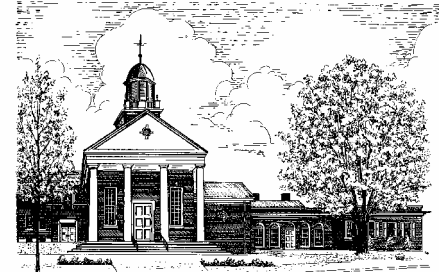


**Edgewood Congregational Church**  
**1788 Broad Street**  
**Cranston, RI 02905**

**Change service requested**

Edgewood Congregational Church  
1788 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905  
(401) 461-1344 Fax 461-8843  
Office Hours: 9:00am - Noon  
[www.worshipatedgewood.org](http://www.worshipatedgewood.org)



## Good News

*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation  
where they will not be judged by the color of their skin  
but by the content of their character.*  
Martin Luther King Jr., August 28, 1963

February is Black History Month – a time to reflect on significant events in the life of Black Americans and their contributions to our nation’s history. We will begin with an educational and spiritually uplifting service of celebration for the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on February 1 with readings by members of the congregation and African American spirituals led by Brenda and the choir. The children will remain in the sanctuary where they will have an opportunity to think about King’s dream and *their* dreams – and watch Jim Tull play an African drum. Come and bring your friends!

And speaking of dreams, I am hearing a lot of them from members of Edgewood Church. To provide a firm foundation to move forward, I am working with the deacons to develop Ministry Descriptions for each of their positions. As we identify responsibilities, we are spotting gaps in our organizational chart and finding places where new people are needed to begin to build on those dreams. These descriptions will be helpful in clarifying expectations around our ministries, recruiting new people to fill them, and specifying the support we will provide.

As the February light grows stronger each day, be reminded that we are lifted by God into the bright light of freedom, equality and justice. May it be so at Edgewood!



*Staff at Edgewood Congregational Church*  
*Interim Pastor: Rev. Betsy Aldrich Garland*  
*Organist/Choir Director: Brenda Farrell Muoio*  
*Secretary: Wendy Sullivan*

The Reverend Betsy  
*Interim Minister*

Aldrich Garland

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Over the past several weeks, we have been praying for **Joyce Fowler** who had a knee replacement in January and is now recuperating at home, not to be kept away from church, however; for **Alice Laurenson** who is recovering from pneumonia at Epoch Rehab (Blackstone Blvd., Providence, RI 02906); and Renee and Kristen David's **twins, Evelyn and Julia**, gaining weight in the premie nursery at Women and Infants Hospital.

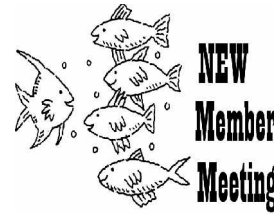
We also have been praying for **Bill Maude** on the death of his sister Cindy Sherman; **Shirley and Dick Goudie** on the death of Dick's brother, Bob; and **Margaret and I.D. Kuti** and their children – as well as the extended Nigerian community – on the death of their mother Harriet George. May God hold them in Holy arms as we hold them in our hearts and prayers.



A small group has been meeting for Bible Study on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Right now we are reading and pondering the Gospel of Mark and looking at ways this ancient text speaks to us today. It's never too late to join. All are welcome to come – once or on a regular basis.



As our January mission project on behalf of South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, Edgewood Church entered their Annual Spelling Bee held Saturday, January 24, at Calvary Baptist Church on Broad Street in Providence. Our team – **Fred Fullerton, Christine Rockwell, and Merry Scarborough** – came in second. Out of 16 teams from churches across Rhode Island, they were one of only two teams left standing at the end. They correctly spelled empower, ascension, isochronal, pugilist, lobscause, eeriness, iridectomy, holobenthic, and kanji. The only word they “flubbed” (Fred's description) was pyrophanous (which they spelled with an “e” in error). Now, do you know what they all mean? All of us there were *so* proud of them



Several constituents have expressed interest in joining Edgewood Church, and the Deacons are planning a Sunday to meet with them. This would be a time to learn more about the church, to hear what this community means to current members, and to share something of one's own faith journey. If you would like to be included, please speak to Reverend Betsy or to a deacon. There is no obligation to join – just a chance to see if becoming a member might be the right decision for you.

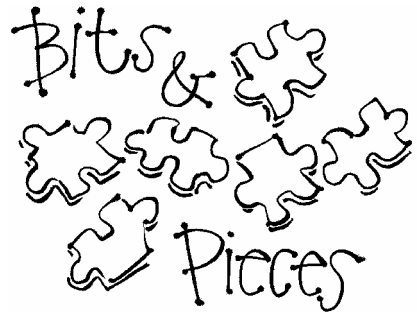
- Program reports were received. (Copies are available in the back of the sanctuary.)
- The Treasurer reported that we ended the year with a balance of \$26,877 and all bills paid, in spite of our inability to rent the vacant education building.
- A budget for 2009 was adopted.
- A Nominating Committee report has been deferred until after the transitional period.
- Questions were raised about the Reverend Bary Fleet's three month Sabbath and options for going forward after March 1. Although the Board of Deacons is in communication with the Rhode Island Conference Church and Ministry Committee, it was affirmed that Edgewood Church is responsible for its own decisions.
- The congregation voted unanimously to become an “Open and Affirming” church with the following statement:



*We, the congregation of Edgewood Congregational Church, U.C.C., declare ourselves to be open and affirming. With God's grace, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or socio-economic background. We welcome all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our congregation.*



*Please join our Board of Deacons on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> after coffee hour as we gather together to plan our activities, fundraisers and programs for the new year. Bring with you all those ideas you've been thinking about. Lunch will be provided.*



## ***Edgewood Members Out and About***

Edgewood members were seen at various community events in January: *Merry and Megan Scarborough* attended the **Interfaith Prayer Vigil** at the State House on January 6<sup>th</sup> when prayers were said by Christians, Muslims, Jews, Baha'i, and Hindu representatives. *Reverend Betsy* and other religious leaders called by name each of the state legislators and officials, that they would seek to cut poverty in Rhode Island in half in the next 10 years. *Jametta and Theresa Alston, Reverend Betsy and Wendy* attended the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast** at Rhodes on January 19. *Pat Kohler* attended a **New Roots Providence** informational session in January to learn about capacity-building options for turning our education building into a community resource. Let us know where *you* are carrying Edgewood's presence into the wider world.

A safe church training for Christian Educators and other church leaders will be held at Barrington Congregational Church on February 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 – Noon. Susan Dickerman from the Massachusetts Conference UCC will lead the workshop. Call Wendy in the church office if you are interested so we can register you. There is no cost to the training.



## **Missions Update**

**CATCH THE SPIRIT!**  
**MISSIONS EMPHASIS FOR FEBRUARY**  
**“Souper” Bowl Sunday**  
*Share your caring spirit with thousands of others across the world on*  
**Souper Bowl Sunday, February 1st**  
*Every dollar dropped in a soup pot helps people in need feel the power of God's love.*  
*That's something to cheer about!!!!*



**PANCAKE DINNER**  
**February 24th at 6pm**

### **The History of Shrove Tuesday**

Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras) is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Since Lent is a time of abstinence, traditionally of meat, fat, eggs and dairy product (one wonders what was left) Shrove Tuesday's menu was designed to use up all the fat, eggs and dairy products left in the kitchen and storeroom. It was also a “feast” to prepare for the time of the “famine” in the desert. In some cultures, it is traditional to eat as much as possible on Shrove Tuesday, sometimes up to 12 times a day.

To keep in that tradition we will gather on the 24<sup>th</sup> and enjoy a buffet of Pancakes (blueberry, chocolate chip and plain), sausage and desserts. Dress in your Mardi Gras finest! A piñata will be on hand for the kids also!

Bring your dried palms from last year and after dinner we will gather outside to burn the palms to make this years ashes for our Ash Wednesday Service.

Donation: Non-perishable food items for the food pantry.



*To begin our remembrance of Lent, we will have **two services on Wednesday, February 25th.** At noon, we'll have a short (15 minute) prayer service with imposition of ashes (either on the hand or forehead) followed by a Chowder Lunch. And at 7:00pm we'll have our traditional service also with imposition of ashes. Don't miss this opportunity to rededicate your attention to your journey with Jesus.*



February 1 Louise Hintze  
 February 2 Glory Teague  
 February 2 Alex Wroe  
 February 10 John McGee  
 February 12 John Van Nort  
 February 12 Matthew Stone  
 February 14 Joyce Falk  
 February 20 Bill Bell  
 February 21 Glen Surabian  
 February 28 William Downey

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY KIDS!**

February 5 Theodore Phok  
 February 14 Joseph Williams  
 February 15 Evan Neary  
 February 21 Patrick Bayne  
 February 24 Nathan Cornell  
 February 25 Mitchell Morris

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

February 6 Pat Fiske & John Proulx  
 February 11 Diane & John Van Nort  
 February 13 Sheila & Richard Maguire  
 February 15 Pam & Ed Lowell

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2009</h1>						
1 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	2  7pm Bible Study	3  10am AI-Anon	4  3pm Girl Scouts 7pm AA	5 10am AI-Anon 7pm AI-Anon 7pm Choir Rehearsal	6  6pm Girl Scouts	7
8 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	9  7pm Bible Study	10  10am AI-Anon	11  3pm Girl Scouts 7pm AA	12 10am AI-Anon 7pm AI-Anon 7pm Choir Rehearsal	13  6pm Girl Scouts	14
15 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	16  7pm Bible Study	17  10am AI-Anon	18 3pm Girl Scouts 7pm AA 7pm Deacons Meeting	19 10am AI-Anon 7pm AI-Anon 7pm Choir Rehearsal	20  6pm Girl Scouts	21
22 Last Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour Planning Meeting	23  7pm Bible Study	24 10am AI-Anon Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper At 6pm	25  Ash Wednesday Services at Noon and 7pm	26 10am AI-Anon 7pm AI-Anon 7pm Choir Rehearsal	27  6pm Girl Scouts	28