a visit from an Edwards caregiver, please let Brian Dugan, our Caregiver Coordinator know, at 563-275-8520. Due to hospital privacy rules and hospital staffing shortages, we don't always hear from the hospitals in a timely manner. Thanks

If you are hospitalized and would like a visit from a Pastor or an Edwards UCC caregiver, please let Brian Dugan, our Caregiver Coordinator know, at 563-275-8520. Due to hospital privacy rules and hospital staffing shortages, we don't always hear from the hospitals in a timely manner. Thanks.

## **Mission & Learning Opportunities:**

### **TRANSITION TEAM TIDBITS**

The Transition Team invites you to our first *Congregational Conversation* of the interim time. Join us during coffee hour on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> as we begin to discuss the New Adventure in front of us. The adventure won't be the same without you so please mark your calendar! We will be keeping in touch with you by placing updates in the worship bulletin and/or the Edwards EDITOR monthly. Feel free to contact the Team at any time.

**Your Transition Team:** Paul Petherick, Brian Foy, Carol Ogletree, Mandy Harvey, Geri Dulaney, Pastor Becky David

### **BACK BAY MISSION FUND RAISER – Pizza! Pizza! Pizza!**

**Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 9 pm.** Perfect time for that Post-Valentine Family date night!

**Where: Pizza Ranch** – 880 Lincoln Road, Bettendorf (Located Near the Burlington Coat Factory)

**Why:** 100% of the tips and a percentage of the sales that night will help offset the cost of Back Bay Mission Trip - to keep the fees affordable for all. As an added benefit – you will be served by friendly faces of some of your Edwards Family!

### **WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP**

*“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” ~ Galatians 6:2*

When we say to one another, “I’m praying for you,” it’s important to be true to our word! So at Edwards we are taking it seriously, gathering every Wednesday to pray. Dates and times for prayer will be; **2/7 - 9 am; 2/14 - 9 am; (because of Ash Wednesday service), 2/21 – 5 pm and 2/28 – 9 am.** The primary goal will be to lift up the prayers that are received every Sunday in worship. But it will also be a time to share our lives with one another and hold each other in prayer. Talk to Brian Dugan, Lyle Stratton or Pastor Kendra Thompson if you are interested.

## STORIES OF FAITH - FEBRUARY 7

Wednesday, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Faith Formation is embarking on a new project. We are calling it "Stories of Faith," and we are looking to pair up our children and youth with elders in the church to interview, record, and write their stories. The completed stories will then be printed and published for the individuals who participate and for our library archives.

While we've already begun to explore this project, the real kick off is **Wednesday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:00pm** when we will host an Open House for these relationships to form across the generations. It should be a fun night of festive foods, board games and conversations. Everyone is invited to participate that night, just RSVP to Pastor Kendra beforehand so we can provide enough food.

January 4, 2018

*Dear Pastor David -*

As we embark on our seventh year of serving those in need of food assistance at our present location, we are truly blessed to have the support of Edwards United Church of Christ. Your monetary donations in 2017 have enabled us to assist over 2,700 visitors to our pantry. Of those visitors, over 1,000 were children. These donations allow us to offer personal hygiene products, such as laundry detergent, bath soap, dish soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, and feminine hygiene. None of these items can be purchased with food stamps. These items allow our visitors to regain personal dignity. We stretch every dollar to its fullest potential. Thank goodness for the River Bend Foodbank, Sam's Club, Dollar Tree, and becoming acquainted with the meat department manager at Fareway! We give thanks to Churches United of the Quad Cities as they designed our pantry to receive leftover pastry items from Starbucks. This past year we began providing a hot meal in to-go containers during Wednesday night pantry hours.

We have also been able to provide food and hygiene items to the Bettendorf High School and Edison Academy for students in need.

We are lucky enough to have a supply of socks, hats, and gloves during the cold months. We have taken donations of winter items - clothing and blankets - and distributed those to folks in need.

As the pantry coordinator, I am truly blessed because I have never had to beg for volunteers to share in this mission. From teenagers working off real community service hours to boy scout and girl scout troops, church members doing foodbank pick up, other church members making milk and bread deliveries, and my own family members picking up items that stock the pantry shelves, all of us are truly just another family.

Even though the year begins with looking in the rearview mirror and seeing what we have accomplished, we are excited when we look through the windshield and see all that is yet to come! Thank you for coming along on our journey.

Best regards!

*Caroline J. Hicks*  
Caroline J. Hicks  
Coordinator  
St. James Lutheran Church Food Pantry

*Thank you  
so much!*