



Published Monthly Articles due for next issue: Noon, Friday, 12/15/06, Vol. 54 No. 12
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December 2006

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The PROMISE of God
The POWER of God
The PRESENCE of God
The PEACE of God

December 3: 12:00 pm Chili Lunch
 Hanging the Greens in the Sanctuary
 Old-Fashioned Cookie Walk

December 10: 2:30 pm Christmas Caroling

December 17: 10:15 am Christmas Pageant

December 24: 10:15 am Morning Worship
 7:00 pm Carols, Candles and
 Communion

From Our Pastor s Desk...

Every year Advent seems to come upon me like a surprise. It's not like it isn't on the calendar! It's not like I don't KNOW that Christmas is coming! But there are always so many other things happening. Before we rush headlong into Advent and Christmas, I want to pause for a moment to reflect on all the wonderful things that have been happening at church.

Last week's Thanksgiving Seder with our Unitarian and Jewish brothers and sisters was a wonderful event. There were 138 people who gathered around tables filled with the symbolic food of Thanksgiving. That's more than the 105 people that came over on the Mayflower! We remembered the story of that first Thanksgiving and we recalled the story of the exodus of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. We are blessed by courageous ancestors in each of our traditions. And we raised over \$500 in support of Winnies Place, the new Women's Shelter in the Quad Cities.

On November 12th the Biloxi Team gave a moving testimony to the work that they did on the Gulf Coast. The people who are streaming there from all over the country are bringing more than just a hammer and a few nails. They bring hope - one person, one house, one family at a time. The Christmas gifts that will go to Back Bay Mission from Edwards next week will be a part of that witness of hope and strength.

If you look around the church these days it's easy to see that we believe in feeding people! Thanksgiving baskets overflow with your donations. The cases of food at the altar are a growing reminder of your love for your

neighbors and of the many ways that Edwards Church makes a difference in the world. At last count, we had 100 cases toward our goal of 167 (one case of food for every year we've been a church!) Keep 'em coming!

As I write this, new carpet is being laid in the narthex and the offices and the library. It is a culmination of about two years of planning and fundraising. Completing this project is another reminder to us all that maintaining our building is a part of our ministry to the community - and to the next generation that will worship here.

And then there's Advent! As December opens, we all look forward to all the wonderful preparations for Christmas - hanging the greens in the sanctuary, an old-fashioned Cookie Walk, Christmas caroling.

But Advent is more than sharing all those wonderful traditions. Advent is about WAITING - waiting for Christ to come into the world, waiting for God's presence to surprise our souls, waiting for the promise of God to appear in the midst of our lives. At Edwards, we pride ourselves in being a community that DOES things. And so Advent - the season of waiting - is filled with opportunities to DO!

This year, I invite you to also consider a practice of waiting. It might be using the time waiting in line at the grocery store or at a red light for prayer. It might be spending some time each day reflecting on what you are waiting FOR in these Advent days. It might just be lighting a candle and listening to music for a little while each day. God is coming! Spend some time waiting for the miracle to happen.

Hanging the Greens

The Worship Board will be Hanging the Greens in the sanctuary following worship on December 3rd. Come join the fun as we put up trees, string lights, and hang ornaments and wreaths. This year we will also be hanging all those cranes that we have folded, which each contain a prayer for peace on earth. We will begin in the Fellowship Hall with a chili lunch, and there will be plenty of time for you to participate in the Cookie Walk as well.

Christmas Caroling

Everyone loves to sing Christmas carols, so join with us on December 10th at 2:30 for an Old Fashioned Caroling Party! We will gather at the church and divide into groups and set off to sing carols with our homebound members and then return for cocoa and cookies. This is a chance to share the joy of this season with folks who have a hard time getting out to enjoy it. This is a family project - children, parents, singles, elders.... Come and Sing!

Contemporary Worship

The Contemporary Worship Service at 5:30 each Sunday evening will be taking a break during December. The last service will be Sunday evening, December 3rd, and the Friends in Faith Band will return on January 7th to kick off the new year!

The Christmas Pageant

On December 17th, don't miss the Christmas Pageant in worship at 10:15 (hint - get there early, seats fill up fast!). This year, they will be sharing a humorous look at this story - from the perspective of the animals who shared Mary and Joseph's journey. The Chancel Choir, The Friends in Faith Band, and the Liturgical Dance Group will assist the children in telling the ancient story in a new way.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, and the Worship Board has decided that we will celebrate with two services that day. We will gather at 10:15 am for our morning worship service, and then again at 7:00 pm for a special Christmas Eve service with candles, communion, and wonderful music. Don't miss this opportunity to touch the mystery of Christ's birth once more.

New Year's Eve Worship

New Year's Eve also falls on a Sunday this year, and we are planning a wonderful celebration of special music in our morning worship time, led by our college students who are home from school! Don't miss it!

Birdies For Charity Final Accounting

The church has received two checks as our portion of the Birdies For Charity campaign which is part of the John Deere Golf Classic. The first check, for \$1,491.22 is what Edwards had pledged. The second check for \$149.12 is the bonus we received for being part of this drive. A total of \$1,640.34 has been added to our carpet fund.

Year-End Finances

Take Note! The 2006 books will close on December 31st (which is a Sunday). All pledges received after that will be posted to 2007.

**2007 Pledges are coming in!
Currently, we have received
68 pledges totaling \$136,956!**

If you have returned your pledge, THANK YOU! If your pledge is yet to be included, please mail it to the church office as soon as possible.

Special Music in December

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

- 3: Alleluia Ringers
- 17: Christmas Pageant with Choir and The Friends In Faith Band
- 24: Christmas Eve Service
Mona Terry, harp; Bob Riedesel, trumpet, Kaela Swarts, viola, Suzanne Benson, violin, Chancel Choir and Alleluia Ringers
- 31: Special Music by college musicians home for the holidays

Special Rehearsals

- Dec. 5 & 12 Liturgical Dancers, 11:30 a.m.
- December 6 and 13 Rehearsal for all musicians
- December 15 Choir and Friends in Faith Band - Rehearse with Children's Pageant
- December 20 Full Christmas Eve Rehearsal for all musicians, 6:30 p.m.
- December 27 NO Rehearsals
- January 3 NO Bells or Chimes

Keep in Your Prayers:

Diane Anderson, recovering from knee replacement

Donna DeMuynk, continuing to fight cancer

JoAnn Hobbs who had angioplasty last week

Teresa King, continuing to recover from surgery

Randy Kuhlman, continuing radiation

Jessica & Amanda Loughead, mourning the death of their uncle

Jean Norton, mourning the death of her sister-in-law

Molly Taft, home from the hospital

Paul Vortriede, continuing chemotherapy

Our homebound members and friends:

Gen Bainter, Nancy Bolyard, Leona David, Betty Murray, Laurel Ogden

Updates to Phone Directory

Yike, Phyllis, The Postillion, 709 Brown St., Davenport, IA 52802, 322-6954 (corrected phone number)

Benson, Robert & Suzanne, 2522 Lincoln Road, Bettendorf, 52722. Same phone : 359-1509

Moveable Feasts Update

The Holiday (November/December) Moveable Feasts are in progress, and in January we are having a chili cook-off the night of the Annual Meeting (no Feasts in January). The regular Moveable Feast schedule will resume in February.

Advent/Christmas Poinsettias

Now is the time to sign-up for poinsettias in honor or memory of someone special in your life. Poinsettia cost is \$7.50. Sign-up on the tear-off sheet on Sunday morning and please indicate clearly your name and the name of the person you are remembering. The deadline to sign-up is December 10! Please make checks payable to Edwards UCC. Thank you.

Fall Potlucks

Sunday Morning Potlucks will resume in February.

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

A Note from Greg and Chris Moore

Greg and I wish to thank the congregation of Edwards for sponsoring us on the trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. The chance to work on the flood victims' homes in Biloxi was a meaningful experience. Seeing the disaster area and listening to the folks who survived the storm surely taught us how lucky we are to have escaped such hardships. I hope people here in the Quad City area will continue to go to Biloxi to help the victims. The Mississippians do appreciate the assistance and the need is going to be there for a long time. Thanks again for the opportunity to participate in mission work.

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

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Preacher	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Christmas Pageant	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern
Greeters	Carol & Don Carroll Bonnie & Ned Walling	Bill Kelly Sharon Wildemuth Barb & Mike Fleener	Chris Medina Sally Ege Sue & Curly Curl	Jean Neavor Judy Collins Ruth Hefferman	Pat Cresap Terry Schlabach Tracy Miller Clyde Durrah
Guest Guides	Membership Board				
Ushers	Jim Groenenboom Steve Knoche Judy Collins Margaret Wilber	Dave Wymore Barb Bleedorn Curly Curl Mike Fleener	Pat Rosburg Steve Wildemuth Bonnie & Ned Walling	Margaret Wilber Sally Ege Steve Knoche Eric Crawford	Steve Hukvari Barb Bleedorn Dave Wymore Margaret Wilber
Nursery 10:15 a.m.					Chris Zippe Anne & Kaela Swarts
Caregivers on Call	Deanna Thomas	Mary Hein	Our Friends from Temple Emanuel	Teresa King	
Coffee Hour Hosts	Marilyn Riedesel	Dee Hillyer	Crawfords		
Scripture Reader	Tracy Miller	Tim Mandell	Rhoda Molleston	Becky David	Robert Riedesel
Communion Servers -	Chris Zippe, Dick Dulaney				
Chancel Set-Up	Chris Zippe Dick Dulaney	Pat Rosburg Dick Dulaney	Sarah & Emily Kenneke	Tracy Miller	Chris Zippe
Sound System	Woody Perkins substituting for Dave VanDerKamp				
Lock-Up Trustee	Steve Hukvari	Tom Kenneke	Clyde Durrah	Tim Mandell	Milo Smith

December Birthdays

1 - Lyle Stratton
1 - Adam Pollard
1 - Will Norwood
3 - Lynda Swanson
3 - Ethel Stivers
3 - Marta Fioriti
4 - Carol Carroll
4 - Dannell Randal
5 - Dave Reinders
6 - Joyce Swartz
7 - Brandon Ramirez
7 - Molly Dye
8 - Michelle Mandell
8 - Kæla Swarts
8 - Annah Eberhardt
10 - Sue Wymore
12 - Linda Ripple
12 - Lisa Larew
13 - Maureen Goulette
14 - Lisa Azure
14 - Ryan Groenenboom
15 - Dennise Weyman
16 - Hannah Mandell
17 - Phyllis Yike
17 - Elena Kamenetzky
17 - Carol Stratton
18 - Henry McCarrel
18 - Kevin Pollard
18 - Maggie Dixon
18 - Jessilyn Riedesel
19 - Robert Riedesel
19 - Alex Slack
22 - Kay Stiles
22 - Lynn Warren
26 - Bob Wilber
27 - Gary Mahan
28 - Laurie Funderburk
29 - Mary Fahrenkrug
30 - Olive Gallaher
30 - Mona Terry
31 - Pati Cusack

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

Men of Edwards News

Mark your calendars for our next meeting on Saturday, December 9th from at 8-9am, at Greg Moore's Mother Jones Café, 1810 2nd Ave Rock Island. If you would like to attend but need a ride, contact Lyle Stratton by telephone #570-7556.

Women's Christmas Party and Potluck

- Who:** All Edwards women are cordially invited to attend!
- When:** Thursday, December 21, at 6:00 p.m.
- Where:** The country kitchen area of the Oakwood Building at Ridgecrest (2nd entry on the circle drive), hosted by Ollie Gallaher
- Bring:** Potluck fare and a gift (wrapped or unwrapped). This year our gifts will go to a local family. The family consists of a young single mother battling advanced breast cancer and her two young boys, ages 4 and 6. For gift suggestions contact Mila Smith, 391-5409 or see the list posted at church.

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.

1,000 Peace Cranes

To date, the nimble hands of children, youth, and patient adults have folded about 500 peace cranes. Our hope however 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?

Choir-Chimes

Did you hear the wonderful new sounds of the chimes on All Saints Sunday, November 5th? These have been purchased with special bell money from the Endowment Fund and Memorial Funds designated for young people. Sandy Reinders has begun teaching a class from 7:00-7:30 p.m on Wednesday evenings for children, youth and parents interested in playing chimes.

Listen for news related to the music of these young people - and for the gentle sounds of the Malmark Choirchimes.

We thank those who have given memorial funds and Sandy for leading this newest contribution to the music at Edwards!

Thank You! Thank You!

- " The Alleluia Ringers for lovely special All Saints Day bells and chimes, and Kailan Lafrenz, flute accompaniment of the choir. Brad Miller, Cathy Burbank, Rachel Sedgwick and Lyle Stratton for the beautiful Childrens Sabbath music, October 29
- " Youth Ensemble: Emily Doll, Kailan Lafrenz, Austin Langfeldt, Amanda Loughead and Molly Taft for wonderful music on Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 12
- " Thank you to Kathy Lafrenz for ongoing Liturgical Dancer leadership.
- " Vonnie & Jack King for beautiful door wreaths
- " Pat Cresap, Pat Bereskin and Katherine Mulhern (The Altar Guild) for sanctuary
- " Sandy Reinders for her endless enthusiasm and wonderful leadership of The Alleluia Ringer and bringing children into the world of chime.
- " Chris Zippe for great organizing and conducting of the Youth Ensemble and careful arranging and conducting the Brass Ensemble. Harry Swarts for re-writing choral music for Christmas. Harry Swarts, Sandy Reinders and Lyle Stratton for covering in Jeans absence
- " November Editor Helpers - Sue & Curly Curl, Evona Petherick and Geri Dulaney
- " Dye Family, Kelsey Sedgwick, Lisa & Amber Whitfield and Susan Chesley for preparing supper and serving at the East Moline Meal site
- " Rachael, Kelsey and Parker Sedgwick, Zach & Maddie Schony, Elyse & Molly Dye, Ben Hukvari, Michaela Fessler, and Blain Chesley for assembling the Thanksgiving Baskets.
- " Michael Fessler, Lyle Stratton, Lisa Whitfield, Jennifer Jordening, Susan Chesley and Sue Harrington for their participation in the Our Whole Lives training weekend.
- " Carol Stratton, Cathie Miller, Dennise Weyman, Blaine Chesley, Elisabeth Norwood and Chris Fessler for teaching Sunday School during October and November
- " Michael & Chris Fessler and Blaine Chesley for their help during the November TGIF.
- " All the people who helped to tear down the sanctuary, the offices, and the library...and the people who put it all back together - Carol Stratton, Terry Schlabach, Dick Werner, Woody Perkins, Steve Hukvari, Dave Reinders, Clyde Durrah, Dick Dulaney, Steve Chesley, Mike Fleener, Darrell Hillyer, Greg Moore, John Hammond, Brian Dugan, Sandy Sohr, Joyce Paustian, Michael Fessler, Geri Dulaney, Lyle Stratton, Sandy Reinders, Martha Jirus, Kim, Neal and Keegan Smith, Otto Olsen, Chris Simmons and Milo Smith
- " Those who helped to set up the Thanksgiving Seder - Ruth Bowers, Ardis Kasper, Evona Petherick, Terry Schlabach, and Jean Norton for filling in at the last minute to provide music while we served the meal, and Geri Dulaney for handling Edwards registrations.

News of the Tribal Gathering

Dates to Remember!

Sunday, Dec. 3rd 11:30-1:00 Advent Celebration with Chili Lunch and Cookie Walk

Friday, Dec. 15th 5:30-7:30 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal and Party

Sunday, Dec. 17th 10:15 Christmas Pageant Be at church by 8:45

There will be NO Wednesday Christian Ed programming in December. There will be no Church School on **Dec. 24th** or **Dec. 31st**.

Kids-in-Mission: Terry Schlabach will be traveling to Ecuador again this Christmas and will take with her suitcases filled with slightly used or new toys and educational supplies. Here are some suggestions for donations:

- Board games
- Easy to read books in English or Spanish
- Picture books and coloring books
- Blocks and manipulatives
- Card games
- Toys
- No Stuffed Animals

Please bring items to church no later than December 17th.

Warming Tree: Watch for the Warming Tree to appear in the Narthex and help fill it with items to keep kids warm and toasty through the winter. Bring gloves, hats, scarves, socks, coats, sweaters, undershirts and underwear throughout the month.

Greetings and Happy Holidays From the Youth

The Youth are doing it again & Making a difference in the world! When the Adult Mission group returned from Biloxi, the youth heard there was a need for Christmas gifts for children, teens and senior citizens in Biloxi. They each vowed to bring a gift then a suggestion came forward to get the whole congregation in on it. That is what we did.

So thank you Edwards Congregation for supporting this event, in which we bring Christmas to those in Biloxi who are still struggling one year later after Hurricane Katrina. Thank you!

The Youth Ministry & TECT are looking for some folks who would like to hang out with the youth for the Sunday evening gathering. You can volunteer once a month, one time a year or as often as you would like. Nothing is required of you except to hang out with some great youth. The benefit to you is that you will have a lot of fun. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at 359-0331 ext. 12 or talk to me at church.

A note to the parents of the youth &.

*The Youth Christmas party will be December 17th. More information will be sent out later.

*There will be no TECT December 24 or 31 due to the holidays.

Peace & Happy Holidays,
Sue

The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund is the fourth of the national offerings promoted by the UCC every year. This fund is directed toward providing aid to retired pastors or their widowed spouses when the churches they served have not been able to provide them with adequate benefits in their retirement. Even though the former pastors of Edwards are not in this position, there are many pastors who have faithfully served other churches who are inadequately provided for in their old age. This offering is an opportunity for us to help care for those pastors who have faithfully served the church over the years. Your generosity makes a difference!

Biloxi Mission Trip

The members of our congregation who spent a week at the UCC Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi have heard many thanks for helping put lives back together again for the Biloxi residents. Those of you who contributed to the mission trips - both the youth trip to Emmaus Homes and the adult trip to Back Bay, need to hear the gratitude as well. The trip to Biloxi was an enormous success. We were able to help in the reconstruction effort because all of you wanted to be a part of the healing. From Biloxi, please hear the heartfelt thanks for this church's mission outreach.

2005 Youth Mission Trip to Rock Island

Old News? No Way! One of the youth work projects in 2005 was to help to build a classroom at Hope House in the Longview Terrace area of Rock Island. We build walls, installed the ceiling, and were able to complete the room except for the flooring. This past week our parlor carpeting was recycled to provide the last segment to complete this classroom. Hope House is a significant source of training and social redevelopment in the Longview Terrace neighborhood, and the added training space we provided was much appreciated! Again, THANK YOU, Edwards!

167th Anniversary Food!

We are well on our way to meeting the 167 case goal for the new food pantry in Davenport! Some of you have said that it is difficult for you to carry a case of food into the church. Not to worry! If you would like the Mission Board to do the shopping for you, simply write a check to the church, and note that it is for the 167 cases. The Mission Board will be glad to do the shopping and the heavy lifting for you. A case of canned meat costs \$15-\$20. A case of soup can be purchased for about \$10. The current case count is about 100 - so keep em coming!



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EDWARDS CHURCH STAFF

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