



Edwards Editor

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July 2006

THANK YOU!

Fifteen years ago, when I was ordained to the ministry, God took me by the hand and showed me a path to walk. Parish ministry is filled with ordinary moments that are pregnant with the possibility of holiness. There are meetings upon meetings, there is always a sermon to write, there are those simple conversations with one person or another, there are weddings and baptisms and funerals. For all of that, a wise mentor once told me that the real ministry comes in the interruptions.

On June 10th, you ...and a whole bunch of my friendsand Godinterrupted me! I thought I was having a routine weekend, and you set about showing me that God Is Still Speaking! And not only that, you had been planning this surprise for a long time! You showed me so many things that weekend. But perhaps the most important thing you taught me was that I do not walk alone on this path that God has given me.

Together, we help each other keep the faith. Together, we listen for God's whisper of love. Together, we speak the ancient words of justice and walk the path of peace. Together, we soothe the pain and the suffering that lies deep within our souls and within the soul of the world. Together, we invite others to join us on the journey.

Thank you for interrupting me! Thank you for showing me the face of God's love and for reminding me that the ministry we share is the most awesome, humbling work in the world. Thank you for helping me to remember who I am and who I am called to become. It was the best 15th Ordination Anniversary surprise I could imagine! You are a blessing - each of you individually and all of you together! I am privileged to serve Jesus with you in this place we call Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ.

~Katherine

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From Our Pastor s Desk....

In Iowa, June is one of the prettiest months, I think. The weather is warm, the rains are plentiful, the fields and trees are a wonderful deep shade of green. Every morning, as I drive to work, I am awed by the beauty of Gods creation.

Recently, I have been pondering the contrast between how peaceful and lovely life is here with how sharp and jagged life is for those who live and work in Iraq. Every night, as I watch the evening news, my heart breaks with people who are mourning their loved ones who have died, or tending to their friends who are injured. Half-way across the world, there is no peace. And because there is no peace there, there is no peace here. Whatever we think of the war or how we got into it... today - in our homes - there is no peace. We suffer because they suffer.

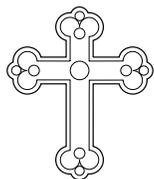
Jesus reminds us all that to whom much is given, much is also demanded. He asks us to walk through this life with compassion - not just for the struggles we know and understand here - but also for the people half-way around the world in Iraq and Darfur and Israel and Palestine whose names we will never know. They are our brothers and our sisters. Whether they are friends or enemies, their reality is a part of our reality. The beauty of our surroundings is marred by the ugliness of theirs.

It is not easy to walk with compassion in this world. There is so much suffering. It is even harder to walk with compassion for people who do hateful and violent things. It is much easier to keep our head down and our eyes averted and stay focused on keeping our own lives together. We dont read the paper, because the news is so bad. We avoid our neighbor, because we dont know what to say to the parents whose child was just diagnosed with cancer.

Compassion calls us to a new way of life where our struggles are only as important as our neighbors (not more). Compassion challenges us to work for peace and justice, to share our abundance generously, and to extend hospitality to the stranger.

Jesus also invites us to do one more thing. He invites us to pray - for our neighbors, our friends, and our enemies. A simple prayer - offered for the people we see on television who are burying their dead in Iraq. A simple prayer - offered for the families of soldiers killed in the Middle East who are named in the paper each day. A simple prayer as we drive by our neighbors house. A simple prayer that connects us in compassion to others. It may have the power to change our lives or reshape the world toward Gods vision of hope and wholeness for all people. Life is good. May it be so for all people.

Scripture in July

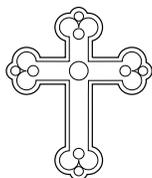


July 2:

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

July 9:

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Cor 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

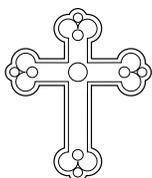


July 16:

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12-19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 23:

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56



July 30:

2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

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

Contemporary Worship

Contemporary worship continues through the summer with once a month services at 5:30, and a potluck following the service. This month's contemporary service will be on July 16th! Come! Let the Friends in Faith band lift your spirits! It is a Spirit-filled time of faith and it's a great way to end your weekend and begin your week!

Youth Service

On July 23rd, we will commission the youth and adults who will be going to Emmaus Homes in Marthasville, Missouri for a week of service work. They will be leaving right after church! We would like to pair each youth and advisor with at least one prayer partner for the week that they are working, who will commit to praying for their partner every day for the week of July 23-29. If you would like to sign up to be a prayer partner, please let the office know. We will pair you with one of the youth (or advisors) who is going on the trip.

On July 30th, when the youth have returned from their mission work, they will lead the morning worship service. This is always a wonderful opportunity to hear the stories of the week, and to see how God is working in our youth to grow their faith and strengthen lives. Edwards does an amazing job of equipping our youth to be Christ's servants in the world. Come and see it first-hand!

Music, Music, Music.....

Special Summer Music!

Be on the look out for different styles of music each Sunday. SPECIAL MUSIC will be offered each week, as various members of our congregation, young and old, offer praise to God. Be sure and let people know after the service if what they offered led you to deeper and more meaningful worship because of the music they offer!

Special Music for July

July 2	Henry McCarrel, bass solo
July 9	Bonnie Walling, piano
July 16	Mary Beth Dircks and Brad Miller, piano duet Norma Wren, organist
July 23	Suzanne Benson, violin
July 30	Max Molleston, solo

Your Are Invited

Want to sing Sweet Honey . African American music with very tight harmony, sung usually by women with a focus on spirituality and social activism. Talk to Jean Norton for a new special music opportunity!

Promised Land CD Ready

The CDs of Promised Lands Concert for the Carpet are ready and on sale in the church narthex each week! The concert itself raised almost \$2000 toward much-needed new carpeting, and the proceeds from the CDs will also go toward that project. There is no set price - we pay \$2 per CD for the manufacturing cost and the rest goes to carpet! We ran out of the first printing, and have a waiting list for the next batch!

Heartsong CD Is Released!!!

At the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ, Mona Terry and Jean Norton, now offering music and retreats together with Edwards own HeartSong: A Ministry of Music & Spirituality, released their new CD. A Path Seeking Harmony contains original music composed or used in the HeartSong retreats of that same name. Harp and native American Cedar Flute solos, duets of Harp and alto recorder, spiced with penny whistle, djembe drum and all kinds of percussion and vocals, the CD offers some time away to journey home to the Divine Spirit and the stillness of letting go. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Iowa Conference, United Church of Christ. Watch for it soon at the Edwards Café.

Keep in Your Prayers

Donna DeMuynck, beginning chemotherapy again.

Paul Vordtriede, continuing chemotherapy

Roger Robinson and Alice Aronson-Robinson, married at Edwards on June 17th

Chad Gray and Kim Hein-Gray, married at Edwards on June 24th

Lou Wren, recovering slowly from foot surgery

All those who are traveling on vacation.

Our homebound members and friends:
Gen Bainter, Nancy Bolyard, Leona Davis, Laurel Ogden and Lynn Warren.

Women's Day & Night Out

Women's Night Out - Thursday, July 20, 6:00 p.m., Kernans, Princeton, IA

Women's Day Out - Thursday, July 27, 8:30 a.m., Mystery Outing to be chosen

Wanted: Youth Director

Would you be interested in a half-time position, working with great youth, as part of a great staff? Do you know someone who might be interested? Contact Katherine or the church office with any questions or to apply for the job!

Attention All Men!

There has been discussion recently about re-starting a mens group at Edwards this fall. We are hoping to have many generations represented in the group, so no matter what your age, if you are interested in being involved in developing a new mens group please see Dick Dulaney, Brian Dugan, Lyle Stratton, Dick Werner, or Joe Hall. Be on the ground floor for the group's development to determine our purpose, activities, and meeting times.

You Are Invited

The Wedding of
Corey Ramsey and Kathy Vance.
Saturday, July 8, 2006, 3:30
p.m. at United Methodist Church
in DeWitt, IA.

A small reception after the
ceremony will be at the church.

Directions: Off Hwy 61, take exit
311B. Head into town on that
street (old Hwy 30) to 1.7 miles
and turn left onto 3rd Ave.
One block and theres the church.

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

	July 2	July 9 Communion	July 16	July 23	July 30
Preacher	Rev, Greg Moore	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern
Greeters	Carolyn & Ron Walters	Ryan Dye Katy Strzeppek Ruth Bowers Kay Stiles	Cathy & Amanda Loughhead Joyce Swartz Ardis Kasper	Vonnie & Jack King Mila & Milo Smith	Sharon Wildemuth Sandy Sohr Bill Kelly
Guest Guides	We Need YOU!!	Sharon Wildemuth	We Need YOU!	We Need You!	We Need You!
Ushers	Judy Collins Steve Knoche Dave Wymore Barb Bleedorn	Curly Curl Steve Hukvari Pat Rosburg Steve wildemuth	Sally Egy Bonnie & Ned Walling Margaret Wilber	Steve Knoche Eric Crawford Pat Sterk	Tim Mandell Barb Bleedorn Dave Wymore Margaret Wilber
Nursery 10:15 a.m.	Sarah & Emily Kenneke	Mary Hein	Cathie Miller	Deanna Thomas	Teresa & Melissa King
Caregivers on Call					
Coffee Hour Hosts	We Need You!	We Need You!	We Need You!	We Need You!	We Need You!
Scripture Reader	Suzanne Benson	Dick Werner	Steve Chesley	Bill Coker	Dick Dulaney
Communion Servers -	Jennifer Jordening, Steve Wildemuth, Curly Curl, Steve Hukvari				
Chancel Set-Up	Pat Rosburg	Dick Dulaney		Tracy Miller	Sarah Kenneke
Sound System	Dave VanDerKamp				
Lock-Up Trustee	Milo Smith	Michael Fessler	Clyde Durrah	Michael Fessler	Milo Smith

Where blanks appear, we need your HELP!!! Please call the church office, 359-0331 to sign-up. Thank you !! If you are not able to fulfill your assignment, please call a replacement or call the church office, 359-0331, ext. 10. Thank you.

July Birthdays

2 - Joyce Paustian
3 - Mike Fleener
5 - Chris Kenneke
5 - Clyde Durrah
6 - John Kennefick Jr.
6 - Zachary Tinkle
6 - Evan Crawford
7 - Matt Randall
8 - Dick Werner
9 - Jeri Revels
9 - Katrina Vike
11 - Don Fryer
11 - Dave Lohmann
11 - Cathy Anne Wetzel
13 - Mary Hein
14 - Lou Wren
14 - Anna-Elaine Gillespie
15 - Vonnie King
15 - D Slack
16 - Ned Walling
16 - Rhonda Fuller
16 - Carolina Warren-Collison
18 - Paul Petherick
19 - Bill Revels
20 - Jack King
20 - Collin Young
23 - Jim Anderson
23 - Justin Kerns
23 - Kelsey Sedgwick
24 - Cardyn Walters
24 - Dick Dulaney
25 - Curly Curl
26 - Marty Schlabaeh
28 - Jean Neavor
28 - Brian Dugan
29 - Marianne Collison
30 - Lois Pritchard

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

Thank You, Thank You. . . .

To all who helped make the Country Fair Auction such a success - the people who donated items, the people who bought and bid, and the kids who served throughout the afternoon. Special thanks goes to the Friends in Faith Band and to the Youth Advisors who worked so hard to make it a success: Carol Stratton, Mila Smith, Milo Smith, Erica Schroeder, Kathy Vance, and Carol Ogletree. And to the auctioneers - Kathy Vance and Corey Ramsey.

June Nursery Helpers: Chris Zippe, Anne & Kaela Swarts, Mary Hein, Emily Doll, and Blaine Chesley

June Newsletter Helpers: Geri Dulaney, Dorothy Hammond, Evona Petherick, and Joyce Swartz.

The Handbell Choir, Lyle Stratton, Steve Chesley, and Brad Miller for special music on Pentecost.

To the Worship and Social boards for special behind the scene workings to surprise Katherine for her 15th anniversary of her ordination, and to the musicians: Colin Young, Norma Wren and the pick-up choir for their special music June 11th,

Promised Land: Cec Chapman, Bob Riedesel, Harry Swarts and Dick Werner, for wonderful Father's Day music, and to SANDY REINDERS for single handedly organizing food and beds for THIRTY+ people traveling with the Plymouth Ringers from Lawrence Kansas, and for all those who contributed food and housing for this fabulous group.

To the Friends in Faith Band for Sunday evening AND Sunday morning worship and Rose n Thorns for the Fish Fry fun!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Jennifer Jordening, Cathy Wetzel, Dawn Johnson, Cathy Miller, Cathie Loughead, Woody Perkins, Cindy Kuhn and Fanny, Dennise Weyman, Emily and Sarah Kenneke, Emily's friend Jessica Blaum, Anne Swarts, Lyle Stratton, Marta Fioriti, Taylor and Erica Schroeder, Blaine Chesley, Amanda Loughead, Sandy Reinders, Melissa and Danell Randall, Elizabeth Norwood, Ryan Dye, Katy Strzepeck, Chris Medina, Mary Beth Dircks, Chris Fessler, Shirley Johnson and Carol Stratton for keeping us in her prayers!

Thanks also to our children, who continue to teach how to keep our eyes open in full expectation of miracles!

Steve Hukvari, Richard Jirus, Terry McGee and Sandy and Dave Reinders who worked in the hot sun at the East Moline Habitat for Humanity House June 17. Also to: Kathleen Bailey, Pat and Ron Baxter-Rebal, Cathie, Crystal and Charlie Miller and Sandy Reinders for preparing and serving the H4H workers on June 17.

Fish Fry Workers - Cindy Kuhn, Julie Henke, Ruth Bowers, Carolyn Walters, Anne Swarts, Steve Wildemuth, Suzanne & Bob Benson, Michael & Chris Fessler, Dick Werner, Brian Dugan, Pat Cresap, Nelda Paustian, Chris Medina, Janet Sedgwick, Woody Perkins. A special thanks to Rose n Thorns for entertaining us with their wonderful music!

Blood Drive Update

On behalf of the Mission Board, I want to thank the 32 people who came to donate their blood for our blood drive in Baxter Hall on June 3. You donated 27 units of blood that day and helped save many lives with your blood donation. We did not make our 30 unit goal for that day; but I know that, if the many people who received your blood knew your names, they would thank you for helping them. Some of them are still alive today because of you. Thanks, also to those who provided the refreshments for the donors, worked at the blood drive, set up Baxter Hall, cleaned up afterwards, or helped organize our blood drive. We would not have been able to have had this blood drive without your help.

Our next blood drive in Baxter Hall is October 28. The cut off date to be eligible to donate blood for this drive is September 2, so Edwards will sponsor a special summer blood drive from July 31st to September 2 at the Mississippi Valley Blood Center, 5500 Lakeview Parkway, Davenport. If you donated blood June 3rd, you will be eligible to donate for this drive. You can sign up for this special blood drive on the tear-off sheet in the Sunday Bulletin starting July 23rd, or call the Blood Center (359-5401) and make your own appointment. Summer is vacation time for many people; but the need for blood never takes a vacation, so take the time to help someone by donating your blood.

Merlin Bachellor
Edwards Blood Drive Coordinator

Habitat for Humanity (H4H)

We are scheduling Saturday workdays in July and August. Call or send a message to let me know what Saturdays you are able to work. We'll try to find a Saturday when most folks are available. We will work at 714 22nd Street in East Moline. If you prefer to work in Rock Island you may call Erik Rogers, Volunteer Coordinator, 359-9066, 9:30-5:30 weekdays to schedule your workday.

Biloxi Mission Trip

Stay tuned for more information and look forward to viewing the DVD about what to expect in Biloxi.

Fair Trade Coffee

We still sell Beneficio Coffee, so if you need to stock up now is the time to do it! The proceeds benefit the coffee growers, their communities AND OCWM!

Mission Auction Results!!

On June 4th, when we gathered in Fellowship Hall for a Country Fair auctioneers Kathy Vance and Corey Ramsey led us in a wonderful time of fun and fund-raising for the two Mission Trips that are coming up. There were pies that brought in a minimum of \$50 each! There were three Ukranian Eggs that brought in over \$2500! There were the God Is Still Speaking rocks that brought \$1000! And when it was all said and done.... WE RAISED \$9,000 FOR MISSION!!!!!! Way to go Edwards! Both trips - the Youth Trip to Emmaus Homes in Marthasville, Missouri and the Adult Trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi - are paid for! Bless you all!

Pilgrim Heights Debt

At Annual Meeting, the Iowa Conference grappled with serious financial issues which are crippling our Conference. The most serious is the \$500,000 debt for Pilgrim Heights Four Seasons Lodge. On June 25th, our Mission Board threw a Fish Fry, and invited donations for Pilgrim Heights - and together we have raised about \$800 to help pay down that debt. Know also, that our Endowment Committee has also sent \$500 in addition to what we raised. We'll keep working at it! Thank you one and all.

Birdies for Charity

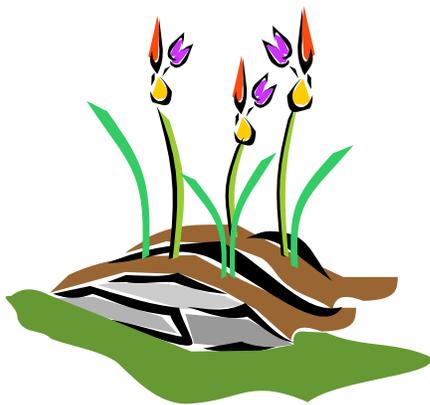
Enclosed with this newsletter is the pledge pamphlet for the Birdies for Charities drive. By way of explanation; even though this drive is connected with the John Deere Golf Classic, all monies raised by Edwards will go to Edwards, and as the trustees voted, will be used for the carpeting replacement fund. In addition, by pledging to the golf charity, any additional money raised during the golf tournament above expenses, goes into a big pot that is shared by all charities. So the money sent back to Edwards will be more than pledged, and is dependent on how much Edwards has pledged. The more we pledge, the more we get back.

In 2005, the total birdies were 2124. A pledge of \$.01 per birdie would have resulted in a pledge of \$21.24

All pledges must be in to the tournament officials by July 10. You may mail it directly to the address on the back of the pamphlet, or return it to Teresa at the church. We will insure all pledges are submitted in time. All entries are automatically entered in the contest. If you are the only one guessing the exact number of birdies, you will win a new Buick Lucerne automobile. If no one guesses the exact number, the closest will win, but the Buick will be given away. Other prizes include a John Deere Riding mower, airline tickets, and 500 other prizes.

VBS Update

Vacation Bible School this year was two consecutive weeks of faith stories, giggles, delicious food, water balloons, gardening, sun shine and storms, balancing butterflies, homemade ice cream, bottled water and socks, dirt cups, worms, caterpillar cookies, bell choir, guitars, lanterns, Harriet Tubman and John Newton, Habitat for Humanity, Monarchs and Swallowtails, Skippers and Buckeyes, bubbles, and prayer! And none of the above could have happened without a lot of help from our dedicated teachers and mentors.



Social Justice Update

Edwards has always been known within our community and the wider Iowa conference as a congregation committed to caring for others through mission work and concerns. The Mission Board continually answers the call to provide assistance in places of need and challenges our church to dig deep and give freely to those who have less.

Over the past few months a small group of Edwards folk have been meeting to discuss the formation of a Social Justice Group within our church. Social Justice does not replace the vital ministry of the Mission Board, but supplements this as it provides and encourages a way of looking at issues and their causes. A Social Justice Group at Edwards would serve as a place where the questions of "why" are asked and attempt to broaden our perspectives and imagination around the most troubling issues of our time. Why is there a need for soup kitchens in the Quad Cities? What are the central issues around immigration? Why don't we as a nation provide health care to all citizens? How and why is the separation of church and state eroding?

Currently, the steering committee for Social Justice comprises Bob Anderson, Pat Baxter-Rebel, Susan Chesley, Julie Henke, Greg Moore, Katherine Mulhern, Katy Strzepek, and Pam Swanson. We will continue to meet over the summer, planning educational programming for the fall, and welcome others who would like to participate in the beginnings of this new ministry.

Web-Site Info

DID YOU KNOW?

That in May there were 241 hits on our web-site each day?

That in June there were 266 hits on our web-site each day?

That 85 people have come to our web-site simply to watch the Ejector Seat advertisement?

That you can now listen to the worship service through our web-site if you miss church on Sunday morning?

That the church schedule is posted on the front page of the web-site, so if you forget what time you need to be at church, you can easily find it on the web? and additional and update information is added throughout the month

CHECK IT OUT! www.edwards-ucc.org

A Good Reminder

Do you ever visit a friend or a relative in the hospital? If so, you can help prevent hospital acquired infections as well as protect yourself against infection. Simply wash your hands - both before and after visiting. Before the visit, you are protecting the patient. After the visit, you are protecting yourself. It's the simple wisdom our mothers taught us. It worked then, and it works now!

Handbell Concert Highlights

Plymouth Ringers Concert June 21 was fantastic. Thanks to Woody Perkins for audio and photography assistance. Thanks to all the bed and breakfast hosts: Suzanne and Robert Benson, Ruth Bowers, Susan and Steve Chesley, Edith Egli, Chris and Tom Kenneke, Chris Medina, Cathie Miller, Elizabeth and Sam Norwood, Sandy and Dave Renders, and Norma Wren. Thanks also to the wonderful sweets fixed by Pat Baxter-Rebel, Chris Fessler, Martha Jirus, Cindy Kuhn, Sandy Reinders, and Anne Swarts. Thanks also to Dawn Johnson and her great crew for the extra work they did to serve an additional 34 people. (I know one young ringer that ate 11 of those delicious tacos!) Thanks to Michael Fessler, Richard Jirus, Jean Norton, Anne Swarts and Chris Medina for assistance with last minute details and serving the refreshments.

EDWARDS CHURCH STAFF

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