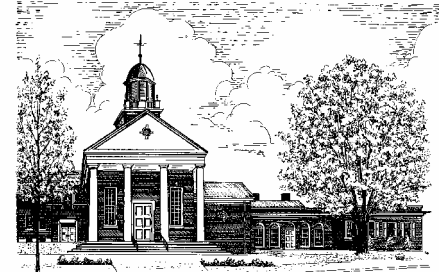


Edgewood Congregational Church
1788 Broad Street
Cranston, RI 02905

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

The Edgewood Family Center Will Add Value to Neighborhood

*The pace of scientific research into music making has never been greater.
New data about music's relationship to brainpower, wellness and other phenomena
is changing the way we perceive our oldest art form,...*
-Bradley Hospital Dept. of Behavioral Education

Did you know that studies have found significant correlations between the number of years of instrumental music instruction and academic achievement in math, science and language arts? That music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school? That music-making improves test scores, regardless of socioeconomic background? That music students score higher on SATs? That college-age musicians are emotionally healthier than their non-musician counterparts? Studies also show that students involved in the arts have higher academic achievement than other students do.

As we prepare our education building to host an *After School with the Arts* program in September, we are doing more than turning our empty building into a resource for the community and bringing in a little extra income for the church. We are preparing to add valuable programming for members of the church and the community. Our Edgewood Family Center, in cooperation with our sister church in Riverside, will offer after-school care for grades K through 5 and music and art lessons, weekdays beginning in September.

And we are well on our way! On the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, ServeRI brought in 50 AmeriCorps volunteers who were joined by Edgewood members of all ages; together they cleaned and sanded and scraped and painted walls on the first floor of the education building and filled a dumpster with ceiling tiles and insulation from the basement. In preparation for that day, Alan Chamberlin was able to get the gas heater on the roof operational and a new water heater installed. Material contributions came from Home Depot, Lowe's, Alan Shawn Feinstein, Rebuilding Together Providence, and church members. Perhaps you saw the pictures and Don Fowler's article in the *Warwick Beacon* and *Cranston Herald* – good resources as we write grant proposals!

With grateful thanks and blessings,
Reverend Betsy

Staff at Edgewood Congregational Church

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

Hearts Turned Toward Haiti

Our Rhode Island Conference, United Church of Christ, has had a special relationship with churches in Haiti for 20 years, a partnership fostered by our former Conference Minister Rev. Daehler Hayes. Hundreds of local church members from our Conference have traveled to Haiti and seen the fully-staffed medical clinic, a regional school, and the solidarity among diverse Christians that our partnership has helped create. We lost friends in the devastating earthquake, and many of those who did survive, lost their homes and all their possessions.

Suzanne Swanson of the Newman Congregational Church, Chair of our Haiti Task Force, wrote last week, *The spirit of the Haitian people is so strong. I initially wept as the calls slowly came in from people to let me know they were okay. Carter (one of our translators) told me to be strong as we would all get through this one! It has been interesting and inspirational to learn how quickly some of the people in the community have pulled together to share resources for the common good.*

Here are several ways that we can respond:

1. Pray daily for the people of Haiti, that they may know we hold them in our hearts and prayers.
2. Send money for food, water, and medicine. Because our Haiti Task Force knows people “on the ground,” we can get supplies to those with whom we have worked in the past. Offerings for the Haiti Disaster Relief received at Edgewood will be sent to the Conference office.
3. Contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing mission offering. Although we ordinarily would wait until March to receive this offering, we have put the envelopes out in the sanctuary now. Our national office already has sent \$25,000 in OGHS funds.
4. Make Hygiene Kits which will go to Haiti through Church World Service. (*See instructions.*)

In his letter to our churches last week, the Rev. Campbell Lovett of the Newman Church reflected that perhaps our partnership was created “for such a time as this.” He wrote, “Clinics and schools have been the foundations of our work in Haiti, so supporting immediate medical care is crucial; and helping children is of vital importance. Supporting any efforts that get our students gathered for education soon would show some semblance of ‘normal’ and would be psychologically beneficial. It will also remind our mission partners that we are involved for the long-term.”

And don’t forget to pray!

Transition Team Working on Structure

The Transition Team turned over a draft of the Profile to the Search Committee on January 24 and will now turn its attention to reviewing our organizational structure, revising Bylaws, and developing Personnel Policies to bring to the congregation. For example, shall we go back to having Trustees as well as Deacons? Do we need all the committees that are called for in the present Bylaws – or is there a better way to get the work done? Are there types of work that we didn’t need when the previous Bylaws were written years ago, i.e., a website team? These are important pieces to have in place when we call a new settled minister. Your suggestions are welcome. Speak to Carol Cornell, Judy Dewey, Jack Falk, Don Fowler, Fred Fullerton, Dave Stachkunas, or Betsy Garland.

Membership Development Team Formed

Kent Reynolds and Carol Carson have volunteered to spearhead a Membership Development effort to reach out to former members and the larger community. While they plan “to sing the praises” of Edgewood Congregational Church, *e.g.*, our friendliness and openness, they cannot do this alone. Churches grow when members reach out to their families, neighbors, and friends and invite them to come to worship and participate in the life of the congregation. This will need to be an all-church effort. We will be counting on *you!* Stand by for more information, and step up to help!

Search Committee Installed

Our newly elected Search Committee will be installed during our worship service on Sunday, January 31, just prior to our Annual Meeting. The members 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. Please remember them in prayer during this pivotal time in the life of Edgewood Church.

Knitters to Meet on February 5

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has begun in cooperation with Chaplain Carol Huff of the Scandinavian Home. Members of the ministry who are available during the day will meet monthly, with the next meeting on Friday, February 5, at 10:45, in the chapel, (followed by lunch in the dining room for those who are interested). You don’t know how to knit? You may join to learn how, and those who are working during the day, can knit at home. So far, three Edgewood members are participating – Judy Dewey, Jametta Alston, and Betty True. For more information or directions on how to make the shawls and lap robes, speak to Rev. Betsy or call Chaplain Carol at 461-1433.

Spelling Bee Benefit for SPNM

Edgewood Church will be well represented by this year's team of three – Laura Webb, Grace Webb, and Mabel Trahan – on Saturday, January 30, 1:30 – 4 p.m., at Calvary Baptist Church, 747 Broad Street, Providence. They will compete with teams from other churches across Rhode Island and, at the same time, benefit South Providence Neighborhood Ministries' work on the South Side of Providence. Everyone is invited to come and cheer on our team. Three years ago, Beneficent won, and last year Kingston Congregational won – and we came in second. Whether we win or lose its fun to be there. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Refreshments are available.

Series of Healing Services Being Planned for March

The Cranston Clergy Association is proposing that area churches offer a healing service during the month of March. They would be offered on different days and times to accommodate the needs of those who might wish to participate. Although they would have common elements, each service would be particular to the congregation preparing them. Once the schedule is set, we will advertise them widely as a series; people may choose to attend one or two – or all of them, as they wish. We will participate, as will Woodridge Congregational Church. If you would like to be on a team to help design and support our service, speak to Rev. Betsy.

Babysitter Available

Grace C. Webb, 12 years old, a 7th grade honor role student at St. Mary Academy Bay-View has been attending church at Edgewood long before her birth. She has really enjoys working here at Edgewood in the nursery with the 3 - 6 year olds and helping out in any other way she can. She LOVES children and is available to babysit your children. Having completed babysitting classes, she also holds certifications in first aid and CPR.

Please call GRACE @ 781-9401



Planning Meeting

Please join our Board of Deacons on Sunday, February 21st 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

Make a Hygiene Kit for Haiti

In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six Band-Aids

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste that has an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

Hygiene Kit value: \$10

Processing/Shipping Cost \$2 per Kit



Jennifer Smith is one of our “unofficial” photographers and does a wonderful job updating and maintaining the Church Family Bulletin Board located downstairs in Lower Sawyer. Is your photo there yet? Do you need to have yours updated? Please contact Jen at 941-7524 and she will be happy to make this happen.

Listening for the Call to Hospitality

The Rhode Island State Council of Churches invites us to take part in Lenten Devotions and a Study of Immigration using the book, *Christians at the Border*, written by M. Daniel Carroll R. and the study guide, *Strangers in the Land*, from the editors of *Sojourners* magazine. One commentator writes, “Carroll’s grasp of the problems presented by immigration—political, economic, and familial—is balanced, restrained, and profound. Protestants and Catholics of all political leanings need to pay attention to this book.” Rev. Betsy would be willing to lead the study at a time most convenient for participants, e.g., Monday or Wednesday evenings or on the weekend.

To get a sense of the subject matter, plan to attend the Service for Christian Unity at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 31, at 3 p.m., where the author will be speaking.



February 7 is Souper Bowl Sunday at Edgewood. This is an opportunity to turn your spare change into food for people who rely on the pantry at the Church of the Transfiguration. Some of our younger members will have BIG soup pots for your spare change as you leave the service.

As we continue to be aware of the needs in our neighborhood and the world, especially the survivors in Haiti, any donation that you would like to earmark for a specific collection can be done by marking your check "Haiti" or "Food Pantry". Winter is not over and people need food, fuel and even simple necessities like toiletries here and in the disaster area.

The One Great Hour of Sharing mission is slated for March. Those donations go all over the world - and again - to Haiti. Please keep that collection in mind as well. The needs are great. We can easily be overwhelmed. Do what you can and know that whatever you can do helps.

TRANSFORMING POSSIBILITY IN TO REALITY

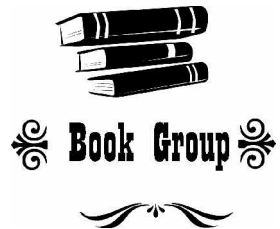
So, it wasn't PPAC or even the MET, instead the concert was held in the sanctuary at the Riverside Congregational Church. At this point, the pianists, guitarists, actors, marshal artists and members of the ensemble deserve, but do not need an introduction. They are the students of the Riverside Family Center - After School with the Arts program.

As I sat in awe, I allowed myself to indulge in a fantasy. NO, a reality about our little church that CAN! Edgewood Congregational Church's partnership with mentor and big brother Riverside Congregational Church has solidified the reality that we will bring music and arts to the new Edgewood Family Center - After School with the Arts.

There is much to do to bring a program of this caliber to our community, and we're off to a great start. I look ahead with optimistic enthusiasm when concerts take place in OUR sanctuary, and OUR children are the performers; when the Broad Street Band, a.k.a. ensemble produces their first CD just as Riverside's Oak Street Band has.

After leaving the concert on a crisp January afternoon, I know that the Edgewood Family Center - After School with the Arts Program is a REALITY. I challenge each and everyone of you; young, and young at heart to bring forth your gifts to work toward this reality - Edgewood's reality - OUR reality and together as we plant the seeds, the music will grow!

Laura Mills Webb



Our next meeting for the book group will be Monday, February 15th at 7pm in the Smith Room. Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Monday of each month.

The book to be discussed on the 15th is The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri. There are many copies available thru the Cranston Public Library system, although you will have to request them to be sent from other libraries in RI.

At this meeting we will also announce the next selection. Each member will have a chance to choose a book. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Levesque at 615-3080.



As part of our efforts to balance the budget for 2010, we have decided to relinquish the cleaning company of their duties here at the church and take on the role ourselves. This will result in a cost savings of \$5,200 per year. Already members have started to pitch in and started tackling some of the much needed cleaning but we'll need your help too! A sign up sheet will be made available on Sunday, January 31st. We are looking for volunteers to come just once a month (or more if you have the energyJ). A checklist and all the supplies will be provided, you provide the labor. If you have any questions please contact Wendy at the office.



February 1 Louise Hintze
 February 2 Glory Teague
 February 2 Alex Wroe
 February 10 John McGee
 February 12 Matthew Stone
 February 14 Joyce Falk
 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 13 Sheila & Richard Maguire

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2010</h1>						
	1 Senior High Youth Group 6pm	2 10am Al-Anon 7pm AA	3 7pm AA	4 10am Al-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 6pm EGSL 7pm Al-Anon	5 10:45am Prayer Shawl Meeting at Scandinavian Home	6 10am EGSL
7 5 th Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	8 Senior High Youth Group 6pm	9 10am Al-Anon 7pm AA	10 7pm AA	11 10am Al-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Al-Anon	12	13
14 Last Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	15 Book Group 7pm Senior High Youth Group 6pm	16 10am Al-Anon 7pm AA	17 7pm AA Ash Wednesday	18 10am Al-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Al-Anon	19	20
21 1 st Sunday in Lent 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Planning Meeting	22 Senior High Youth Group 6pm	23 10am Al-Anon 7pm AA	24 7pm AA	25 10am Al-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Al-Anon	26	27
28 2 nd Sunday in Lent 10am Worship 11am Fellowship						