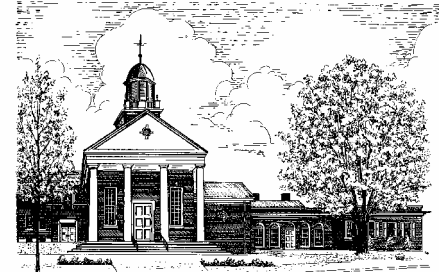


**Edgewood Congregational Church**  
**1788 Broad Street**  
**Cranston, RI 02905**

**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*

### **This Is a Day of New Beginnings**

Noted hymn writer Brian Wren, in his book *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship*, shares a new hymn which seems particularly appropriate for us this January – and for every church in a time of transition:

This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember, and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference  
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past, and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do..  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.

With these words resonating in our hearts and minds, we begin the New Year together. We have much to do and accomplish in the months ahead. Look inside for all the news – and see where you would like to help. Together we can do all things through Christ who goes before us....

Blessings for the New Year, *Reverend Betsy*

**JANUARY**

*Staff at Edgewood Congregational Church*

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Effective Sunday, January 3, 2010, we will be making the change from fresh flower arrangements to artificial. Four seasonal bouquets (2 each) are in the process of being purchased. Donations to cover the cost are being solicited and should you care to contribute, please indicate on your check or a note with cash "Altar Flower Donation".

We will continue to honor or memorialize altar dedications. However, the weekly cost will be \$20.00 instead of \$30.00. With fresh flowers the full \$30.00 went to the florist. Under the new format the \$20.00 weekly x 50 weeks in the year will result in \$1,000 of income to the church.

The other two weeks in the church year, Easter and Christmas, will not change. Through the generosity of Pat Fiske you will still be able to order Easter plants and at Christmas, poinsettias. The total amount of supporting these two special times of the church year will be a source of additional revenue to the church.

Please continue to support these programs by your dedications to family and friends. If you have any questions, please contact Jack or Joyce Falk at 463-8336.



### *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.*

The **117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** of Edgewood Congregational Church will be held following the worship service in Lower Sawyer Hall on **Sunday, January 31st**. Reports from the minister, officers and deacons will be received as well as financial reports for the calendar year 2009 and the proposed budget for 2010 will be presented.

If you are responsible for the submission of a report, it would be appreciated that you have that report delivered to the church office no later than Sunday, January 17th. If it is necessary to cancel the meeting due to inclement weather, the meeting will be held on the next Sunday that a worship service is held.



## *January Volunteers*

### Coffee Hour

01/03 Open  
01/10 Jametta Alston  
01/17 Open  
01/24 Wendy Sullivan  
01/31 Open

### Scripture Reader

01/03 Patti Wohl  
01/10 Jametta Alston  
01/17 Betsy Garland  
01/24 Alan Birch  
01/31 John Rockwell

### Altar Flowers

Open  
Open  
Open  
Open  
Open

### Ushers

Open  
Jennifer Smith  
Open  
Alan Birch  
Christine & John Rockwell



### Book Group



Our next meeting for the book group will be Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Smith Room. Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Monday of each month.

The book to be discussed on the 18<sup>th</sup> is Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout. 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.

## ***Noteworthy News***

Our interim minister Betsy Aldrich Garland was honored for her service to the Rhode Island State Council of Churches on National Philanthropy Day on November 24. The annual event, which is sponsored by the Association of Fund Raising Professionals, invites organizations to recognize their outstanding members, and this year, 75 “Partners in Philanthropy” were recognized for their giving of themselves to better the lives of others. The Institute for the Study & Practice of Nonviolence received the “Outstanding Philanthropic Service Organization” for its work to lower violent crimes in the City of Providence, particularly among youth.

## ***Nominating Committee Preparing Slate***

At its December meeting, the Deacons appointed Carol Carson, Fred Fullerton, and Pat Kohler, with Rev. Betsy *ex officio*, to serve as a Nominating Committee for the 2010 church year. They have met and are preparing a slate of leaders and others who would like to serve on a committee or on a team in a particular work area, such as building and grounds, fellowship, membership development, and missions. Now is the time to speak to one of them about your interest in serving and where you would like to focus your volunteer time and talent. Everyone is needed!

## ***Search Committee to Meet January 12***

Our newly elected Search Committee will meet with Conference Minister Chuck Barnes on Tuesday evening, January 12, to learn more about the process and to begin to organize for the work ahead. 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.

## ***Transition Team Working on Structure***

Although our Search Committee is beginning its work, the Transition Team will continue to meet. On its “to do” list is finishing a draft of the Profile to hand over to the Search Committee for them to tweak and complete, reviewing our organizational structure and preparing to revise Bylaws to bring to the congregation, and developing Personnel Policies. All of these are important pieces to have in place when we call a new settled minister. The Transition Team’s work will free up the Search Committee to concentrate on screening profiles of potential candidates.

## ***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!*

## ***Workday for Education Building on January 18<sup>th</sup>***

Last month we reported that we were in conversation with our sister church in Riverside to bring an After School with the Arts Program, for children in kindergarten through grade five, to our empty education building. This program will not only provide after-school care for youngsters in the neighborhood but also provide music and art lessons to give them competency and resilience in the difficult world in which they are growing up. The program will 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. Rev. Betsy and ECC member Laura Webb already have met with Rev. Gene at Riverside Congregational Church and program director Jessica Clark, and another meeting is scheduled for the morning of January 7 at ECC to prepare us to write grant proposals to support this effort, including scholarships for families who cannot afford the modest tuition.

This month we also can report that Serve Rhode Island has agreed to partner with us to renovate the building to make it usable, not only for this after-school program (which is a separate non-profit corporation on which we will have representation), but also for wider use as a community center. Serve RI has the connections and the resources (think VISTA and AmeriCorps volunteers) to leverage the help we need to “get the job done” and to put this building into use. Already they are scheduling a general clean up afternoon for the Martin Luther King holiday on January 18<sup>th</sup>. (Church members are welcome and encouraged to come and help and meet these folks!)

So we are making progress as we move forward to stabilize Edgewood Church financially and position us in the neighborhood in a missional way. Keep praying!

## ***Reminder: Knitters to Meet January 8***

Chaplain Carol Huff of the Scandinavian Home has scheduled an organizing meeting for Friday, January 8, 10 – 11:30 a.m., at the Home, for those interested in being part of a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Those who knit or crochet will 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.

## ***Carolers Greatly Appreciated***

We had a great turnout for Christmas Caroling and “made the day” for residents at the Scandinavian Home as well as for those not too mobile at home. Tom and Sandy Ey wrote, “We would like to thank you for coming to carol and visit our mom, Betty Rasmussen; just to see her smile was so wonderful. Thank you for taking time out of your busy day to go around giving joy to so many people. Edgewood Church is a family.” We also left adorable paper carolers, hand-made by Megan and Merry Scarborough, with each family we visited.

## ***Pledge Update***

As of December 29<sup>th</sup>, we have received 58 pledges (78 members) totaling \$89,520. Thanks to the members who have pledged and a request to those who have not yet responded. We need to hear from you in the form of a pledge of financial support for the year 2010. A search committee has been formed and will begin meeting shortly after the New Year to begin in the search for a new pastor for our church. It would be beneficial to the committee to be able to present a positive financial picture as they begin the interview process. We ask that you prayerfully consider your church at this time of transition. Pledge cards can be obtained through the church office (461-1344) or by calling Jack Falk at 463-8336.

## ***2010 Church Envelopes***

The original date for distribution of envelopes for 2010 had been scheduled for Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Needless to say we did not have church that day due to the snow storm. A good number of envelopes were distributed on Christmas Eve and Sunday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, but a number still remain at the church. Please make every effort to personally pick up your envelopes. If you are unable to do so, please contact the church office (461-1344) or call Jack Falk at 463-8336 and they will either be mailed or delivered to you.

## Spelling



Members of Edgewood Church will once again be participating in an adult Spelling Bee Fundraiser to benefit the ministry at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries on Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 1:30 to 4:00pm at Calvary Baptist Church. Supporters of the team are urged to attend and cheer them on for a minimal \$5 admission fee. Barbara Morse Silva, from Channel 10, will be the Master of Ceremonies. Refreshments will be available for sale after the Bee at 4:00pm. It promises to be a fun-filled, exciting afternoon.

Last Years Team came in second. Out of 16 teams from churches across Rhode Island, they were one of only two teams left standing at the end.

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries located at Calvary Baptist Church on Broad Street provides qualifying South Providence families and individuals with two weekly food programs, financial assistance for rent and utility bills, toiletry needs, layettes for expecting mothers, case management, advocacy and referrals to community agencies.

This program is the second largest food distribution program in the Providence area. SPM also has a wonderful daily after-school program for over 50 kids (elementary through high school) from the area which keeps them off the streets, provides food snacks and dinner daily, mentors the kids in their school work, provides a framework of justice and a sense of responsibility tempered with love by the adult staff. It is a program that is greatly needed, welcomed by parents, and constantly in need of money just to continue as it now is.



The January mission emphasis will be to support the food pantry housed at the Church of the Transfiguration as well as the Ecumenical Emergency Energy Fund. Donations to these causes can be given by using your January mission envelope found in your offering envelope box. Thanks so much for helping the hungry and cold in our community.

Treasurer's Report  
January 1 – November 30, 2009

**Income**

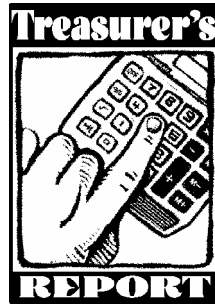
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledges	\$84,844.50	\$95,483.63
Plate	3,934.69	6,416.63
Other Income	<u>72,214.67</u>	<u>52,176.56</u>
Total	\$160,993.86	\$154,076.82

**Expenses**

	141,321.60	153,489.66
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**Net Income**

19,672.26



**Stewardship Message  
Resolution**

*You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased. Luke 15:22*

January is the month of new beginnings and resolutions: going on that diet or starting a new exercise program. This is a month of possibility and promise but, sadly, the coming of February often signals a weakening of resolve and good intentions not quite realized.

On the second Sunday of January in the church year, we remember Jesus' Baptism by John. In many congregations, this becomes the opportunity for a liturgical remembrance of our own baptisms, perhaps even a renewal of baptism ceremony in worship that Sunday. For each of us, no matter how old we were when we came to the Font, that moment when the birthing and cleansing water touched us meant a new beginning and new promises, either ones we made or those made on our behalf. Those vows probably included words like those in the current UCC Baptismal order: a promise "to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world."

As we move through the days and years following that first trip to the waters of life, sometimes our resolve to live into those promises fades. It's good to remember these vows at the start of this New Year and consider anew how we are called into faithful membership, and how our talents and resources might be used by God to celebrate Christ's presence and further Christ's mission in all the world in 2010!

*Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.*



**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.



January 2 Andrew Coulam  
 January 4 Robert Idskou  
 January 4 Kenneth Idskou  
 January 5 Alan Birch  
 January 6 Jillian Proulx  
 January 15 Louise Harrington  
 January 23 Brandon Idskou  
 January 24 Vernon Goff  
 January 27 Laura Pelkey  
 January 28 Hope King  
 January 28 Cheryl Harkins  
 January 29 David Stachkunas  
 January 31 Christy Morris

**Happy Birthday Kids!**

January 19 Samantha Ronzio

**Happy Anniversary**

January 19 Robert & Cheryl Harkins  
 January 21 Bill & Sandra Wiesendanger

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2010</h1>					1 <b>Happy New Year!</b>	2
3 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	4	5 10am Al-Anon 7pm AA	6 <b>Epiphany</b> 7pm AA	7 10am Al-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Al-Anon	8 <b>10am Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting at Scandinavian Home</b>	9
10 Baptism of Christ 10am Worship 11am Fellowship <b>5:30pm Youth Group Meeting</b>	11	12 10am Al-Anon <b>7pm Search Committee Meets</b> 7pm AA	13 <b>7pm Deacons Meeting</b> 7pm AA	14 10am Al-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Al-Anon	15	16
17 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	18 <b>Education Building Cleanup</b> <b>7pm Book Group Meeting</b>	19 10am Al-Anon 7pm AA	20 7pm AA	21 10am Al-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Al-Anon	22	23
24 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	25	26 10am Al-Anon 7pm AA	27 7pm AA	28 10am Al-Anon 6pm Cub Scouts 6pm EGSL 7pm Al-Anon	29	30 10am EGSL <b>1:30pm Spelling Bee at SPM</b>
31 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship 11am Fellowship & <b>Annual Meeting</b>						