



Edwards Editor

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December 2012

Articles for next issue due by 9:00 am, Friday, 12/14/12

Submitted items are subject to editing.



Celebrating Advent

December 2: 9:45 am ~ Piano Dedications
11:30 am ~ Cookie Walk

December 16: 10:15 am ~ Christmas Pageant
2:00 pm ~ Caroling

December 23: Food Pantry Sunday
Christmas Fund Special Offering

December 24: 8:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Worship

**Don't forget the Angel Tree, Head Start Tree,
Warming Tree and SERRV Table.**

'Tis the Season . . . for Giving!

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From Our Pastor's Desk...

I think there are really three kinds of people in the world – there are people who “get ready” ahead of time, there are people who are “just in time”, and there are people who are always just a little late.

The people who “get ready” are the people who buy their snow shovels in September – as soon as they are out in the stores. They check the gas in the snowblower in October, and they service the furnace early. I had a pastor friend once who wrote all his sermons for Advent in August – just to make sure he was ready!

Then there are the people who are “just in time.” Those are the people who are busy all the time, but somehow nothing ever gets finished before the last minute. When they were students, they finished every assignment the night before it was due – sometimes in the wee hours of the morning. They fill the snowblower with gas when the first storm approaches. They finish their sermons each week on Saturday night.

The “always just a little late” folks are the ones who buy their snowblower on the morning after the first snowstorm. They are still shopping on Christmas Eve, and they arrive about 10 minutes late to everything. They are the pastors who finish their sermons as they step into the pulpit on Sunday morning!

Lots of us who are the “just in time” or “always just a little late” people would really LIKE to be people who “get ready”....but it's really hard to switch from one group to the other! It seems as though we are what we are.

For me, Advent is a time to refocus my “busy-all-the-time-but-finishing-just-in-time” way of living and look toward “getting ready” – if only for a little while. The Advent invitation to “GET READY!” is a much needed reminder in my life. It helps to focus my attention on the really big picture, so that I can let go of my anxiety about all the details of this season.

Advent invites us all to get ready – not for Christmas morning's presents – but for the coming of Christ into the world. We will remember the moment in Bethlehem when Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph, but first we will remember the promise that Christ will return to us when we least expect it.

The invitation to “GET READY!” is an invitation to prepare our souls for the coming of Christ – as an infant born to Mary, as a teacher and healer, as the one who was crucified and who rose from the dead, and as the one who will return to us in some surprising way to make all things new. There is nothing straightforward about this “getting ready” work. We are promised that the coming of Christ will happen, but we are given not a clue as to when it will happen. So the “just in time” and “always a little late” folk need some help!

Advent focuses us on the practices that prepare our souls to receive such a momentous gift. The Advent candles remind us of the disciplines that keep our hearts centered in Christ's care – Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. The flames of the candles light our way as we seek to find a path that will lead us to be ready when God surprises us and Christ enters our hearts with new life.

Advent invites us to work on “getting ready” even when we aren't exactly sure what we are getting ready for! We remember the time when God-made-flesh appeared and the promise was fulfilled, and then we are asked to trust that the promise will be fulfilled again.

If you are one of those people who “get ready” naturally – I invite you to sit back and enjoy the season of Advent. It was made for you! If you are one of those “just in time” or “always just a little late” people – I invite you to let Advent lead you toward some practices of “getting ready” that might just change your life! Let the candles guide your way. Hope. Love. Joy. Peace. Practice them and you will be ready for whatever comes!

December Scriptures

December 2

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-8

December 16

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-8

December 23

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

December 24

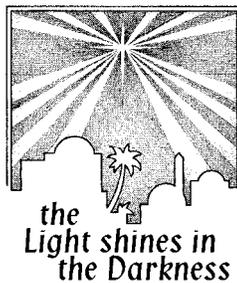
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 30

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Special Music in December

- Dec. 2 Donna Lewis, soprano, and various Edwards pianists
- Dec. 9 Alleluia Ringers, Sandy Reinders directing
- Dec. 16 Children's Choir and Liturgical Dancers, Hallelujah Chorus rehearsal Singers
- Dec. 23 Chancel Choir
- Dec. 24 The Wind Ensemble, Alleluia Ringers and Chancel Choir
- Dec. 30 Special Music Sunday with Promised Land, the Dircks' Trio, Piano Duets and more



The **Long-Looked-Forward-To-Edwards-Annual Christmas Pageant** will take place on **December 16th** in our morning worship service. Children are already learning songs, rehearsing lines, and planning costumes. This year the Pageant cast will include a few adults who will play surprise parts as we **Gather Round the Manger** with our children. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the season through the eyes of a child!



Every year the Worship Board ponders over what time to hold Christmas Eve Services. Early, late, in between?

Everyone seems to have a favorite and no one seems to agree on a "best" time. In recent years, we have tried a variety of times, and this year we have settled on a compromise of sorts. This year we will worship at **8:00 pm on Christmas Eve**.

Here's the thinking! 8:00 won't interfere with the dinner hour, and it won't be too late for most children to be up on Christmas Eve. It will be late enough to feel "special", but not so late that we are all exhausted on Christmas morning! There will be childcare, and there will be a Children's Sermon in the service. Come! Sit at the manger in Bethlehem and celebrate the birth of Jesus with your church family.

Cookie Walk & Defeat the Deficit Party

Please come and support our church Sunday, **December 2nd** right after worship. Buy a plate of cookies and enjoy cozy winter refreshments like chili, cocoa and cornbread.

We are doubling up this year and hoping to use our Cookie Walk proceeds to “defeat the deficit” and get our budget back on track. If we meet our goal and raise \$9000, Pastor Katherine and I may just show up at church with purple hair.



Youth Bowling

On **December 2nd**, after the Cookie Walk, Confirmation students and TECT team youth are invited to Miller Time on Kimberly Road for Bowling. We will start at 2pm. The cost is \$4.00 plus extra cash for a snack or drink. This is a time for youth 6-12th grade to hang out and just have fun together. Let Kendra know if you plan to attend.

Christmas Pageant

This year’s Christmas Pageant is called “Gather Round the Manger.” It includes a cross-generational cast and a variety of characters from the biblical narrative and from Christian history that show up at the manger scene. We have already begun practicing the songs for this year’s pageant. Wednesday nights during TouchStones will be our main rehearsal times. 12/5 and 12/12 are essential nights to practice in preparation for this year’s production. Our dress rehearsal and pizza party will happen on **Friday, December 14th**.

SERRV

SERRV is here! This is a non-profit organization that works to eradicate poverty and empower low income artists and farmers around the world. Check out our Fair Trade Sale on December 2, 9, and 16 in the Narthex.



Simple Supper ~ December 5th

TECT Team will provide the meal and a brief prayer exercise on **December 5th** for Wednesday night programming at TouchStones activities.

Nursery Needs a Makeover

On Sunday, November 4th the Christian Education Board stayed after church to de-clutter, disinfect and organize our nursery. We are continuing to beautify this important space and will be compiling a “wish list” of needs. If you would like to gift any of the following items to the nursery, please contact Kendra at church.

-  *New* (or Gently Used) 21st Century High Chair
-  *New* age appropriate toys (think toddlers, three years of age and younger)
-  *New* (or Gently Used & Functional) Diaper Genie
-  *New* Pack-n-Play Collapsible crib

Quad Cities Mystery Pub

Do you like caffeinated, carbonated, or fermented beverages? Do you like to talk about stuff? Are you intrigued....yet?

We are called the Quad Cities Mystery Pub because:

‘QC’ because we may travel to different venues throughout our four cities. We are somewhat ‘mysterious’ because the location may vary and we might talk about mysterious things. We are a ‘pub’ because beer-drinking is permitted.

Our story:

On Friday, November 16th the Quad Cities Mystery Pub (QCMP) was born. Ten of us from Edwards UCC and the wider community hung out at Cool Beanz in Rock Island.

We would like to do it again! If you would like to know when we will meet next (it’s a mystery, right now!) and what we will discuss next time (it could be anything!), please send an email inquiry to: Kendra@edwards-ucc.org



Dedicating Our New and Newly Placed Pianos

On Sunday morning, **December 2nd**, from 9:45-10:00, we will dedicate our “old” piano in the narthex with an informal hymn sing. During worship and in a wee concert-postlude, we will play our “new” piano, with gifts from young and elder pianists of our congregation.

Why a new piano? Well, this is how such things happen. Someone has a need and tells a friend, who tells their community, and the need turns into a gift of great measure. So when a friend of Edwards’ member Janet Sedgwick needed to sell her piano, Janet called the church, the choir was told, and a member of the choir said, “Can’t you just see a new piano?” Thanks to Van Lewis’ vision and generosity, we now have a beautiful new-to-us Yamaha piano in our sanctuary. AND, our previous piano now graces our new narthex. Both Edwards members Mary Hein and Keith Thess, whose families provided the funds to purchase the previous piano, are delighted the instrument purchased in memory of their mothers now will bring wonderful music into our new building.

The Children of Edwards are being carefully instructed to enjoy playing the piano in the narthex as they might in their homes. Should you hear it being banged on as a toy drum, they know you will gently remind them to respect this lovely instrument. What a gift music is in our congregation and we thank God for the generosity of our members!

Family Musicians Home for the Holidays?

DECEMBER 30th needs you! Following the tradition at Edwards, musicians who have returned for the holidays are invited to spread Christmas cheer with special music. Be a “tattle tale” and let us know who will be home – or sign yourself up. Our worship on December 30th will have Christmas carols and be a Special Music Sunday. Got Christmas music to share in worship? Contact Jean at ext. 203.

Christmas Caroling

One of the favorite traditions of Christmas is the Christmas Caroling party. This year we will gather at 2:00 on **December 16th** at church to carry the magic of the morning children’s pageant into the homes of some of our members who are either home-bound or in care facilities. Everyone can sing Christmas carols, and we need your voice!
2:00! December 16th!



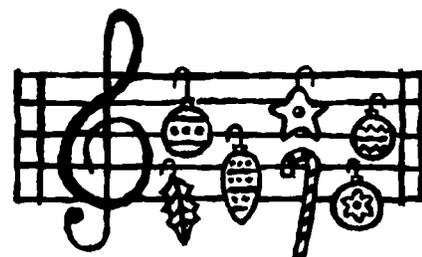
Join in the Hallelujah Chorus

As part of the Children’s Pageant this year, on December 16th, you are invited to sing the *Hallelujah Chorus* from THE MESSIAH by G.F. Handel. Music is on the Music Room table, and one rehearsal will take place on December 9th after worship. Of course, you can continue singing Christmas music with the choir on Wednesday evenings, where we also will be rehearsing for the Advent and Christmas worships. All are welcome. Come and sing HALLELUJAH!

Christmas Music Gifts

FINALLY, Mona Terry and Jean Norton have recorded their promised second album! *Peace, Hope and Wonder...Christmas*. Original instrumental arrangements of carols are recorded on harp, alto recorder and piano. A portion of the proceeds of this year’s CDs will go to the operating budget of Edwards.

Other Edwards music gifts available are several CDs recorded by the gospel quartet, **Promised Land** with arrangements by Cec Chapman, and the **2001 Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols** service with the chancel choir, Alleluia Ringers and string ensemble. These CDs are available in the narthex and proceeds go to Edwards.



Defeat the Deficit

December is a month when we both look backward and forward in the financial life of the church. Even as we are counting the pledges for 2013 and beginning to plan for a new year, we are counting the pennies as we come to the end of the fiscal year 2012.

In January 2012 we adopted a budget that contained a deficit of about \$11,000. From 2005 through 2011, we started each year with a deficit budget and finished with a surplus in every year but one thanks to a combination of higher income and lower spending, usually driven by staff openings.

Through October 31, 2012, spending is about \$8,000 below budget, but congregational giving is under budget by a similar amount. Our best projection is that we will likely end 2012 with about a \$9,000 deficit, which will have to be carried into 2013 (and thus affect our 2013 bottom line.)

So.... NOW IS THE TIME TO DEFEAT THE DEFICIT! On **December 2nd**, we will hold the Annual Christmas Cookie Walk after church, and you will be asked to "buy" a plate of cookies for \$5. The proceeds of that will go toward lowering the deficit. If you are able and inclined....you might consider a larger gift on that day – perhaps \$10 or \$20! Usually we raise about \$1,000 in this fundraiser. How much of a difference would it make if we could raise \$4,000! Please consider a generous donation to the Cookie Walk and let's see if we can DEFEAT THE DEFICIT!!!!

Capital Campaign News

There is exciting news to share as we continue to track our *Sharing the Vision* gifts that are funding our new building. We have passed the \$500,000 mark! We have now received a little more than \$500,000 toward our \$1.25 million campaign. All of those gifts are being deposited into a separate bank account, which makes the loan payments each month. There has been no comingling of operating funds and capital funds, and our loan payments are current! Keep up the good work, Edwards!

2013 Pledges

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge for 2013. And if you haven't turned your pledge in....NOW is the time to do it! So far, we have received 75 pledge cards back, with a total of \$180,126 toward next year's budget. The average pledge is a little more than \$2400!

Each pledge and every gift makes a difference here at Edwards. We are a strong community because we know how to pitch in together to make things happen. Let's do that again this year as we look ahead to our 2013 budget. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Reimbursements

If you have any **2012 expenses** that will require reimbursement, they need to be turned into the church office **no later than Wednesday, January 2, 2013.**



2012 Annual Reports

Due January 2nd

The 173rd Annual Meeting of Edwards UCC will be Thursday evening, Jan. 31st (snowdate – Tuesday, Feb. 5th).

All Board and Committee Chairs and Edwards Staff – Please email your report to kathy@edwards-ucc.org by 9:00 am ~ Wednesday, January 2nd.



Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed December 24th through 26th and January 1st.



Because of privacy concerns related to information available on the internet, Edwards has chosen to remove the names of those for whom we are praying from our on-line newsletter.

We lift in joy those moments of celebration in our lives – anniversaries, births, and marriages. We continue to pray for those in the hospital, those who are home-bound, and those who battle illness. We lift up those who grieve the loss of a loved one and remember those who carry heavy burdens. We trust that as we lift one another in prayer, God’s presence brings strength, hope and wholeness to us all. Amen.

Sunday Morning Parking

Our front parking spaces are filling up on Sunday mornings! We haven’t yet gotten the sign that says – “Visitors and Special Needs Parking” – so until we do, here’s a couple of suggestions. If you need “proximity parking” PLEASE use the front parking lot! If you are dropping someone off and can park in the back lot, consider doing so in order for there to be space available in the front. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Great CareGiving at Edwards

Edwards CareGivers are always available. They can coordinate a ride, bring a meal or come for a visit. Call the church office (563-359-0331) or Coordinator Brian Dugan (563-275-8520) if you have any questions or need assistance.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Now that cooler weather is upon us, it is time to get out those knitting needles and crochet hooks. This is an invitation to everyone to make prayer shawls. The need to pass comfort and love to others is always great. If you need more information or patterns, please contact Dorothy Hammond at 309-797-2321 or drphammond@sbcglobal.net.



December Birthdays

- 1 Will Norwood
- 1 Lyle Stratton
- 2 Carole Baggerly
- 4 Bill Edmond
- 5 Dave Reinders
- 6 Joyce Swartz
- 7 Tobias Augsperger
- 7 Molly Dye
- 7 Anne-Marie Gephart
- 8 Kaela Swarts
- 10 Sue Wymore
- 11 Bob Benson
- 12 Linda Ripple
- 15 Dennise Weyman
- 16 Pam Edmond
- 19 Robert Riedesel
- 19 Abby Scales
- 19 Alex Slack
- 20 Wendy Shaw-Sullivan
- 21 Lisa Gaston
- 22 Kay Stiles
- 22 Megan Beck
- 22 Lynn Warren
- 23 Elinor Moore
- 26 Mike Ball-Trevor
- 26 Bob Wilber
- 27 Gary Mahan
- 28 Willow Ball-Trevor
- 28 Laurie Funderburk
- 30 Ollie Gallaher
- 30 Mona Terry



Wish These Friends a "Happy Birthday!"



**Children’s Choir, TouchStones
and Confirmation
Christmas Break**

There will be **NO** programming
December 26th thru January 9th
However, Confirmation will resume on
Wednesday, January 9th.
Children’s Choir, Simple Supper and
TouchStones will resume on Wednesday,
January 16th

Craft Classes for Christmas

Would you like to give a lasting gift this holiday season? Consider giving the gift of experience! Our crafty Edwards sewers and knitters will be offering beginning craft classes for children and adults. You can purchase a certificate good for 4 classes for \$20. Proceeds will go to Edwards. What better way to celebrate the joy of the season than by giving a gift that will give back to the church and will also give your loved one a talent they can enjoy for the rest of their life. Certificates for adult or child classes will be on sale at the cookie walk. Class times to be determined at a later date. For more information, please contact Marilyn Riedesel or Katy Strzepak.

Warming Tree

The Annual Warming Tree will be in the narthex in early December, waiting for your decorations of children's mittens, socks, underwear, hats and scarves for donation to those in need throughout our community. Thank you!! The Mission Board



Pick an envelope from the Angel Tree and do something nice to help make your friend's holidays a little brighter. It doesn't need to be extravagant! Something as simple as a visit, a ride around town to look at the Christmas lights, or a plate of cookies; anything that will bring cheer and let our friends know we all care. The Angel Tree isn't just for kids, either. So choose an envelope and you will not only warm the heart of one of our family, you will warm your own heart as well!

Toys for Head Start Kids

We would like to give each child in the Head Start classroom a toy from Edwards Church. We are also preparing a food basket and gifts for one particular family in tremendous need. In December, look for and take a red "Head Start ornament" or two from the Head Start tree located in the narthex. Return your food and gift items to the church office by **Monday, December 17th**. Call Kathy in the office for more information.

Library Window Look

There are a few books in the church library that may help you and your family get ready for Christmas:

Start Advent by reading together Madeleine L'Engle's *THE TWENTY-FOUR DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS, An Austin Family Story*. Then, *THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER* is funny and lively about the Herdman family who has the absolutely worst kids in the world ever. (If you have an old VCR, there is also a video of this favorite Christmas story.)

FAMILY TRADITIONS (to read with your children) and *CELEBRATING AT HOME, Prayers and Liturgies for Families* both are books about understanding and practicing rituals together at Christmas and on other occasions.

To keep with the adult study on *VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY* pick up one of the copies of *UNPLUG THE CHRISTMAS MACHINE*.

Finally, for those interested in understanding a connection between astrology and Christmas there is *THE BIRTH OF CHRIST EXPLODING THE MYTH*.



Welcome New Members . . .



Our church family continues to grow. On Sunday, November 11th, 5 persons united with Edwards. They are:

Vivien “Viv” Boyer comes to us from DeWitt, IA. She lived most of her life in DeWitt, where her father was the Congregational minister. Viv married and raised 3 daughters. She was active in the DeWitt schools in the special education program and the activities director for a local nursing home.

After her husband died, she moved to Davenport to be close to her daughter. She insists she has no domestic abilities, but loves the outdoors. Viv participated in Adopt-a-Highway this year and is looking forward to going on the Biloxi mission trip next year. In her spare time, she sings in the Edwards choir, is active at CASI, loves to dance, and has trained dogs for 30 years.

Viv resides at:
1619 Shady Glen Dr., Davenport, IA 52807
Phone: 563-505-9819
Sponsor: Kay Stiles

Charles “Chuck” Collins was born in Waterloo, IA., graduated from Bettendorf High School, moved several times and achieved numerous degrees. Chuck has a love of education; returned to the area to become a math teacher at Bettendorf High.

Chuck is now retired and is an accomplished trombonist. He plays in 4 musical groups including the brass ensemble at Edwards. He is also studying the flute. In his spare time he tutors students in math.

Chuck resides at:
3604 Cedarwood Ct., Bettendorf, IA 52722
Phone: 563-332-6607
Email: cscollins@q.com
Sponsor: Judy Collins

Mrs. Elizabeth “Betty” Collins is the mother of Charles and Judy Collins. She comes to us from 1st Presbyterian Church, Davenport. Betty has visited Edwards numerous times to take part in our worship services and to give her support to Chuck and Judy during their participation in the choir and instrumental ensembles.

Betty is retired and resides at Senior Star.
Sponsor: Judy Collins

Anita and Annette Dietz were born in Davenport and raised in Moline, IL. They resided in Galesburg, IL before moving to Phoenix, AZ. After 17 years, they moved back to Davenport to be near nephew Michael and Ray Ball-Trevor and their 3 children.

Anita and Annette are known as “Aunt Twins” to family and friends. They are retired lab technicians and in their spare time, enjoy being with family and friends (and especially sharing their rich, dark chocolate brownies).

“Aunt Twins” reside at:
1922 Winding Hill Rd., Davenport, IA 52807
Phone: 563-514-3061 or 563-528-2663
E-mail: dietztwins2@gmail.com
Sponsors: Michael & Ray Ball-Trevor and Fran Wolfe.

Viv, Chuck, Betty, Anita, and Annette –“**Welcome Home to Edwards.**” We are so blessed to have you in our church family.

~Membership Board



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !!

Thank you to **Steve Wildemuth** for framing the stained glass pieces from the old “front door” and for crafting the beautiful benches showing up in the new narthex from the leftover oak used in the new addition.

The blood drive committee and the Blood Center want to thank everyone for a successful blood drive. There were 29 units collected which is one over goal. A special thank you to the people who brought neighbors, friends, relatives and co-workers to the drive. Without you the drive would not have been successful. Up to 87 people have been helped thanks to your generosity. There were also three first time donors, thank you for being brave enough to take the first step. Also thank you to all of the people who brought cookies, fruit and juice to help replenish the donors. Thank you to the **Dulaney**s for helping to set up and put away the tables and chairs. **THANK YOU** to **Dorothy Hammond** for the organization of these blood drives.

Thanks to **Kathy Lafrenz** for leading Children’s Chapel with some Music and Movement to 1 Corinthians 13.

Thanks to the **Christian Education Board** for rolling up your sleeves and tackling the nursery. It looks much better!

Thank you to all those who helped with the Seder Meal set up and clean up: **Suzanne & Bob Benson, Pat Cresap, Dee & Darrell Hillyer, Van Lewis, Deena & Brad Miller, Beth Penn**. Special thanks to **Mila Smith**, whose excellent baking skills provided the corn bread, and to **Mary Hein** who provided the symbolic corn and to **Brian Dugan, Dick Jirus, Tom Kenneke, Merlyn Lippert** and **Brad Miller** for muscling into place tables and chairs for 120 people.

Thank you to all who came out to cook and serve the food at the Community Kitchen on October 16th. You fed many a warm meal, which is appreciated greatly. **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the November Editor assemblers: **Sue & Curly Curl, Geri & Dick Dulaney, Pat Hixon** and **Ardis Kasper**.

The Worship Board wishes to thank all of the following talented and dedicated participants, planners, assistants, idea people, and supporters of the October Reformation Sunday Lay Service: **Suzanne Benson, Evan Crawford, Katie Dircks, Susan Dircks, Brian Dugan, Elyse Dye, Madelyn Dye, Molly Dye, Michaela Fessler, Anne-Marie Gephart, Grace Gephart, Jewell Hixon, Ben Hukvari, Tim Huey, Jennifer Jordening, John Keraus, Nikki Keraus, Dick Lafrenz, Kathy Lafrenz, Van Lewis, Elaine Lippert, Merlyn Lippert, Lars Meseke-Wren, Cathy Miller, Charlie Miller, Herb Moore, Katherine Mulhern, Jean Norton, Carol Ogletree, Joyce Paustian, Woody Perkins, Sandy Reinders, Bobbi Rudiger, Parker Sedgwick, Lyle Stratton, Judy Thess, Kendra Thompson, Rob Tubbs, Abby Weyman, and Chris Zippe**, the entire Chancel Choir, and the whole Congregation in attendance!

Thanks to **Katy Strzepek** and **Sharon Wildemuth** for leading the SERRV Fair Trade Sale this holiday season at Edwards.

The Mission Board would like to thank the many volunteers who work for mission and outreach events at Edwards. Because of these volunteers, we are able to provide for community food pantries, Winnie’s Place for families in need, Blessings in a Backpack for Eisenhower students, Community Kitchen at the Salvation Army, funds for Churches United, Thanksgiving baskets, Warming Tree in December, Christmas Fund special donation for retired pastors and other church personnel, highway cleanup, The Place 2b, for high school kids and the annual blood drive, with special thanks to **Dorothy Hammond** for her years as coordinator of the drive. With gratitude and thanks to all, The Mission Board

Thank you to the **Donuts & Hammers** guys for all of the repairs and projects they do around the church. We are blessed to have your expertise!!

THANK YOU: Elaine Lippert, at the organ and piano, and as director, along with **the children of Edwards**, Promised Land (**Cec Chapman, Michelle Hukvari, Robert Riedesel and Dick Werner**), Strings 'R' Us (**Suzanne Benson**, director, with **Abby Weyman, Katie and Susan Dircks**), the Edwards Wind Ensemble (**Marty Beck, Chuck Collins, Emily Norwood, Robert Riedesel, Dick Werner and Chris Zippe**), for special Thanksgiving music, with **Merlyn Lippert** conducting the choir as well as the Thanksgiving Eve service and to the Liturgical Dancers (**Kathy Lafrenz**, director). Thank you to the weekly volunteers bringing wonderful help to the world of music at Edwards over the past month: **Sandy Reinders**, Director of Alleluia Ringers, **Martha Jirus and Carol Mahan**, Music Librarians, **Judy Pavlak**, music secretary, **Kathy Lafrenz**, Director of Liturgical Dancers and the many folks who do sound!

Thank you my friends at Edwards for all your words that comforted me at my Mother's death. Your cards and prayers were a source of strength and love. I feel very fortunate to be a member of this wonderful family. God bless you all. **Kay Anthony**

We had a wonderful turn out for the Fall Adopt-A-Highway clean up on October 27th. There was the same amount of experienced road volunteers as there were first timers. What a wonderful blend of people all helping to keep this Earth clean. **THANK YOU** for getting up early on a chilly fall day, and making a difference.

Thank you to all the youth who are helping pack the bags each week for "Blessing in a Backpack". Because of you 60 children have food to keep them from being hungry over the weekends. You kids ROCK! and Thank you to all the adults who also facilitate this program.

Dear Edwards Friends, Thank you for the support and care you offered us in the wake of Dick's recent fall. Cards, meals, and help with physical yardwork made us deeply grateful for the Edwards community. You are special. All is well now, and Dick has healed miraculously well. Blessings, **Katherine Mulhern and Dick Werner**.

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, to be used in decorating our sanctuary for the Advent /Christmas season, order forms are available in the Narthex. Each lovely 6.5" potted poinsettia plant is \$8.00. We will receive orders through 10 am, **December 10th!** Please make checks payable to "Edwards UCC" with "Poinsettia" in the memo line. Place your order and payment in the envelope on the table in the Narthex or in an offering plate.



Christmas Fund

The Annual Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants; administered by the Pension Boards.

This year's offering will be on **December 23rd**. Envelopes are in the pew racks.



SPECIAL OFFERING

Salvation Army Meal Site

Every other month, Edwards sponsors an evening meal at the community meal site in the Salvation Army building on the corner of 6th and Harrison Streets in Davenport. Approximately 70-90 persons are served a nourishing meal prepared in our church kitchen. Food preparation begins at 2:00 pm and takes about 2 hours. Volunteers arrive at Edwards by 5:20 pm to load, transport, setup and serve at the meal site. Our next meal to prepare and serve is **Tuesday, December 18th**. Please contact Julie Henke about volunteering.

December 23rd is



**Food Pantry
Sunday**

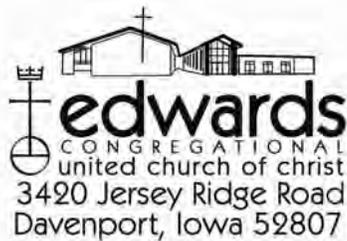
Who... What... When... Where...

	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30
	Cookie Walk		Children's Pageant	Special Offering	
Preacher	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Jean Norton
Chancel Set-up	Sandy Doran Sandy Reinders	Marilyn Riedesel	Judy Stouffer	John Keraus	Jennifer Jordening
Altar Flowers				Poinsettias	
Scripture Reader	Jennifer Jordening	Robert Riedesel	Edwards Children	Norma Wren	Jean Norton
Communion Servers	Russ Dircks, Kathy Lafrenz, Erica Schroeder, Judy Stouffer, Dick Vallandingham				
Special Music	Donna Lewis, soprano, and various Edwards pianists	Alleluia Ringers	Children's Choir and Liturgical Dancers, Hallelujah Chorus	Chancel Choir	Special Music Sunday with Promised Land, the Dircks' Trio, Piano Duets and more
Nursery	Chris & Michaela Fessler		Katy & Jay Kyte		
Ushers	Russ Dircks Erica Schroeder Judy Stouffer Dick Vallandingham	Pam Edmond Mila Smith Milo Smith Fran Wolfe	Bob Anderson Bev Bergert Caroline Evans John Harnung	Dick Dulaney Pat Sterk Bonnie Walling Ned Walling	Barb Bleedorn Joyce Paustian Margaret Wilber Steve Wildemuth
Greeters	Pam Edmond Dorothy Hammond John Hammond Evona Petherick	Chris Fessler Ruth Hefferman John Harnung Susan Harnung	Ardis Kasper Jack King Vonnie King Jeannine Miller	Edith Egli George Kovacs Chris Medina Joyce Paustian	Sandy Reinders Tina Rivera Terry Schlabach Kerry Scudder
Coffee Hour	Cookie Walk	Ball-Trevor & Dietz families			Lois & Bob Larew
Lock-up	Dick Werner	Dave Reinders	John Harnung	Dick Werner	Milo Smith
Snow Removal (the week of)	John Harnung Milo Smith	Dick Werner Steve Wildemuth	Dick Dulaney Richard Jirus	John Harnung Milo Smith	Dick Werner Steve Wildemuth
CareGivers On Call	Suzanne Benson Elaine Lippert	Ruth Bowers Kay Stiles	Chuck Collins Suzanne Benson	Elaine Lippert Sandy Reinders	Fran Wolfe

Where there are blanks, we may need your help!! Please call the church office to sign up.

DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Food Pantry Sunday 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 11:30 AM Shop SERRV 4:00 PM TECT Team	26 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal	27 8:30 AM Donuts & Hammers 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM CareGivers Meeting 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	28 5:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Simple Supper 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM TouchStones 6:00 PM Voluntary Simplicity 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	30	1 9:00 AM Advent Decorating 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary
2 Advent 9:45 AM Piano Dedications 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Cookie Walk 11:30 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 11:30 AM Shop SERRV 2:00 PM Youth Bowling 6:00 PM Search Committee Meeting	3 10:00 AM Women's Breakfast Group 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal	4 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	5 5:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Simple Supper 6:00 PM Children's Pageant Rehearsal 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal	6 1:00 PM Clergy-SAG 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	7	8 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary
9 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Hallelujah Chorus Rehearsal 11:30 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 11:30 AM Shop SERRV 4:00 PM TECT Team 6:00 PM Search Committee Meeting	10 10:00 AM Poinsettia Order Due 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal	11 8:30 AM Donuts & Hammers 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 PM Board Meetings 7:30 PM Council Meeting	12 5:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Simple Supper 6:00 PM Children's Pageant Rehearsal 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	14 9:00 AM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	15 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary
16 10:15 AM Children's Pageant 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fair Trade Coffee Sale 11:30 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 11:30 AM Shop SERRV 2:00 PM Caroling to Homebound 4:00 PM TECT Team 6:00 PM Search Committee Meeting	17 9:00 AM Head Start Toys and Food Due 6:30 PM Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal	18 12:00 PM CareGivers Meeting 2:00 PM Churches United Meal Site Food Prep 5:20 PM Serve at Churches United Meal Site located at Salvation Army 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	19 5:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Simple Supper 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM TouchStones 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	21 First Day of Winter 2:30 PM Arrange Poinsettias	22 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary
23 Christmas Fund Special Offering Food Pantry Sunday 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 4:00 PM TECT Team	24 Office Hours are 9 to Noon 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	26 Office Closed	27 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	28	29 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary 5:00 PM Baxter Fellowship Hall Reserved
30 10:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM NO Children's Chapel 11:30 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 11:30 AM Promised Land Rehearsal 4:00 PM TECT Team	31 Office Hours are 9 to Noon	1 New Year's Day Office Closed 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	2 9:00 AM All Board, Committe and Staff Annual Reports Due 9:00 AM Reimbursement Requests Due	3 1:00 PM Clergy-SAG 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	4	5 10:00 AM Rehearsal in Sanctuary



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December 2012



For the most current up-to-date
 calendar information go to
www.edwards-ucc.org
 and click on the calendar link

Some Important Dates!!

- Jan. 2 Board/Committee/Staff Reports Due**
- Jan. 2 Reimbursement Requests Due**
- Jan. 31 173rd Annual Meeting (snowdate – Feb. 5th)**

Food Pantry Sunday
December 23rd

Please bring a bag of groceries for the Food Pantry. Items needed include tuna, soups, stews, peanut butter, breakfast cereal, toiletries, diapers, etc. Whatever your cupboard needs...the Food Pantry needs, too!

EDWARDS CHURCH STAFF

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Rev. Katherine A. Mulhern , Pastor | katherine@edwards-ucc.org |
| Rev. Jean Norton , Minister of Music | jean@edwards-ucc.org |
| Kendra Thompson , Minister of Faith Formation | kendra@edwards-ucc.org |
| Kathy Bowerman , Administrative Assistant | kathy@edwards-ucc.org |
| Geri Dulaney , Membership Coordinator | geri@edwards-ucc.org |
| Brian Dugan , Caregiver Coordinator | brian@edwards-ucc.org |
| Cathy Loughead , Bookkeeper | loughead@mchsi.com |
| Julie Henke , Financial Secretary | JulieHenke@aol.com |
| Shirley Johnson , Moderator | uffda@netexpress.net |

New Phone?

New Email?

New Address?

Please let Kathy in the office know of any changes in your contact information. 359-0331
kathy@edwards-ucc.org

EDWARDS TIME & TALENT SURVEY

Carefully, look through each area of ministry and place a check mark by the areas you believe that you are gifted and willing to serve in.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

- Christian Education
- Endowment Committee
- Media
- Membership
- Mission
- Pastor-Parish
- Personnel
- Social Board
- Social Justice
- Stewardship
- Trustees
- Worship

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Assist./Sub. Teach
- Camp Counselor
- Facilitate group discussions
- Lead a Youth Group
- Mentor Confirmand
- Provide Transportation
- Teach Church School
- Teach Jr. / Sr. High
- Teach VBS

WORSHIP

- Altar Guild / Decorating
- Communion Prep.
- Lay Speaker
- Liturgist
- Scripture Reader
- Serve Communion
- Tell Children's Story
- Usher

CAREGIVING

- Make Hospital Visits
- Prepare / Deliver Meals
- Serve Communion to Homebound
- Provide Transportation
- Visit Homebound
- Call/Phone Homebound

CHILD CARE

- During church activities
- Sunday Nursery

FELLOWSHIP

- Coffee Hour Host
- Greeter
- Kitchen Help
- Potluck Help
- Provide baked goods
- Reception Help
- Sponsor New Members
- Visitor Guide

CHURCH OFFICE

- Answer Phone
- Assemble Annual Report
- Assemble Weekly Bulletin
- Assemble Newsletter
- Assist with bulk mailings
- Vacation Coverage
- Typing / Data Input

MISSION PROJECTS

- Adopt-a-Highway
- Annual Garage Sale
- Biloxi Trip
- Blood Drive
- Community Kitchen
- CROP Walk
- Habitat for Humanity
- Thanksgiving Basket helper

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

- 21+ Gatherings
- Family Retreats
- Moveable Feasts
- Women's Day Out
- Women's Night Out

MUSIC

- Chancel Choir
- Children's Choir
- Friends in Faith Band
- Guitarist
- Handbell Choir
- Instrumental _____
- Liturgical Dancer
- Organist
- Pianist
- Violinist
- Vocalist

BUILDING & GROUNDS

- Carpentry
- Electrical
- Gardening
- Landscaping
- Mowing
- Painting
- Plastering
- Plumbing
- Snow Removal
- Trimming

GROWTH

- Bible Study
- Book Studies
- Faith Development
- Leadership Retreats
- Men's Group
- Prayer Group
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Spiritual Retreats
- Women's Bible Study

SPECIAL SKILLS

- Arts & Crafts
- Audio Equipment
- Audit Books
- Banner Making
- Bookkeeping / Accounting
- Calligraphy
- Computers
- Drama
- Finances
- Photography
- Poster Making
- Power Point
- Sewing
- Telephoning
- Typing / Data Input
- Video Equip. Knowledge

Other gifts, talents or skills you would like to share:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Ask, 'What's possible?' There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about. Through our October Coffee Hour Conversations, this message came across loud and clear ~ this is Edwards UCC!!!! As we begin a time of preparation for a new year striving to accomplish our ministry goals; please consider serving on a church board. All boards meet on the same night (the second Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 with childcare provided).

During the worship service **Sunday, December 9th**, you will have an opportunity complete a time and talent sheet. **Please consider your participation in the life of the church by volunteering to serve on a church board** (each board consists of 7 to 9 members, no experience necessary) ~ these are exciting (and fun) times for Edward's UCC mission and ministry! Briefly, here is the mission of each of our boards:

Christian Education and Youth ~

With the Minister of Faith Formation, overseeing the educational programs of the church, ensuring that children, youth and adults of all ages are nurtured in the Christian faith. Coordinating the Confirmation program with the Pastor.

Membership ~

Promote church growth and to develop the participation of the membership of the Church.

Mission ~

Responsible for promoting congregational participation in the mission and outreach of the Church.

Trustees ~

Responsible for the care and custody of the property of the Church, and have charge of its financial affairs.

Social Justice~

Empower the congregation to follow the challenge and example of Jesus, proclaiming and implementing justice through education and action. The Board will also seek to provide a lens through which we can understand Christian witness in our church, our community and our world.

Worship ~

Act in an advisory capacity to the Pastor regarding worship services and the spiritual interests of the Church.

Social ~

Coordinate with the Pastor and other Boards, as necessary, to support and develop the fellowship activities and experiences of the congregation.

Margaret Wheatley, in her book *Turning to One Another*, underlines the power of conversation and the role of leaders in creating the kinds of conversations that can promote meaningful change: "Ask, 'What's possible?' There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about. Keep asking. . . . Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters."