



Edwards Editor

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October 2007

CROP Walk

OCTOBER 7th
John O'Donnell Stadium
12:30 Gathering
2:00 Walk Begins

Help raise funds to support hunger programs here in the Quad Cities and around the world. Walk with hundreds of church folk to raise awareness and money for the needs of hungry people near and far. Call the church office to get a fund-raising envelope, and then join us to walk with others.

LET'S SHOW THE WORLD WE CARE!

Table of Contents

Letter from Pastor2	Mission & Social Justice 6	Stewardship 10
Worship at Edwards3	With Our People 7	Beyond Our Walls 11
Music/Adult Ed.4	Thank You's8	Birthday's & Calendar 12
Youth/Christian Ed. 5	Who What When Where9	Kid's Page 13

From Our Pastor's Desk...

During the past month, I have been deeply touched by the "Coexistence Exhibit" which was on display in a variety of spots throughout downtown Davenport. It was a series of billboards, really, that drew our attention to the challenges and importance of diversity and coexistence. You may have seen them as you drove down 2nd Avenue or River Drive. Many of you have reflected on their message with me. Thank you to the Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities and the Figge Art Museum for bringing it to town.

Coexistence isn't something that should be new to us. We have been living with diversity since the beginning of time. We in the UCC have lifted up diversity as a part of our identity for 50 years now! But in these days of terrorists and the religious warfare which is a part of extreme religious belief in Christian, Muslim and Jewish circles, coexistence has become both more important and more difficult than ever.

Coexistence means that we lose the "us against them" mentality that pervades so much of our thinking - whether it's the interests of seniors vs children, or divisions made by race or gender or sexual orientation or nationality. Coexistence requires a large dose of humility and respect as we begin to listen to both the strengths and the weaknesses of those who are different from ourselves.

My own experiences with diversity have taught me that trust is an essential element on the road toward coexistence. Trusting that someone else will listen to me allows me to listen to others. Trusting that God indeed is present in the midst of the diversity allows me to see God's holy presence in other people, and not just in myself. Trusting that there is "enough" - enough love, enough time, enough food, enough medical care,

enough land...enough of whatever seems scarce - allows us all to seek creative, win-win, self-sacrificing solutions that are expressions of God's love in action.

At its deepest level, the call to coexistence reflects God's identity, as we understand it from a Christian perspective. We understand God to be Trinity - Father, Son, Holy Ghost or Creator, Christ, Spirit or Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. However we describe the Trinity, God exists within a holy relationship that is both diverse and communal. We understand that one part without the others is an incomplete expression of the fullness of God's grace and glory.

Made in the "image of God", you and I mirror the diversity of God. We are invited to appreciate that diversity, to honor it, to "coexist" within it. Without those who are different from us, the world would be smaller and less complete. We are challenged to respect one another's ways and trust life journeys that are different from our own, even as we respect and trust what is familiar. Coexistence links me to you and us to them in bonds of holiness that are deeper than any human construction. It is a way of life that leads us straight into God's heart. May we carry the message of this unusual art exhibit in our hearts and in our lives as we seek to live into God's kingdom on earth.

October Scriptures

October 7:

Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10



Sabbath

October 14:

Children's
Jeremiah

31:27-34

Psalm 119:97-104
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8



October 21:

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19



October 28:

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14



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

Children's Sabbath

Isaiah taught that "a little child shall lead", and we all know how true that can be. On October 14th we will celebrate Children's Sabbath - a day when the children will lead worship and we will all touch the child deep within our souls. Jesus reminded us all that we will not enter the kingdom of God unless we become like children, so come expecting to be a little child-like that day!

Contemporary Worship!

The **Friends in Faith** Band is back - every week! There are new members of the band this fall, and the Contemporary Worship service has resumed every Sunday at 5:30 in Baxter Fellowship Hall! Good worship, good fellowship, good music, and great fun! Come and join us - we **GUARANTEE** that you will leave with your toes tapping and your spirit lifted.

Blessing the Prayer Shawls

One of the ministries of our church that brings the presence of God to life is the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Quietly, faithful and talented souls have been knitting and crocheting shawls for folks who might need a reminder of God's love. We will be blessing the newest shawls in worship on October 21st - an opportunity for you to add your prayers and blessing to this ministry. And if you know someone who could use one of these shawls, please let Lyle Stratton know about it.

Music and Adult Education at Edwards

Musicians Welcome!

It's never too late to start singing or playing music for worship! If you need child care, let us know. See or call Jean (ext. 13 at church: 359-0331) for more information or with questions.

Chime Choir Begins

The first session will be Wednesday evening, October 3rd from 7-7:30 pm. This is a wonderful way to begin reading music and preparing for the bell or vocal choirs. Everyone welcome!

Special Music In October.

In addition to the Chancel Choir other musicians are leading music at each Sunday service:

- October 7th Promised Land and Mona Terry, harp
- October 14th The Friends In Faith Band
- October 21st Mona Terry, organ
- October 28th The Alleluia Ringers

Liturgical Dancers

Come and rehearse each Sunday after church at 11:45 am. No experience necessary. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Call Kathy Lafrenz: 309-441-5303.

UCC Firsts

The UCC has led the way with many "firsts" throughout our history. In 1773 the first act of civil disobedience exploded when 5,000 angry colonists gathered in the Old South Meeting House to demand the repeal of an unjust tax on tea. It was the "Boston Tea Party", and the beginning of independence.

Women's Bible Study

Join us on the first and third Thursday of each month from 10:00-11:30 in the church parlor. This small group is currently reading Paul's Epistles. For more information, contact Susan Chesley (359-0331). No prior Bible experience necessary!

Sunday Morning Studies

Adult Studies continue on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00 each week. Join us for coffee and conversations to deepen your faith and expand your horizons.

October 7: Judy Collins will continue our conversation about *Aging Well...Spiritually, Emotionally and Physically.*

October 14: The Social Justice Board will present a forum on their topic of the year - *Poverty.* Come and explore the impact that poverty has in our society.

October 21 & 28: We will begin a new four-week DVD series *Countering Pharaoh*, designed to help us reflect about the consumer habits of our culture as we prepare for Christmas.

Pilgrim Height Reunion

October 6th - 7th if you have ever been a Camper, Counsellor, Volunteer, Director or Dean at Pilgrim Heights or if you just want to go, join us for this free weekend. For more information visit the website @ www.PilgrimHeights.org.

Christian Education

Creative Spirits in October: We will be retracing the steps of Moses, Miriam, Aaron and the Israelites and opening our hearts and minds to the manna lessons of mercy, justice, and compassion. Also - Our kids are inviting members of the congregation to be their guest for one morning to sit along side them as they/we open our hearts to God's call. It's fun, it's easy, and it will be an hour you won't soon forget. So, if a child asks you to come to church school, say "YES!" You will be glad you did!!

Drumming Sunday: On October 7th, church school will gather in Baxter Hall at 9:00 for a breakfast served by the Jr. High and Sr. High Youth. After breakfast we will move into our drum circle for a time of shared rhythm, storytelling, laughter and prayer. We have drums and rhythm instruments but children are welcomed to bring their own to share with others. **Mona Terry** will be our drum facilitator!! Parents are also welcomed and encouraged to join the circle.

TGIF: Friday, October 12th, 5:30-7:00. In preparation for Children's Sabbath, our children and youth will gather for dinner and rehearsal.

Wednesday Evenings are Back!

Programming begins again on October 3rd. Here's the line-up:

- 5:15-6:00** *Simple Supper in Baxter Hall*
- 6:00-7:00** *TouchStones faith class for Pre-school thru 5th grade*
- 6:00-7:30** *Confirmation class for Jr. High*
- 7:00-7:00** *Chimes (intergenerational)*
- 7:15-8:30** *Chancel Choir*

Youth News

WELCOME to Michael Fessler. Michael has volunteered to be a part of the Youth Ministry staff. He will be assisting with Breakfast Club and T.E.C.T. Thank you so much for sharing your valuable time and experiences with the Youth! Welcome aboard!!

CROP WALK anyone can participate. We will leave Edwards at 1pm to travel to John O'Donnell stadium to start the walk at 2pm. Get on those walking shoes!

Camp Abe Lincoln October 13th - Alpine Tower Course in Blue Grass; followed by a Youth Event with Clint McCann in Muscatine. Adult drivers and vans needed. These events will be a lot of fun and adventurous.

NO T.E.C.T. on October 14th.

T.E.C.T. will begin Our Whole Lives Program on October 21st. It will run from 7 -9 pm Sunday nights. Parents if you have not signed your high school youth up for this program, please contact Sue Harrington or Susan Chesley to sign up. It is open to all high school youth.

"Fear Factor" Halloween Party on October 27th.

If you would like more information about any of these events, please see Sue Harrington at Church or call at 563-359-0331 ext 12. Parents, more specific information will be sent out in the mail for you.

Blood Drive

OUR 30th YEAR: Our blood drive on Saturday, October 27, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Baxter Hall is our last blood drive during our 30th year of hosting blood drives at Edwards. Since the people of Edwards donated 39 units on our Spring Blood Drive and more donors have donated at the Blood Center during the summer, we will surpass donating 1700 units of blood during these 30 years. We will do this when we make our goal of donating 30 units of blood on October 27. Remember, we can only count units of blood that are donated that Saturday in Baxter Hall to make our 30 unit goal. 1700 UNITS OF BLOOD! Just think of all the lives you donors have saved by your blood donations!

Will you help us achieve this 30 unit goal again? We will need new donors as well as our regular donors and Double Red donors to make our goal. The Blood Center asks us to sign up at least 40 donors for this drive. You may be eligible to donate blood if you have not donated since September 1. Start signing up on Sunday, October 7, at the blood donor table in the narthex and choose your own donation time. Blood donors need refreshments after donating, so we need cookies, fruit and juice for this blood drive. Please label your snack donations "Blood Drive." Call Merlin Bachellor at (355-7969) or e-mail (MBACHELL@webtv.net) to donate snacks.

Neighbors in Need

October 7th we will receive our annual Neighbors in Need offering which supports mission work throughout the United States - on Native American Reservations, in inner cities, in pockets of rural poverty. This is your opportunity to make a difference in people's lives, supporting educational programs, hunger programs, justice advocacy and much more. These dollars truly change lives, and your generosity makes the world a better place. Please give from your heart, and trust that God will multiply your gift in the world.

Prescription Drug Help

Scott County has recently notified us that it has joined a new discount drug plan which is free to all participant. Organized by the National Association of Counties, this program is designed to save uninsured or underinsured individuals an average of 20% off prescription drugs. For additional information about this program, please contact Chris Berge at 563.326.8604

John Lewis Café Update

With the recent closing of the John Lewis Café, churches have begun to work together to provide daily lunches once again at the café. Financing is being developed, but meanwhile, churches are sharing the work of providing 150 sack lunches for distribution out of the Café. We will be taking our turn on October 6th! If you would like to help prepare these lunches, please contact the church office.

With Our People...

Keep in Your Prayers

- ★ Melissa King, continuing chemotherapy
- ★ Virginia Seifert, who has moved to the Kahl Home
- ★ Laurel Ogden, in the hospital
- ★ Sally Egy, recovering from gall bladder surgery
- ★ Randy Kuhlmann, continuing to recover from surgery
- ★ Kristin Vike and Bob Steinich, getting married on October 6
- ★ Gilly Gilbreath and Don Miller, getting married on October 27
- ★ Sandy Russell, continuing chemotherapy

Worship Board: A few new members are needed to serve our congregation in preparing and planning for worship services. If you would like to join this vital and active group, please contact Dick Dulaney at (563) 323-2145.

Cancer Awareness Sunday: Often in October we have celebrated a special Sunday to remember those who have and continue to battle cancer in their lives. The Worship Board and the Church Council have decided to move that observance to the month of January. Look for it then!

Prayer Shawl Meeting: Anyone who likes to knit, crochet or is are welcome at our next Prayer Shawl meeting. We meet in the library on the first Sunday of the month after church to show off our work, ask questions, exchange patterns, but mostly to use our gift to bring comfort and love to others. All are welcome on Oct. 7. If you have questions call Dorothy Hammond @ 309-797-2321.

You're Invited!!!
To The Wedding of

Don Miller
And
Lorraine (Gilly) Gilbreath

October 27, 2007
Edwards
Congregational
United Church of
Christ

3:00 pm

Reception following at the Elks Club,
4400 West Central Park

Women's Night Out

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT will meet on October 18th, at 6:00 p.m. at Fortune Garden. Come join us!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !!

A Time to Say Thank You!

Thank you to the Board of Christian Education for providing food for the Homecoming picnic and to Michael Fessler, Clyde Durrah and Tracy Miller for helping with clean-up.

Thank you to the Trustees for their work during our church clean-up weekend and to all others who volunteered their time.

Thank you to the September Coffee hour hosts: Martha and Richard Jirus, Lisa and Eric Crawford and Dee Hillyer and Pat Sterk.

Thank You to our September musicians: Mary Beth Dircks and Brad Miller for a wonderful piano duet, Brian Dugan and Lyle Stratton for great guitar work in the morning service, Sandy Reinders for directing the delightful Alleluia Ringers, and Amy Skjerseth for skillfully playing the oboe.

Thank you to the special musicians who brought beautiful music to Becky David's Ordination service: Kailan Lafrenz, Mona Terry, Connie David, Steve Chesley, Brian Dugan and Robert Riedesel.

Thank you to Brad Miller for choosing music for the Contemporary Worship Service.

Thank You to Diane Anderson, Janet Sedgwick, Teresa King and Emily Kenneke for providing babysitting at Temple Emmanuel during their High Holy Days.

Thank You to Katherine and Edwards Church Members for my retirement party, words of gratitude, cards, and the digital photo album.
--Teresa King

Thank You to Geri & Dick Dulaney, Pat Rosburg, Joyce Swartz, Ruth Hefferman, Margaret Wilber, Steve & Sharon Wildemuth, Dawn Johnson and Mary Hein for organizing Teresa King's farewell party.

Thank you to Katy Strezpek, Ryan Dye, Carol Stratton, Emily Kenneke and Blaine Chesley for serving as *Spiritual Companions* during September's *Creative Spirits Church School*.

Thank you to Judy Collins for her donation of a Christmas tree for our Advent decorating, and for leading the Sunday morning adult studies group.

Thank you to everyone who showed up for our Fall Clean-Up Day. No one kept track of all the names, but you know who you are and the church looks great!

Thank you to Cathy Wetzel and Sandy Reinders for their ongoing work with our flowers and plantings.

Thank you to everyone who made cookies for the Biloxi Mission Trip! They all came home with a renewed understanding of what UCC means - Unlimited Coffee and Cookies!

Thank you to those who helped with Becky David's Ordination Dinner: Ardis Kasper, Bill Coker, Carol & Lyle Stratton, Kathy & Kailan Lafrenz, Cathy Wetzel, Chris Fessler, Dee Hillyer, Diane Anderson, Edith Egli, Evona Petherick, Jennifer Jordening, Katie Strzepek, Kay Stiles, Lynn Warren, Marilyn & Robert Riedesel, Mary Hein, Pat Cresap, Ruth Bowers, Sandy Reinders and Tracy Miller.

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

	<i>October 7</i>	<i>October 14</i>	<i>October 21</i>	<i>October 28</i>
Preacher		Susan Chesley		
Greeters	Carol Hart, Jean Neavor, Rhoada Molleston, Ruth Hefferman	Milo & Mila Smith, Sue Curl, Pat Sterk	Tom & Chris Kenneke, Tracy Miller, Clyde Durrah	Kay Stiles, Pat Cresap, Bev Bergert, Deanna Thomas
Ushers	Russ Dircks, Judy Collins, Margaret Wilber, Dave Wymore	Steve Knoche, Pat Sterk, Eric Crawford, Tom Kenneke	Joe Hall, Steve Wildemuth, Clyde Durrah, Pat Rosburg	Margaret Wilber, Dick Dulaney, Anne-Marie Gephart
Visitor Guides	Membership Board	Membership Board	Membership Board	Membership Board
Nursery 10:15 a.m.	Mary Hein Emily Kenneke			
Coffee Hour Hosts	The Norwoods	Mission Board / Membership Board		Cathy Miller
Caregivers on Call	Kay Stiles, Carol Bachellor	Lois Larew, Sandy Reinders	Diane Anderson, Rhoada Molleston	Sharon Wildemuth, Lyle Stratton
Scripture Reader	Dick Dulaney	Mary Hein	Bill Anderson	Steve Chesley
Communion Servers	Kathy Lafrenz, Brian Dugan, Dick Dulaney			
Chancel Set-Up	Dick Dulaney	Emily Kenneke	Pat Cresap	Pat Rosburg
Sound System	<i>Dave VanDerKamp</i>			
Lock-Up	Michael Fessler		Margaret Wilber	

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

The Parable of Stone Soup

Three soldiers trudged down a road in a strange country on their way home from the wars. They were tired and hungry, hoping for a meal and a place to sleep in the next village. But the peasants of this village feared strangers. They had little for themselves. Hearing that the soldiers were coming, they hid their food. Barley went into the hay lofts. Carrots were stashed under quilts, and buckets of milk were hidden down the wells.

The soldiers stopped at the first house. *Could you spare a bit of food?* they asked. *We have no food for ourselves.* they said. *Do you have a corner where we could sleep?* the soldiers asked. *All our beds are full.* the villagers replied. *It has been a hard year.* At every house the response was the same. No food and no room.

The soldiers called the villagers together and said *Good people! You have no food but we are hungry! Well, we will have to make stone soup.* The soldiers asked for a big iron pot, water to fill it, and a fire to heat it. *And now,* they said, *we need three round smooth stones.* The soldiers dropped the stones into the pot and began to wait.

Any soup needs salt and pepper, said the soldiers. And the children ran for salt and pepper. *Stones make good soup, but a few carrots would make it better,* said one of the soldiers. And one woman went for a few carrots. And so it was.... Cabbage arrived and a few potatoes. And later some beef that had been hidden away in a cellar. And then barley and even a little milk. It was a soup fit for a king! And the whole village feasted.

When the time came for the soldiers to leave, the villagers gathered to say good-bye. *Many thanks,* the people said, *We shall never go hungry now that you have taught us how to make soup from stones!*

***As we begin the season of stewardship this fall,
WHAT CAN YOU GIVE
THAT YOU THINK YOU CAN'T?
God uses every gift to make a soup fit for a king...
And all we thought we had was stones!***

Beyond Our Walls....

A One Day Retreat

The Pursuit of Happiness: The Book of Psalms, the Christian Faith, and the American Dream led by Professor Clint McCann from Eden Seminary will be held on Saturday, October 13 at Faith United Church of Christ in Muscatine from 10:00 - 3:00. Clint engages the biblical text in ways that make it come alive in today's world. His passion for the Bible is contagious and his insights are life-giving. Registration forms are available in the church office.

St. Paul Guest Speaker

The Promise and Peril of Talking About God When You're Not in Church! St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport is bringing Professor Tom Long to town on Sunday, October 28 at 4:00 in their brand new sanctuary. Dr. Long believes that the very act of putting words to your faith shapes and grows it. In an age when religious talk is often considered cheap, shallow and self-serving, Tom Long shows us how to talk about faith without arrogance or embarrassment. This is a free event.

World Community Institute

The World Affairs Council of the World Community Institute is sponsoring a series of lectures throughout the coming year that will highlight a variety of global issues of critical importance. Tuesday, October 23, at 7 pm on the second floor of the Bettendorf Library, Lisa Killinger will moderate a conversation - **Muslim Women of the Middle East: Faith and Culture.** More information can be found at www.worldcommunityinstitute.org or by calling 355.4390

UCC Pastoral Letter on Iraq

On October 7th Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the UCC, and the other national leaders of our denomination will present a pastoral letter on the war in Iraq to members of Congress and national leaders in Washington, DC. This letter has been endorsed by the Conference Ministers and the presidents of all our seminaries.

The full text of the letter can be read online at www.ucc.org and you are invited to read it there. You are also invited to add your signature at http://ga3.org/campaign/iraq_petition. Excerpting from the letter, a critical paragraph reads:

Today we call for an end to this war, an end to our reliance on violence as the first, rather than the last resort, an end to the arrogant unilateralism of preemptive war. Today we call for the humility and courage to acknowledge failure and error, to accept the futility of our current path, and we cry out for the creativity to seek new paths of peacemaking in the Middle East, through regional engagement and true multinational policing. Today we call for acknowledgement of our responsibility for the destruction caused by sanctions and war, thereby, we pray, beginning to rebuild trust in the Middle East and around the world. Today we call for repentance in our nation and for the recognition in our churches that security is found in submitting to Christ, not by dominating others.

September 21st was a national day of prayer for peace. We continue to pray for peace around the world, and especially in the Middle East.

October Birthday

- 1 - Brad Miller
- 3 - Donald Moorhead
- 3 - Maxwell Tesch
- 5 - Greg Bereskin
- 6 - Mathew Schlabach
- 7 - Gene Chesley
- 7 - Sarah Rasler
- 7 - Melissa King
- 7 - Alex Gillespie
- 8 - Suzanne Benson
- 8 - Mark Bailey
- 8 - Tyler Lewis
- 9 - Deena Miller
- 9 - Steven Buzzell
- 10 - Amy Moore
- 11 - Stacey Medd
- 12 - Sandy Wellman
- 13 - Teresa King
- 14 - Chris Burbank
- 17 - Kimberly Knoche
- 17 - Kathy King
- 18 - Margaret Wilber
- 21 - Barbara Bleedorn
- 21 - Sam Bailey
- 25 - Martha Jirus
- 25 - Trace Gephart
- 26 - Mike King
- 26 - Katie Kyte
- 29 - Pat Bereskin
- 29 - Rachel Bateman

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



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

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