



November 2006

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Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ
Temple Emanuel
Unitarian Church
joyously invite you to our

63rd Annual Union Thanksgiving Gathering and our First Thanksgiving Seder!

When: Sunday, November 19th at 6:00 p.m.
Where: Temple Emanuel
1115 Mississippi Avenue, Davenport
Cost: \$7.00 per adult
Children 10 years of age & under are FREE!
Make your reservations with your congregational office.
RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: November 13

Our Offering: This year's offering will be given to WINNIE'S PLACE,
Churches United's Women's Shelter

Come Join Us for a Wonderful Interfaith Gathering!

From Our Pastors Desk...

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of year. For many it is a national day of overeating and football. For even more it is the pre-season warm-up game for the Christmas rush. For us in the United Church of Christ, it is an opportunity to reflect on our religious heritage. We, who are descended from those early Pilgrims, still hold fast to the principles of religious freedom, and we are reminded of the sacrifices which made that possible in this country. It is a time when we can pause and remember who we are and whose we are.

At its best, Thanksgiving is a season of gratitude - a time to practice the spiritual discipline of a grateful heart. Gratitude is a virtue we don't talk about anymore - instead we talk about what we deserve. We have lost something important, it seems to me.

Gratitude opens our hearts and minds to the presence of God in our midst. Gratitude helps us to name how God is at work in our world. Gratitude reminds us that none of us live unto ourselves, but instead we are linked to a whole network of care and concern - through good times and bad times.

When we practice gratitude, our ability to be grateful increases. When we let gratitude slip through our fingers, we lose the ability to see the gifts that are right in our back yard.

I am grateful for many things these days. I am grateful for the freedom to vote this month. I am grateful for a family that laughs and loves more than it doesn't. I am grateful for a church that stands for justice and invites deep reflection on the issues of the day. I am grateful for health - and health insurance. I am grateful for the beauty of the leaves turning and for the changing of the seasons that brings a new rhythm to my days. I am grateful for our Confirmation youth who remind me to be playful at the end of the day. I don't deserve any of these things. They are gifts for me to both treasure and nurture.

Gratitude is a discipline. It is a practice of our faith. The more we practice it, the stronger it gets - and the better we get at it. I invite you to set this month aside as a time to consider the things for which you are grateful. The list might surprise you! But don't stop there. Find new ways to live your gratitude - thanksgiving for God's love in your life, for both your family's nurture and its challenges, for the work that sustains food and shelter in your life, for your faith that carries you and helps you to carry others, for the church that both blesses and challenges you.....

As you find new ways to express grateful thanksgiving day by day, you may be surprised at how it may multiply in the hearts and minds of those around you!

1,000 Peace Cranes

One of the most famous origami forms, the crane, has become recognized globally as a symbol of peace for the past half-century. Inspired by a young survivor of Hiroshima who believed in the Japanese legend that anyone who folds one thousand paper cranes will have their heart's desire come true, her one wish was to bring peace and healing to victims of war around the world. The children, youth, mentors and teachers of Edwards have begun folding 1,000 paper cranes. Our hope is to have 1,000 folded by Christmas and fill our sanctuary with prayers for peace in the New Year. Every Sunday, those who know how to fold will be sitting at tables in Baxter Hall hoping to teach someone else how to fold a crane for peace. Will you let someone teach you?

Contemporary Worship

Our Contemporary Service continues on a weekly basis, gathering at 5:30 each Sunday evening. Join us for an informal, coffee-house style of worship! The Friends in Faith Band continues to play GREAT music and the potlucks on the fourth Sunday of the month are amazing. This is a wonderful way to end the week-end and start your week. Come as you are, and enjoy the informal alternative to Sunday morning!

InterFaith Thanksgiving

This year will mark the 63rd year that Edwards has gathered with the Unitarian Church and Temple Emanuel to celebrate Thanksgiving. This year we will gather on the evening of November 19 (the Sunday night before the big day), and we will be at the Temple. This year we will celebrate with a Thanksgiving seder meal. The evening will include a turkey dinner, as well as the ritual seder question and answer time. This is a wonderful opportunity to share in the ancient Jewish seder tradition, as well as to remember our own heritage as people of faith.

Because this service takes place around tables, the Temple is asking for reservations. In addition, we would gratefully accept your donation of \$7 per person (children under 10 years old come free) toward the cost of the meal. Know that there is money available to assist with the meal if the cost is a financial hardship. Call the church office to sign up, or check off the box on the tear-off sheet in worship on Sunday.

Biloxi Trip Service

November 12th in worship, we will hear the stories and see the pictures from our work trip to Biloxi's Back Bay Mission. Don't miss this opportunity to hear the stories first-hand and see the pictures on a large screen. And remember! Keep all our workers in your prayers throughout the week of October 28th through November 5th.

Stewardship 2007

November 12th is Stewardship Sunday - the day we gather up our pledges of financial support for 2007 so that the Trustees can make a budget for the coming year. You will receive a pledge card in the mail within the next week, and we ask that you prayerfully consider how much you can give.

Monetary giving is one of the foundations upon which our faith is built. Jesus talked more about money than he did about love (that's really true!), and he understood that our relationship with money has the potential to both harm us and benefit us. According to Jesus, when we hoard financial resources we risk the health of our souls. On the other hand, when we share financial resources draws the circle of God's kingdom on earth draws near.

How much is enough? No one can tell you how much to give - only you know your budget and your family's needs. Giving to the church ought to be enough so that we notice the gift, but not so much that we go without important things in order to meet our pledge. Scripture suggests a percentage of our income - 5%? 10%?

Know that your gifts make a difference here at Edwards. Please consider a generous gift toward the 2007 church year! And come on November 12th to celebrate the generous witness of our church - both outside and inside the church walls.

Carpet, Carpet, Carpet!

Carpet and tile have been ordered! The carpetlayers will arrive on November 13th to begin work! Birdies for Charity numbers are in - and we raised almost \$1500! And now we need your help! Beginning Sunday afternoon, November 12th, we will disassemble the sanctuary and on November 18, disassemble the narthex, the library and the offices (as well as reassemble the sanctuary!).

PLEASE! Call the church office to let us know that you can help (and when you can help). Or call Milo Smith, the chair of Trustees (391-5409). Or sign up on the tear-off sheet in the Sunday bulletin. We need your help!

Reminder on Pledges

If you were present at last January's Annual Meeting, you'll remember that the Congregation passed a deficit budget for 2006. Between new member giving and additional unplanned gifts, much of that deficit has been made up. However, another reason for our budget success to date has been that until recently, our Youth Director position has been vacant. Now that we have this position filled under the very capable direction of Sue Harrington, our budget status for the rest of this year could become a bit tighter. So we would appreciate it if you would do your best to keep current on your 2006 pledge. If you can possibly give more than you pledged, this would help ensure that we don't have to make any cuts in our 2006 program.

Keep in Your Prayers:

Donna DeMuynk, finishing chemotherapy
Linda Dorrance, in the death of her
father

Rose Marie Edgerton, recovering a fall
at Ridgecrest Health Center

Sally Ege, recovering from surgery
Lois Larew, in the death of her brother
Randy Kuhlman, beginning radiation
Paul Vortriede, continuing radiation
Bonnie Walling, home from the hospital
Phyllis Yike, moving to assistant living,
Address: 709 Brown St., Davenport, IA
52802

Biloxi Mission Trip Participants: Bob
Benson, Suzanne Benson, Becky David,
Brian Dugan, Audrey Dugan Julie
Henke, Martha Jirus, Richard Jirus,
Greg Moore, Christine Moore Carol
Ogletree, Woody Perkins, Kay Styles,
Keith Thess, Dick Werner

Our homebound members and friends:
Gen Bainter, Nancy Bolyard, Leona
David, Betty Murray, Laurel Ogden

Women's Day & Night Out

Women's Night Out - Thursday, November 16,
6:00 p.m., at Ruby Tuesday

Women's Day Out - Resumes in December
(weather permitting)

Special Music in November

The Chancel Choir sings each week, but in
addition, other musicians are leading music at
the 10:15 am Sunday service:

5: Alleluia Ringers
12: Youth Ensemble
19: Brass Ensemble
26: Susan Benson, violin

Special Rehearsals

The Friends in Faith Band rehearses
Tuesdays, November 7, 6:00-7:30 p.m. and
November 14, 5:30-6:30 pm

Youth Ensemble - Rehearsal will be November
5 following worship service

Welcome New Members

During the Oct. 29 worship service,
HOLLY FRENCH united with Edwards. She is
20 yrs old, of Lutheran background, and has
lived in the Quad-cities for 10 years. Holly is
currently unemployed and is a proud,
stay-at-home mom of 6-month-old daughter,
Rhyen. Her interests center around Rhyden
and being a good mom. Holly currently resides
at 2428 Arlington Ave., Davenport, Ia. 52803;
phone: 563/514-4808.

Sponsor: Anne-Marie Gephart

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

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Preacher	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern
Greeters	Evona & Paul Petherick Dennise Weyman Kathy Ramsey	Erica Schroeder Sue & Curly Curl Dick Dulaney	Gilly Gilbreath Don Miller Vonnie & Jack King	Cathy & Amanda Loughhead Nelda & Joyce Paustian
Guest Guides	Barb Fleener			Sharon Wildemuth
Ushers	Mike Fleener Margaret Wilber Dick Dulaney Curly Curl	Russ Dircks Tim Mandell Anne-Marie Gephart Ned Walling	Olive Gallaher Barb Bleedorn Mary Hein Steve Wildemuth	Steve Hukvari tom Kenneke Tim Mandell Anne-Marie Gephart
Nursery 10:15 a.m.		Teresa King	Erica Schroeder	
Caregivers on Call	Evona Petherick Martha Jirus	Kay Stiles Sharon Wildemuth	Chris Fessler Sandy Reinders	Ruth Bowers Lyle Stratton
Coffee Hour Hosts	Lisa & Eric Crawford	Potluck Sunday Ryan Dye/ Katy Strzepek		
Scripture Reader	Dick Dulaney	Hilda Raap	Mary Hein	Kathy Lafrenz
Communion Servers -	Chris Zippe, Dick Dulaney, Mike Fleener			
Chancel Set-Up	Chris Zippe Dick Dulaney	Pat Rosburg	Tracy Miller	Dick Dulaney
Sound System	Woody Perkins substituting for Dave VanDerKamp			
Lock-Up Trustee	Milo Smith	Clyde Durrah	Dave Wymore	Milo Smith

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

November Birthdays

1 Hailey Mandell
2 Merlin Bachellor
2 Isaac Trapkus
5 Mary Ostrom
5 Jesse Knudson
5 Makayla Revels
6 Woody Perkins
6 Rob Fuller

7 Nancy Bolyard
7 Tim Mandell
8 Dow Edgerton
8 Tara Kelley
8 Zack Schony
9 Kade Verdick
9 Gavin Verdick
11 Tom Fear

11 Julie Henke
11 Angela Ballew
12 Dave Wilbricht
14 Noreen Kuhlmann
14 Jeanette Pollard
15 Michelle Hukvari
16 Elvira Long
18 Chris Medina

18 Becky David
21 Melissa Randall
23 Milo Smith
24 Keith Thess
24 Rich Weyman
25 Madison Schony
27 Ryley Zippe
28 Robert Williams

29 Nancy Stenger
30 Ron Springer
30 Keegan Smith
30 Alexis Azure

Men of Edwards News

Men of Edwards, please note when follow up meetings of the newly developing mens group will be meeting. At the time of this newsletters compilation, the meeting time has not been set, but will be listed in the weekly worship bulletin. If you have any questions, you can contact Lyle Stratton, Brian Dugan, Dick Werner, or Dick Dulaney.

Fall Potlucks

Sunday Morning Potluck will be held on November 12. There will NOT be potlucks in December and January. Bring a generous salad, vegetable, or dessert and a main dish to share. Table service and beverages provided.

Sunday Evening Potlucks are held on the LAST Sunday of the Month.

Adult Education

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

Newcomers Inquiry Class

Have you been visiting? Would you like to know about Edwards and the United Church of Christ? Please join us Sunday, November 26th at 11:30 a.m. in the church parlor. Refreshments served. Please call Geri Dulaney (323-2145) or the Church Office (359-0331) to sign-up or for information.

CareNet Corner

The news media recently reported that the US population has now reached the 300 million mark. So many people!! And yet a news article of two months ago pointed out how lonely and isolated we tend to be: 25% of households consist of just one person; the average American reports only having two close friends in whom they could confide on important matters; (down from an average of 3 in 1985); the number of people who say they have no such confidant increased from 10% to 25%; and an additional 19% said they have only one confidant.

There are more people but more loneliness! Social isolation or disconnectedness can be a serious, even life-threatening condition, heightening the risks of heart disease and depression. The feeling of loneliness and isolation can strike at almost any age, in any demographic sector - parents struggling to adjust to empty-nest status, divorcees unable to rebuild a social life, even seemingly self-confident college students. How can you combat this problem you may ask? You can become a CareNet volunteer here at Edwards! Volunteering requires just a few minutes a month on the telephone to help keep everyone feel connected within the caring community that is Edwards. If you wish to become a CareNet volunteer please contact Lyle Stratton the CareGiver coordinator.

Fellowship at Edwards

Thank You! Thank You!

Thanks to Carol Stratton, Elizabeth Norwood, Dennise Weyman, Chris Fessler, and Blaine Chesley for teaching during the October rotation of Church School.

Thanks, as always, to Woody Perkins for supervising the Audio Visual materials for church school and to Mike Fessler for serving breakfast to kids and youth.

Thanks to Mila Smith and Evangeline Lewis for providing suppers on Wednesday night during October.

Continued thanks to Cathy Wetzel for teaching in the Wednesday evening TouchStones program for children and to Lisa Whitfield and Jennifer Jordening for serving as tutors on Wednesday evening.

Thank you to musicians who especially enhanced worship on Sunday mornings: Kathy Lafrenz, djembe drum, Zela Terry, cello, Mona Terry, harp, Martha Jirus, solo, Kailan Lafrenz, flute, Jody from West Music for the use of her cello, Sandy Reinders and the Alleluia Ringers, and Carol Mahan for her ongoing help in the music library.

Thank you to evening service planners: Steve Chesley, Brian Dugan, Cathy Burbank, and Cathy Wetzel.

Thank you to Kathy Lafrenz for ongoing Liturgical Dancer leadership.

Highway Clean-Up: Ruth Bowers, Clyde Durrah, Anne-Marie Gephart, Steve Wildemuth

Blood Drive Helpers: Merlin Bachellor,

Mila Smith and Michael Fessler for helping with the Youth Lock-In

October Editor Helpers - Curly Curl, Joyce Swartz, Evona Petherick and Geri Dulaney

Crop Walkers: Clyde Durrah, Katherine, Mulhern, Sue Harrington, Julie HEnke, Blaine Chesley, Alex Sedgwick, Emily Springer, Amanda Loughhead, John Chesley, Emily Doll, Jean Norton and Michael Fessler

Corrections to Phone Directory

Warren, Lynn, 20 Oakbrook Place, (Not 30) Bettendorf, IA 52722, same phone.

Yike, Phyllis, The Postillion, 709 Brown St., Davenport, IA 52802, 323-17682

Moveable Feasts Returning

Moveable Feasts are informal potlucks held in the homes of members and friends of Edwards. You do not need to be a member of Edwards to participate. Groups of 8-10 persons enjoy food, fellowship, and fun once a month. If you are interested in participating and/or hosting, please sign the bulletin insert or the sheet in the Narthex. Questions: contact Sharon Wildemuth (332-3761) or Barb Fleener (355-4064).

News of the Tribal Gathering

Why Come to Church on Wednesday?

The church is a bee hive of activity on Wednesday evenings. Are you part of the excitement? Here's the schedule:

5:15 7:00 Simple Supper
5:45 7:00 Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal
6:00 8:00 Tutoring and Homework Help
6:15 7:30 TouchStones Childrens Program
7:15 8:45 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Kids in Mission

Our next East Moline Meal Site date is Thursday, Nov. 9th. Meet at church at 4:15 to prepare supper; we will leave church by 5:20 to travel to the site and we will be back to church by 7:00.

Planning Ahead for Advent

This year's Advent Celebration will be on Sunday, Dec. 3rd following worship and will feature a Cookie Walk. The Board of Christian Education is asking for donations of Christmas cookies to be used during the event. Those attending will be invited to purchase an empty plate to fill with cookies. Proceeds from the event will go toward Mission concerns.

Breakfast Club and TECT News

October was a very busy month for the youth of Edwards. On October 8th, John Chesley, Emily Springer, Blaine Chesley, Emily Doll, and Amanda Loughhead walked 6 miles for CROP. Amber Whitfield wasn't able to walk but she raised over \$400 for the CROP Walk and the fight against hunger. WOW! Thanks to everyone who participated in the walk and thanks to all of you who supported this event.

Thank you to Pat Cresap, Mike and Chris Fessler and Mila Smith for providing breakfast for the Breakfast Club during the month of October. If you are interested in sharing a meal with the youth, there is a sign up sheet in the kitchen.

Thank you to all who supported the Team Building activity at Camp Abe Lincoln. We couldn't do it without you. Thanks to Mona Terry, Carol Ogletree and Mike Fessler for helping.

Up Coming Events for TECT:

November 5th, TECT @ 7pm

November 12th, TECT @ 7pm

November 19th, InterFaith Thanksgiving at Temple Emanuel. Meet at church at 5:45 p.m.

November 26th, No TECT

Sue Harrington, Youth Minister

Thanksgiving Baskets



Do you know a family who could use a little help this season? Each year, Edwards provides Thanksgiving meals to families in need. Usually all our baskets go to families through Lutheran Social Services, but this year we are allocating half our baskets to requests made through members of our congregation. If you know someone who could use a little help this Thanksgiving, please contact Susan Chesley. Confidentiality will be maintained.

What do we need to fill our baskets? Lots of everything!!!

If you like writing checks, we suggest one of the following:

- " Stuff a Turkey: \$20.00
- " Fill a Cornucopia: \$15.00
- " Sponsor a Ham: \$10.00

If you prefer to shop, here's your list:

- " Canned foods: green beans, corn, fruit, gravy, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions
- " Boxed goods: Jello, stuffing, packages of gravy
- " Perishables: 10lb bag potatoes, milk, butter, cool whip (do not bring before Nov. 19th)

Hands Across the Table

Healing Hands Across the Table will be a first-ever dinner for racial and ethnic healing in the Quad Cities. Edwards - along with a number of other community groups - will sponsor this community potluck which will be held at Second Baptist Church in Rock Island on November 11. The intention is to bring together every racial, ethnic and religious group - people from every heritage and walk of life for the sole purpose of sharing a meal. Don't miss this unique opportunity.

Social Justice

During worship on Sunday, Nov. 12th, those who went to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, will be sharing their experiences through their own stories of faith and insight. But how can we truly process what they gave to and took from their week of mission work in just an hour? We can't! So everyone is invited and encouraged to stay after church for continue discussion during potluck. The twelve who went to Mississippi will be sitting at our potluck tables eager to share their personal stories and draw us into the experience. Perhaps in our exchange we can all move a little closer to understanding how the roots of poverty and racism are feed and how we can rise up to meet the challenges of social injustice.

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE - Thirty-four units of blood were given at Edwards Blood Drive on October 28th, exceeding our goal of 30 units. Three people donated two units of blood in the Double Red program. Thanks to everyone who provided the refreshments for the donors, worked at the blood drive, set-up Baxter Hall Friday evening, cleaned up afterwards on Saturday, or helped organize our blood drive. We would not have been able to have blood drives without your help and support. Our next blood drive in the spring of 2007, WILL BE OUR 30th YEAR OF HAVI NG BLOOD DRIVES AT EDWARDS! WOW!!!

EDWARDS CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Katherine A. Mulhern, Pastor	katherine@edwards-ucc.org
Rev. Jean Norton, Minister of Music	jean@edwards-ucc.org
Sue Harrington, Youth Minister	sue@edwards-ucc.org
Susan Chesley, Minister of Christian Education	susan@edwards-ucc.org
Geri Dulaney, Membership Coordinator	geri@edwards-ucc.org
Lyle Stratton, Caregiver Coordinator	lyle@edwards-ucc.org
Cathy Loughead, Bookkeeper	loughead@mchsi.com
Teresa King, Secretary	teresa@edwards-ucc.org
Joyce Paustian - Moderator	Paustianj@aol.com
Robert Kephart, Custodian	