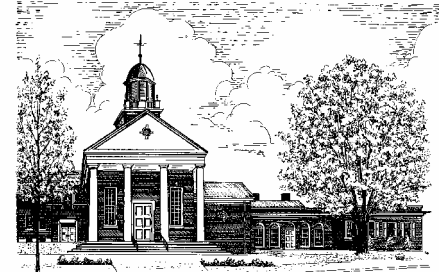


Edgewood Congregational Church
1788 Broad Street
Cranston, RI 02905

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
e-mail: office@worshipatedgewood.org



The Good News

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Tender Christ, in this sacred meantime, guard our hearts and prepare our minds, so that we may wait creatively, not distracted by the obligations of the season, nor unready by sloth. Prepare us, that at your coming we may recognize you and rejoice in your appearing. Grant us the courage to pray as people who believe in your appearing. – David Slater

Christmas is coming – but not yet. First, we must prepare the way. We must hear the ancient prophecies, make our hearts ready, look forward to the holy birth, and nurture the Christ Child in the womb of our imaginations.

As you receive this newsletter, we are rehearsing with the children, bringing out the Advent candles, practicing Christmas music, and preparing to decorate the tree with gift cards for foster children in the State's care. The coming of Christmas is a magical season, filled with music, family traditions, and the anticipation of Hope coming into the world.

Yet, we know that for many, this Christmas will be anything but merry. Some of us are grieving the loss of loved ones; some of us are struggling financially; some of us are facing the pain of difficult family relationships. And daily we are confronted by disease, poverty and hunger across the world. So in the midst of this season, remember that the Christ Child has come for people just like us, to bring us new life, to light up the darkness. In the words of the beloved Advent hymn, "O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here; Love stir within the womb of night, and death's own shadows put to flight."

May you experience the warmth of God's love in the midst of this season of growing cold, nurturing darkness, and expectant waiting. Plan to join us for worship each Sunday at 10 a.m. as we embrace the season together.

Advent Blessings, *Reverend Betsy*



December

Staff at Edgewood Congregational Church

Interim Pastor: Rev. Betsy Garland
Organist/Choir Director: Brenda Muoio
Secretary: Wendy Sullivan



Reminder...

When a parking ban is in effect in the city of Cranston due to a snow storm, services at Edgewood Church will be canceled.

Chaplin Carol Huff from the Scandinavian Home at 1811 Broad Street invites us to a Grief and Loss Seminar to be held on Thursday, December 3rd from 6 to 7pm. Please RSVP with Cheryl at 461-1433.

Grief Support Seminar



Ten people have been elected to serve on the Search Committee. They are (in alpha order) Theresa Alston, Jim Edwards, Don Fowler, Kristin David, Doris Poisson, Christine Rockwell, Ken Scarborough, Mark Schnabel, Dave Stachkunas, and Paula Wroe. After the holidays, they will meet with Conference Minister Chuck Barnes and begin to organize for the work ahead of them. Please stand by for more information!



Sermons-To-Go

Because people ask for copies of her sermons, Pastor Betsy prints them out on colored paper in booklet form and leaves them in the back of the sanctuary, on the window sill. They are yours for the taking. She also brings copies to shut-ins who are interested in reading and discussing them with her. Please feel free to take whatever ones interest you – for yourself or others. She has the originals and will make extra copies as needed.

Stewardship Message

Prequel to the Pageant

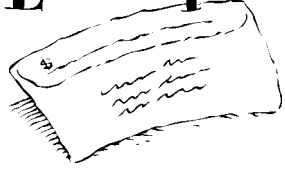
In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God ... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ... (John 1:1, 14a)

Prequel. Two movies this year, **X-Men Origins: Wolverine** and **Star Trek**, share that literary genre. Even Arthur Conan Doyle's **Hound of the Baskervilles** is a late-written prequel to explain to his Sherlock Holmes fans how that violin-playing intellectual became a detective. People love prequels! Prequels explain how already beloved characters came to be who they are. *Like the first chapter of John!*

When the Gospel of John was written, Jesus' Bethlehem birth was well known through Matthew and Luke's versions. John didn't repeat those stories ... John wrote a *prequel* about the amazing mysterious Word speaking the intimacies of creation, sending a love letter to humanity through Israel's history, and then becoming flesh to live among us. Of course, there would have been no prequel without Jesus' teachings and healings, sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. Prequels always explain the "before" once the "after" has made a difference.

Someday our story will be told as a *prequel*. People will write, film or sing the church of our current generation because its faithfulness explains the Good News church they know. What happens in our communities – what we say and how we give, our care for one another, uncompromising advocacy in justice issues, and mission among the manglers of the world – is more significant than we can guess! Our budgets will be recognized as blessings and the year-in year-out worship, a whispering of God's Word. So, "beam us up, angels," it's time to live the story whose *sequel* is always light shining in the darkness.

Offering Envelopes



The 2010 offering envelopes will be available at the rear of the sanctuary beginning Sunday, December 20th. You can help by promptly picking up your own envelopes and volunteering to assist in delivering envelopes within your own family who are church members. Thank You!

Pledge Sunday was November 1st and we will need to hear from those of you who thus far have not responded to e-mail (if applicable) or direct mail. As of the preparation of this newsletter, we have received 47 pledges out of the anticipated 116. Edgewood Church needs to hear from all of its members. The Deacons and the recently appointed Search Committee need your anticipated and immediate response in order to assure our ability to call a new settled minister. To those who have responded, "Thank You". To those who have not, please give this your immediate attention.



In addition to your regular weekly offering envelopes, please use the initial envelope dated January 3, 2010 which will help the church defray the cost of the envelope program for the new year.

All in the Family

In November, Rev. Betsy received a note from the First Congregational Church, UCC, in Bristol that read,

"Last Sunday in our services we remembered you and your congregation in our prayers. We believe it is important to support our sister churches in the Rhode Island Conference with our intentional caring and love. Please know that we value your leadership and service in our Conference and the covenant we share together. Every blessing, Daniel B. Randall."

How good it is to know that we are not alone, that we are part of a larger community of faith that remembers supports and sustains one another. We thank Rev. Dan and the Bristol church for their prayers and wish them many blessings in their ministries.



I would like to order a poinsettia plant for our Church Sanctuary this Christmas. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Please return this form with payment to the church office no later than Sunday, December 13th. The poinsettias will be displayed on the altar Sunday, December 20th and Thursday, December 24th. Poinsettias may be taken after the Christmas Eve service.

Number of Plants: _____

Colors: Red: _____ White: _____ Pink: _____

Given by: _____

Dedication to read

In loving memory of: _____

In celebration of: _____

_____ I will take my plant home after service.

_____ Give my plant to a shut-in.

_____ I can deliver a plant to shut-in.

Thank you for making our Sanctuary beautiful for Christmas!



Christmas Caroling is planned for Sunday, December 13th at 1:00pm. We will meet at the church and head out into the community to go caroling.

If you have never come caroling before, or haven't in a while, please join us this year! You never know what it means until you see the smiles on the faces of our homebound friends- truly a priceless gift in which we ALL can share!

Afterwards, all are invited to the home of Ken and Merry Scarborough for cider and doughnuts.

Do You Knit?

Three people expressed interest in the Prayer Shawl Ministry that we wrote about in our November newsletter. Chaplain Carol Huff of the Scandinavian Home has scheduled an information meeting for **Friday, January 8, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**, at the Home. Those who knit or crochet would meet regularly, at Edgewood Church and/or the Scandinavian Home, while working on shawls and lap warmers, weaving love into every stitch. Perhaps, too, these homemade items might be blessed at a Sunday worship service before being presented to nursing home residents or shut-ins. For more information, speak to Rev. Betsy or call Chaplain Carol at 461-1433.



Women's Gathering Scheduled

December 2, 7 p.m., in the Smith Room. We understand that they plan to watch a "chick flick" on the large screen television that Stella Martin and family have donated to the church. All women in

the church – and their friends – are invited to come. Put the date on your calendar now. The women plan to gather monthly, generally on the fourth Wednesday – sometimes just to talk or watch a documentary and other times to go on outings together.



Our seventh annual Christmas Cookie Walk is fast approaching and the preparation has begun. Cookies will be for sale during coffee hour on December 20, 2009. You will be able to choose from a large variety of yummy home-made cookies boxed and priced at \$6.00 per pound. Pre-boxed assorted cookies can also be ordered ahead of time. Cookies are a great holiday gift for teachers, house parties, or last minute gifts, so spread the word to friends and family.

This year, we are also having a "gently" used ornament/Christmas decorations sale. Please go through those boxes you have in your basement or attic and donate what you no longer need. We are looking for ornaments, trees, figurines, candles, linens, glassware etc - anything in good working condition (lights must meet current fire codes). Decorations will go on sale the first Sunday of Advent and will be sold through December 20th. Drop off your items in the church narthex anytime up until December 19th.

Volunteers are needed to bake cookies, set up, and sell cookies or ornaments. We are looking for your special cookies! At least 4 dozen of each type would be appreciated - but please bake as many as you can! (Chocolate chip or oatmeal will be sold at our "snack bar" on the 20th.)

Contact Pat Kohler at 461-9612 or Carol Carson at 465-2708 if you are able to help out. Or look for the sign-ups sheets at coffee hour and in the narthex.

Christmas cookies can be ordered ahead of time by adding your name to the cookie order sign up sheets or by calling Pat or Carol. Don't miss out - order early!



Invite your family and friends to our annual candlelight Christmas Eve service on Thursday, December 24th at 6pm.

Our Church Family

Remember our homebound...

Patricia Conklin, Nelsie Eckloff, Hope Fairbanks,
Louise Harrington and Betty Rasmussen

Keep in our prayers...

Joyce McGee – recovering from knee surgery
Bert Reid – now in California with his daughter Gwen

New Members who joined by Confirmation ...

Theresa Alston
Alexandra Martin
Jillian Proulx
Sean Sullivan

We extend our sympathy...

To the family of Norma Armitage who died November 15th

Treasurer's Report
January 1 – October 31, 2009

Income

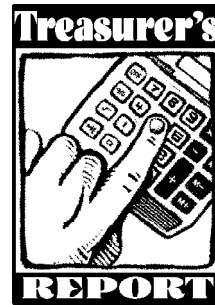
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledges	\$75,932.05	\$86,803.30
Plate	3,529.69	5,833.30
Other Income	<u>49,977.83</u>	<u>49,876.60</u>
Total	\$129,439.57	\$142,513.20

Expenses

128,725.25 140,941.52

Net Income

714.32



December Volunteers

Coffee Hour

12/06 Wendy Sullivan
12/13 Open
12/20 Open
12/27 Leslie McCrea & Pete Maroni

Altar Flowers

Leslie Pires
Nancy & Alan Chamberlin
Christmas Poinsettia's
Mark & Kathy Schnabel

Scripture Reader

12/06 Katherine McGovern
12/13 Patti Wohl
12/20 Carol Carson
12/27 Alan Birch

Ushers

Open
Open
Wendy Sullivan
Open



A collection for the Holiday Gifts for Teens Campaign via DCYF (Department of Children, Youth and Families) will be one of our Mission Focuses this month. There will be cards hanging on the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary. To give, simply take a card, purchase the desired gift and return the unwrapped present under the tree by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20th. Your gifts will help teens in foster care have a happier holiday season.

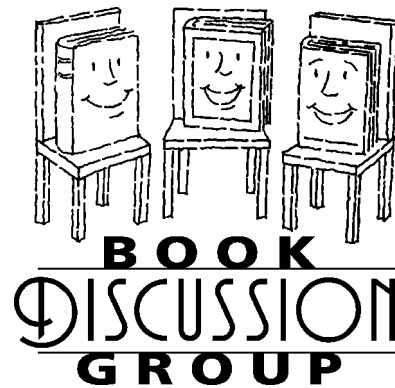
Another mission focus is the Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross) which provides gift checks to low-income retired clergy and their widowed spouses. It also supplies emergency assistance to clergy in financial need and helps funding for pension and health supplementation plans for low income retired clergy and lay persons. These donations can be given by using your December Mission envelope.



After-School Program Being Considered

As we go to press, conversations are underway about Edgewood Church's partnering with our sister church in Riverside in a Music and Arts After-School Program for children in kindergarten through grade five. We would serve as a west-bay location for their very successful, tried and true model that not only gives children competency but also gives them resilience in a difficult world. The program would be professionally run with a masters-level director and certified music/art teachers – although there will be ways for Edgewood members to participate as volunteers. If we decide to move ahead, we will need to make our education building usable at a cost to us, but eventually we will recoup these funds in rent. This is one of the ways we can move forward to stabilize Edgewood Church financially and position us in the neighborhood in a missional way. Remember us in your prayers!

The first meeting of the ECC book group was a success and we are now on to our second book; *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 21st and everyone is welcome to join us!



Be On the Lookout Wanted

Your Empty Printer Cartridges

1. Most of us have inkjet printers at home or work. Next time you have an empty cartridge, don't throw it away.
2. Just put it in a Ziploc bag or the original cartridge box and bring it to ECC
3. We have a special recycle box in the narthex and in the office. You could even drop it off in the mail slot at the office.

Benefits to Edgewood Church:

We will be paid up to \$4.00 for each cartridge with a print head. Prompt cash payment for Edgewood Church when a filled box is sent

Benefits to our Community:

Reduce pollution, cartridge do not decompose for 1,000 years.
Save energy, empty ones can be remanufactured and reused.
No buying, no selling, no burden to anyone.

Which cartridges:

Cartridges with a print head are qualified for payment. That includes most of **Hewlett Packard, Lexmark, Compaq, Canon, Dell, Brother and Apple.**
Cartridges without a print head do not qualify for payment.

If you cannot tell the difference, bring it in anyways.

Everybody helps. We can make a difference:

You can also get empties from friends, neighbors, and small businesses.
On average, a person uses 2 cartridges a year. The potential is huge.



- 12/02 Lynda Conklin
- 12/07 Adam Bessette
- 12/08 Kathy Schnabel
- 12/11 David Scott
- 12/16 Elizabeth Laurenson
- 12/19 Carol Carson
- 12/20 Paul Giroux
- 12/27 Jim Edwards
- 12/28 Joyce McGee
- 12/29 Emily Wroe

Our Church Kids

- 12/09 Marcus Almada
- 12/16 Evelyn David
- 12/16 Julia David
- 12/20 Ethan Pierce
- 12/25 Jay Idskou

Happy Anniversary

- 12/12 Nancy & Alan Chamberlin
- 12/28 Margaret & ID Kuti

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2009</h1>						
		1 10am AI-Anon 7pm AA	2 7pm AA	3 10am AI-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm AI-Anon	4 6pm Girl Scouts	5
6 2 nd Sunday of Advent 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	7	8 10am AI-Anon 7pm AA	9 7pm AA 7pm Deacons Meeting	10 10am AI-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm AI-Anon	11	12
13 3 rd Sunday of Advent 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 1pm Caroling	14	15 10am AI-Anon 7pm AA	16 7pm AA	17 10am AI-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm AI-Anon	18 6pm Girl Scouts	19
20 4 th Sunday of Advent 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Cooke Walk	21	22 10am AI-Anon 7pm AA	23 7pm AA	24 Christmas Eve Service at 6pm	25 Merry Christmas	26
27 1 st Sunday after Christmas 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	28	29 10am AI-Anon 7pm AA	30 7pm AA	31 10am AI-Anon 7pm AI-Anon		