



Edwards Editor

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February 2008

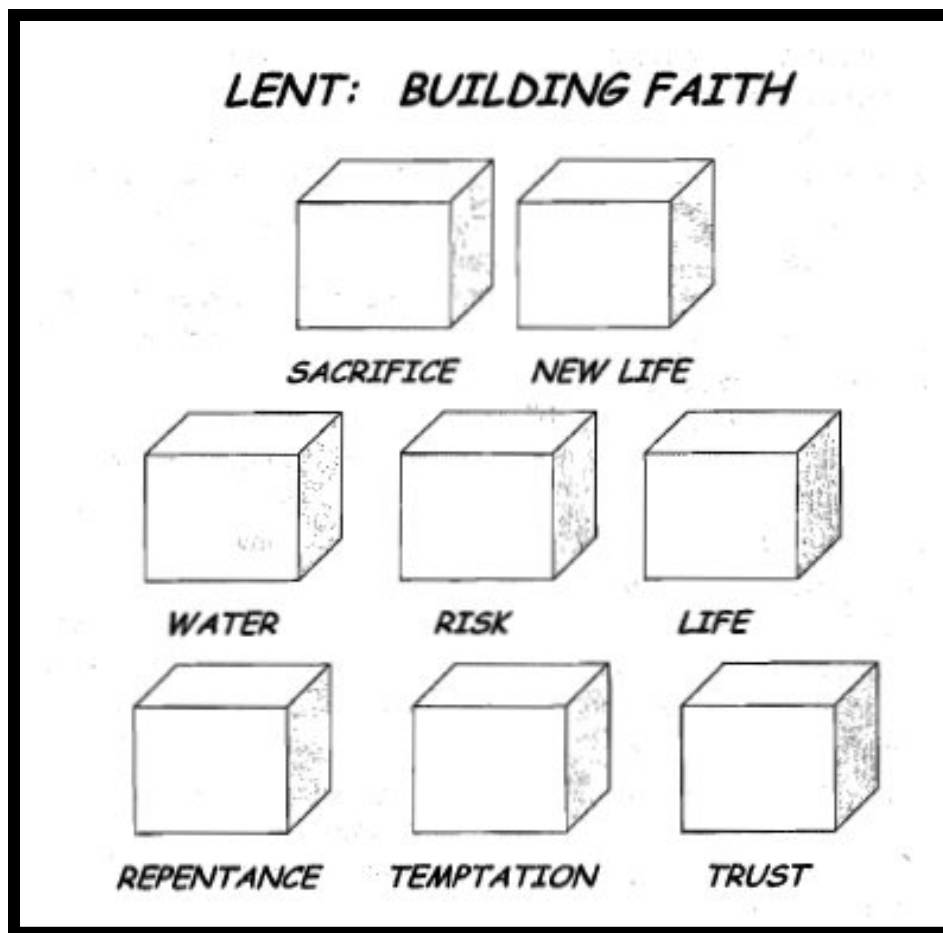


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From Our Pastor's Desk...

Lent comes early this year - February 6th to be exact! I'm still finding stray Christmas decorations around my house, and here we are getting ready for Easter. It doesn't seem right, somehow. But that's what the calendar says, and so - ready or not - Ash Wednesday will begin our preparations for the great celebration of Easter on March 23.

Historically, Lent has been a time when we, as followers of Jesus, remember the sacrifices that he made for us by sacrificing something in our own lives. In the Middle Ages, Christians gave up all meat for the entire season of Lent. In more modern times, the practice of eating fish on Fridays became more common. Some people give up chocolate, or sweets, or other foods that taste good and are tempting (but not necessarily good for us). I know people who give up television or movies or restaurant meals during Lent.

In recent years, I have come to understand Lent differently. I don't think that it is so much a time of deprivation, as it is a time to find some new or renewed discipline that will help to connect me to my faith more deeply and more regularly. It has become - for me - a time to re-focus on prayer and worship, on study and reflection.

This year, I am excited about the ways that we will be doing that together here at Edwards. On Sunday mornings we will focus on the stories of Jesus that have changed the way people understood themselves and God. We will reflect together on the characteristics that build a strong and enduring faith.

Wednesday Evenings at church will be better than ever, I think. Becky David will be leading a time of reflection and worship called *The Wheel of Life*. Someday she will write a book (I hope!), but for now she gives seminars and workshops on the way that life cycles - like a wheel - from good times to struggle and back again. Over the five Wednesdays in Lent, you will have the chance to reflect deeply about the ways in which your life and God's love come together, season by season. Don't miss it!

On Friday, February 15th, we will have an opportunity to connect with each other and with the music that makes our faith come alive, as the Chancel Choir, Promised Land, the Friends in Faith Band, and the Alleluia Ringers give a concert to raise funds for new choir robes.

The reality is that most of our lives are too full already, and Lent often feels like one more thing we "have" to do. In order for Lent to become a time when our faith can grow deeper roots, we are invited to empty out some space for whatever new discipline we choose to engage. That might mean that we leave work a little early on Wednesdays - to make space. It might mean that we clean out some of the emotional "clutter" that takes up energy and time - to make space for God to be at work.

Whatever it means in your life, I invite you to make the space and the time to honor Lent this year. It is a journey that will take you to the cross and beyond - to the Easter joy of God's resurrection love. See you in church!

February Scriptures

February 3:

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

February 6:

Joel 2:1-2
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10
Matthew 6:16-21

February 10:

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

February 17:

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

February 24:

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Lenten Wednesdays

Ash Wednesday will begin our observance of Lent on February 6, with worship at 6:30, which will include receiving the ashes that remind us of the importance of repentance in this holy season of the church year.

The Wheel of Life, led by Rev. Becky David, will be a time for reflection, prayer, and learning each Wednesday evening in Lent. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in faith.

Touchstones This program of learning and living for our school-aged children continues through Lent.

Confirmation continues for Middle School Youth

Chancel Choir will begin at 7:15 to allow choir members to share in the adult reflection time.

***Soup Supper will begin at 6:00
each Wednesday night,
beginning Feb. 13.***

God is Still Humming:

A Concert for New Choir Robes

is on Friday night, February 15th at 7 pm. The Promised Land men's quartet, the Chancel Choir, the Alleluia Ringers handbell choir, the women's vocal trio, a classical piano duet, The Friends in Faith Band - among other surprises - will bring rockin' music in the sanctuary. Place your silent auction bid for the *Tranquility* painting donated by Caroline England, Mary Beth Dirck's mother. We are raising funds for new robes, because not only are the zippers and fabric wearing out, we need more! What a delightful need! Invite your friends, family and neighbors and come and be part of an evening of humming, snapping and celebrating. Refreshments following.

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

**Christian Education - Upcoming
Events**

Friday, February 1st

TGIF: From 5:30 - 7:00 children and youth are invited to come for supper in Baxter Hall and then bake the bread the congregation will share for communion on Sunday.

Sunday, February 3rd

Drumming Sunday: Mona is bringing a special guest to lead us in our drum circle. Meet in Baxter Hall at 9:00 for breakfast. We will begin drumming at 9:20!

LifeStraw® Ministry

Thanks to Rachael Sedgwick, Charlie Miller and Elyse Dye for presenting the LifeStraw® story to the congregation at Trinity Lutheran in Moline. Our next church visit will be to Faith United Church of Christ in Davenport.

Tutoring Program

Your response to our request for tutors has been overwhelming! Final preparations for our tutoring site in central Davenport are underway and we hope to begin tutoring kids by mid-February. Anyone wishing to participate as a tutor should contact Susan Chesley @359-0331.

Men of Edwards News

We continue our viewing and discussion of the DVD "Living the Questions" on Saturday, February 2nd from 8 to 9:15 am in the church parlor. Come join us for lively discussion and fellowship.

Youth News

Brrrrrr... January was quite a cold month around here but it looks like February is starting to heat up. Well, maybe not in the temperature but the Youth are heating things up.

Every year our youth stand outside the doors of the sanctuary, holding huge soup pots inviting each person to donate to the Souper Bowl of Caring. On **February 4th**, our youth will again be outside the doors on a mission to stop hunger in the Quad Cities. With your help, they can be a part of making this mission complete. All donations go to Churches United, who distributes the donations to various food pantries in the Quad Cities. Soup will be served during Coffee hour by the Youth on this day.

On **February 10**, which is Racial Justice Sunday, we are excited to have Nir Zernyak visit our youth during Breakfast Club. Nir is an Israeli Program Director who is working for the Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities. He will talk to our youth about the social and racial issues in Israel today. We look forward to his visit.

Bible 101...for Adults!

Do you wish you knew more about the Bible? Do you want to study more, but don't know where to start? Do you find the Old Testament confusing? The JOIN US at 9:00 every Sunday in the Church Library! Katherine will be teaching a 10 week study of the Old Testament from Genesis all the way through Malachi. Come and learn!

Lunch-and-Learn

As we continue our "walk in the shoes" of someone living in poverty, the Edwards Social Justice Board will be hosting lunch-and-learn forums the fourth Sunday of the month to better understand the issues related to poverty, share impressions, dialogue and ideas. Please plan to join us **February 24** (11:30-12:30) in the library. We will be learning about the unique and sometimes hidden obstacles that individuals from poverty face. A presentation and discussion lead by Jim Ott entitled **Bridges Out of Poverty** will increase our understanding of the differences in economic cultures and how those differences affect opportunities for success.



World Community Institute

The World Affairs Council of the World Community Institute is sponsoring a series of lectures throughout the year that will highlight a variety of global issues of critical importance. Tuesday, February 26th at 7 pm on the second floor of the Bettendorf Library; George Tounou, Togolese Club president and Debi Nicoue, a Black Hawk College student will present *Life in Togo, Africa: Nature and People*. More information can be found at www.worldcommunityinstitute.org or by calling 355-4390.

Lecture & Film Series: The Challenges and Victories of Haitian Women

– presented by Ambrose Women for Social Justice, begins Tues., Feb. 5th at 3:30 pm with a lecture by Dr. Rose-Marie Chierici, a native of Haiti and associate professor of anthropology at SUNY-Geneseo. Chierici's research focuses on the interactions of gender and globalization. At 6:30 pm there will be a film, *The Sugar Babies: The Plight of Agricultural Workers in the Sugar Industry of the Dominican Republic*. A panel discussion with the film's producer Amy Serrano, and Dr. Chierici, examines the moral price of sugar – present and past – from the perspective of the conditions surrounding the children of sugar cane cutters of Haitian ancestry in the Dominican Republic. All events are held in the Rogalski Center on the St. Ambrose Campus. For information, call Katy Strzepak 563-333-6000 ext. 4235.



Keep In Your Prayers

- ◆ **Marilyn Hamilton**, recovering from foot surgery
- ◆ **The Mandells**, in the death of **Tim's** father
- ◆ **Nancy Stenger**, in the hospital recovering from a broken hip
- ◆ **Carol Stratton**, beginning a new chemotherapy
- ◆ **Carolina Warren-Collison**, in the hospital recovering from pancreatitis
- ◆ **Shirley Wiele**, recovering from a broken leg
- ◆ **The Wildemuths**, in the death of **Steve's** grandmother

Welcome a New Member

During the Sunday evening contemporary worship service, **Sandi Russell** united with Edwards. She has been a life-long resident of the Davenport area and now resides in Eldridge. Sandi found Edwards through our CareGiving network and has developed a close bond with Edwards. Sandi continues to battle cancer with faith, courage, and determination. Her caring nature helps those around her. Sandi works part-time in Eldridge and in her spare time loves to read, sew and crochet, and enjoys being with people. She is a proud mother of two daughters; she lost a son in 1986.

Sandi resides at 800 E. Iowa, Unit # 1A, Eldridge, IA 52748-1934 Phone: 349-5421.

We are blessed to have Sandi join our faith community. **Welcome Home, Sandi.**

Sponsors: Sharon Wildemuth & D Slack

Women's Night Out

Women's Night Out will meet on February 21st, at 6:00 pm at Cheddar's Restaurant. Come join us!

Potluck Sunday will be February 10th! Bring a dish to share and join us for wonderful food and fellowship.

Looking For Decision Makers

The kitchen is in desperate need of a thorough cleaning. Are you good at getting rid of unused items? **Can you help remove items from the cupboards then decide what to keep, give to Goodwill and what to throw out?** If you can help, please call Sandy Reinders, 332-2637.

PLEASE HELP!

Coffee hour hosts needed

Do you enjoy the coffee and snacks served every week after church? Please sign up to make coffee, and bring snacks. Directions are posted in the kitchen. It's fairly easy to serve and it's a great way to meet folks. Sign up on the sheet posted in Baxter Hall by the serving counter, sign up on the Sunday "tear-off sheet" or call Sandy Reinders, 332-2637, to volunteer.



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !!

Thank you to each person who served on a Board last year, and especially to the chairs and officers. **Tracy Miller, Elisabeth Norwood, Clyde Durrah** and **Ruth Hefferman**, officers of the church. **Tom Kenneke, Dick Dulaney, Sandy Reinders, Shirley Johnson, Sharon Wildemuth, Steve Wildemuth, Bill Coker, Mila Smith, Cathie Miller, Vonnie King,** and **Lou Wren**, Board Chairs. Every one of you has made a difference in the life of our church!

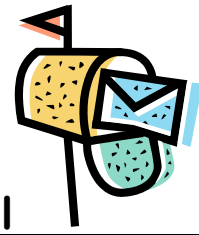
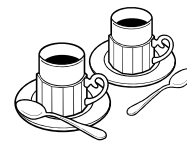
Thanks to **Ryan, Katy, Elyse, Molly** and **Maddy Dye, Michael, Chris** and **Michaela Fessler, Susan** and **Katie Dircks** and **Susan Chesley** for preparing and serving supper at the East Moline Meal site. Thanks also to **Woody Perkins** for documenting the event in photos.

An updated THANK YOU to our New Years' musicians: a beautiful family string trio by **Paul** and **Isaac Trapkus** and **Elizabeth Knoche** and lovely viola solo by **Kaela Swarts**. Special thanks to **Mary Beth Dircks** and **Brad Miller** for their piano duet, and the Alleluia Ringers for their delightful monthly music, directed by **Sandy Reinders**. Further thanks to **Evangeline Lewis** for hosting the New Years' Choir Potluck / Retreat, **Bob Riedesel** for even more pencils, **Brian Dugan** and **Angela Elliott** for *The Gathering* Worship leadership, and **Audrey Dugan** for much needed music library assistance.



Thanks to **Joe Opsal** for preparing, serving, and cleaning up one of the Wednesday Simple Suppers in January.

Thanks to the January Coffee hour hosts: **Elisabeth** and **Sam Norwood** and **Sasha** and **Joel Boon**. Thanks to the Trustees and Moderators, past, present, future, and substitutes that helped the church potluck run so smoothly from beginning to end.



In The Mail

Dear Ladies Night Out,
Again your generosity aided in our family's most beautiful Christmas. It's so nice to have new bright clothes to pull on and to dress my precious boys. Of course, the same goes for pajamas and nightgowns - so wonderful! The gift cards feel full in my wallet - a very nice feeling! And of course, there were toys. 😊 Watching little hands push their cars on new tracks built moments before. Lots of smiles!!
Thank you for it all,
Sally Canfield, David & Nathan

Notes from the 2007 Annual Report . . .

Financial News

From a financial standpoint, 2007 was a good year at Edwards. A year ago, we adopted a budget with a \$16,000 deficit projected, and we ended the year with a \$4,500 surplus! You gave generously, and we have watched our expenses carefully.

As we begin 2008, there are several things to celebrate and highlight.

- ◇ To date all the pledges have not been finalized, but we expect that pledging will increase by at least \$10,000 this year!
- ◇ Watching expenses carefully, we expect to include \$10,000 in the 2008 budget toward pastoral and staff salary increases, which will allow for substantial raises to those staff who are currently underpaid.
- ◇ Our budgeted mission giving continues to remain above 10% of our total annual budget.
- ◇ This year's budgeted deficit is a little more than \$11,000 - which the Church Council believes is within our ability to raise over the course of the year.

Community Notes

Did you know that -

- 20 people joined with us in membership in 2007?
- There are 8 musical groups that share regularly in our worship services - all of whom are members of Edwards?
- Our Caregiver Coordinator logged 3,048 miles, making 234 visits to members and friends of Edwards in 2007?
- 17 families served as hosts for Coffee Hour throughout the year?
- Our total mission giving (budgeted and special offerings) was over \$37,000 - and if you include the Mission Trip Funds it's more like \$42,000!
- Kay Stiles is our 2008 Moderator, and Tom Kenneke is our Moderator-Elect?
- The Weekday Programs has a new director - Meki Falborg? Stop by and meet her!

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

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
<i>Preacher</i>	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern	Katherine Mulhern
<i>Greeters</i>	Cathy Loughead Amanda Loughead Ardis Kasper Joyce Swartz	Gilly Miller Don Miller Mila Smith Milo Smith	Sharon Wildemuth Sandy Sohr	Carol Carroll Bonnie Walling Ned Walling
<i>Ushers</i>	Bonnie Walling Ned Walling Anne-Marie Gephart Sally Egy	Margaret Wilber Barb Bleedorn Pat Sterk Tom Kenneke	Clyde Durrah Dave Wymore Pat Rosburg Milo Smith	Russ Dircks Emily Kenneke Dick Dulaney Curly Curl
<i>Visitor Guides</i>				
<i>Nursery 10:15 a.m.</i>			Cathy and Amanda Loughead	
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>		Potluck Setup: Membership Cleanup: Worship	Gilly and Don Miller	
<i>Caregivers on Call</i>		Lois Larew Lyle Stratton	Jean Neavor Carol Bachellor	Ruth Bowers Sharon Wildemuth
<i>Scripture Reader</i>	Kathy Lafrenz	Tracy Miller	Sharon Wildemuth	Carol Ogletree
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Brian Dugan, Kathy Lafrenz, Emily Kenneke			
<i>Chancel Set- Up</i>	Emily Kenneke	Chris Zippe	Brian Dugan	Bob Hamilton
<i>Sound System</i>	<i>Several Volunteers</i>			
<i>Lock-Up</i>	Woody Perkins	Michael Fessler		Margaret Wilber

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



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

FEBRUARY 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Bible 101 . . . for Adults! 9:00 AM Church School 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:15 AM Food Pantry Sunday at Worship 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Walk in the Shoes of Poverty 11:45 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 5:30 PM Worship 6:30 PM Evening Worship Potluck 7:00 PM OWL	28 6:00 PM Alleluia Ringers	29 Postponed - Annual Meeting	30 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM TouchStones 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 7:15 PM Chime Choir	31 7:00 PM New Date for Annual Meeting	1	2 8:00 AM Men of Edwards 3:00 PM Souper Bowl of Caring
3 9:00 AM Bible 101 . . . for Adults! 9:00 AM Church School 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:15 AM Worship 11:45 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 4:00 PM Friends in Faith Band 5:30 PM Worship 7:00 PM OWL	4 6:00 PM Alleluia Ringers	5 3:30 PM Social and Economic Justice Lecture & Film	6 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service	7 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	8	9
10 9:00 AM Bible 101 . . . for Adults! 9:00 AM Church School 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM All-Church Potluck 11:45 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 4:00 PM Friends in Faith Band 5:30 PM Worship 7:00 PM OWL	11 6:00 PM Alleluia Ringers	12 6:30 PM All-Boards 7:30 PM Council Meeting	13 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM TouchStones 6:30 PM Lenten Service 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 7:15 PM Chime Choir	14	15 Items & Articles for the Newsletter due by Noon 7:00 PM "God is Still Humming" Music Concert	16
17 9:00 AM Bible 101 . . . for Adults! 9:00 AM Church School 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:15 AM Worship 11:45 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 4:00 PM Friends in Faith Band 5:30 PM Worship 7:00 PM OWL	18 7:00 PM Alleluia Ringers	19 1:00 PM Community Kitchen Food Prep 5:30 PM Serve at Community Kitchen 7:00 PM Caregivers Meeting	20 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM TouchStones 6:30 PM Lenten Service 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 7:15 PM Chime Choir	21 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Womens Night Out	22	23
24 9:00 AM Bible 101 . . . for Adults! 9:00 AM Church School 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:15 AM Food Pantry Sunday at Worship 10:15 AM Worship 11:45 AM Liturgical Dance Rehearsal 4:00 PM Friends in Faith Band 5:30 PM Worship 6:30 PM Evening Worship Potluck 7:00 PM OWL	25 7:00 PM Alleluia Ringers	26	27 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM TouchStones 6:30 PM Lenten Service 7:15 PM Chancel Choir 7:15 PM Chime Choir	28	29	1

February Birthdays

- 1 Judy Collins
- 1 Steve Randall
- 3 Ardis Kasper
- 3 Emily Walters
- 4 T.C. Carstens
- 8 Megan Bereskin
- 10 Ron Walters
- 11 Evelyn Irely

- 12 Kim Hein-Gray
- 12 Alex Sedgwick
- 13 Pat Van Dyke
- 14 Sue Ann Moorhead
- 16 Donna DeMuyneck
- 16 Cindy Kuhn
- 17 Carol Mahan
- 17 Blaine Chesley

- 18 Deborah Morrison
- 19 Jeannine Miller
- 21 Jacque Lohmann
- 21 Alice Balli
- 22 Taylor Schroeder
- 22 Elliot Knudson
- 23 Judy Van Blaricome
- 24 Jana Hukvari

- 24 Samuel Moore
- 25 Carole Woods
- 25 Sabina Clingerman
- 26 Marilyn Riedesel
- 27 Sally Egly
- 27 Rick Sedgwick
- 28 Beth Takemoto

EDWARDS CONGREGATIONAL **UNITED CHURCH** OF CHRIST



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Susan Chesley, Minister of Christian Education

Geri Dulaney, Membership Coordinator

Lyle Stratton, CareGiver Coordinator

Cathy Loughead, Bookkeeper

Kathy Bowerman, Secretary

Kay Stiles - Moderator

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