



## EDWARDS CHURCH

An Open and Affirming Congregation of  
The United Church of Christ

39 Edwards Street

Framingham, MA 01701

Telephone: 508 877-2050 508-877-0300

Fax: 508 877-2050 (call first)

E-Mail: [office@edwardschurch.org](mailto:office@edwardschurch.org)

Web site: [www.edwardschurch.org](http://www.edwardschurch.org)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Deborah Clark

Student Pastor: Terry Gerrish

Pastor Emerita: Rev. Dr. Margaret Crockett

Ministers: All the People of Edwards Church

### THE STEEPLE

February 2012

No. 2

Dear friends,

On a chilly January Sunday, a group of deacons met for lunch at Zeta's (the new Georgio's) to plan our Lenten emphasis. Building on our idea for a Center for Peace and Healing, we decided to focus our Lenten season on healing.

We agreed there are many aspects of healing to explore. What does healing really mean, and how is it different from cure? When we pray for healing for ourselves, our loved ones, and our world, what are we doing?

We talked about letting go as an important component of healing. Opening ourselves to healing may require letting go of attachment to our pain, letting go of expectations of perfection, or letting go of old identities. Forgiveness, someone suggested, is a crucial, and complicated, aspect of healing.

We also reflected on healing as restoring connection: reclaiming the connection between mind, body, and spirit; returning to "right relationship" with God and our neighbors; and recognizing that we are part of the web of nature. Finally, we expressed our interest in learning about healing in other faith traditions.

There are abundant themes and ideas for reflection during this season of Lent. We will reflect in our worship services, and also through a Lenten Daily Devotional, which will be available both as a booklet and on-line. We are hoping to organize an informal interfaith conversation on faith and healing.

Beyond these rich opportunities to reflect on healing, we also want to offer opportunities to

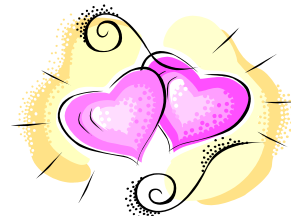
experience healing. Our Day of Spirit, scheduled for March 24, will have a special emphasis on healing and wholeness. On Sunday, March 25, our worship will include a healing service, with an invitation to offer and receive healing prayers.

Each of us has our own stories of healing--of the struggle to define what it means for us, of learning to claim ourselves as whole people, of witnessing healing in someone we love. Some of the stories may be dramatic; many of them are about slow, gradual processes. As part of our Lenten emphasis, we hope to draw upon the wisdom of the entire congregation.

Do you have a story of healing you would be willing to share with the congregation? We invite you to offer it in one of two forms. If you would be willing to share it on a Sunday morning, we would love for you to offer a short "testimony of healing." We are also looking for stories to include in our daily devotional. If you don't consider yourself a writer, don't worry; just tell it to us and one of the committee members will write it up for you. If you have a story to share, please speak with one of our Lenten Planning Team members: Sandy Thompson, Sarah MacLennan, Rob DeLossa, Terry Gerrish, or me.

I look forward to rich reflections and opportunities for healing in Lent.

Peace,  
Debbie



## **February Worship**

### **FEBRUARY 5 HOLY COMMUNION**

Psalm 47; Philippians 4:4-9

“The Opposite of Sin”

### **FEBRUARY 12**

“Sounds of the Earth”

### **FEBRUARY 19 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY**

2 Kings 5:1-14; Mark 9:2-9

“A Disciple’s Vision”

### **FEBRUARY 22 ASH WEDNESDAY, 7 P.M.**

Join us for a simple, reflective service as we prepare for a Lenten emphasis on healing.

### **FEBRUARY 26 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

“What is Healing Anyway?”

## **BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES WITH THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

The Tuesday morning and Wednesday night Bible Study groups are continuing our study of the gospel according to John. The Tuesday group will be on February 7 and 21 at 10 a.m. The Wednesday group will meet on February 8 and February 29 at 6:30 p.m. for soup (study will begin at 7 pm). Note: The Wednesday group will meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday due to Ash Wednesday.

## **JURME SPONSORSHIP**

*February*

John and Norma Hart

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of Edwards Church will be held on Sunday, February 12, at 11:30 a.m., in the Education Building Hall. We will receive reports from Boards and Committees, and we will vote on the 2012 Budget and Nominating Report. When the official business is complete, the newly forming Working Group on the Center for Peace will lead us in discussion about that new idea.

Please bring a favorite bread, fruit, or cheese to share (already sliced for “finger food”).

Child care will be provided.

## **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

The Book Discussion group will be meeting Monday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m., to discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot. We will meet in Jonathan House. Everyone is invited to attend.



## **STEEPLE INFORMATION**

Steeple articles are due by 9 am on Wednesday, February 15th. You can send your articles by mail, or e-mail it to [office@edwardschurch.org](mailto:office@edwardschurch.org).

The Steeple will be mailed on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 am. If you would like to help, please contact Jeannette Loughman, chair of the Publicity Committee.

## **WOMEN’S GROUP**

The Women’s Group will meet on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Education Building Hall. Karen Dolliver will be showing pictures from her trip to Wales. Bring a friend and a dish to share for a potluck and fellowship.

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The National Youth Event, held every four years, provides an opportunity for over 3000 youth (ages 13 to 18) from throughout the country to gather for worship, workshops, faith, fun and fellowship. It is planned by the collaborative efforts of national staff and the N YE Planning Committee comprised of a diverse group of UCC youth and young adults. The event this year will take place at Purdue University in Indiana July 10-13. The registration fee and transportation costs are about \$600 per youth. One of the ways our young people will be supported to attend this event will be by making and serving meals for a Massachusetts Conference Event that will take place February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to members of the Board of Christian Education who will assist with this fundraiser! We'll keep everyone posted about who will be attending this summer experience. It promises to be a great experience!

On Sundays February 5th and 12th our young people will create Valentines for shut in members of our church family. Valentine was a priest or bishop who was imprisoned in Rome by Emperor Claudius. While in prison, Valentine ministered to both prisoners and guards. While the religious significance of this day has given way to chocolate and flowers we want to encourage our young people to reach out to our members who are homebound.

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on February 22nd this year with 40 days of Lent following. Lent is part of the rich history of the Christian church, dating back to the third century CE. In fact, our observance of Lent even pre-dates the observance of Christmas. At first the Lenten observance was only a 40-hour fast for catechumens before their baptisms on Easter, to coincide with the belief that Jesus spent 40 hours in the tomb. Over the years, it was expanded to include all the faithful and was lengthened in duration. The church finally settled on a 40-day Lenten fast, beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding the Saturday before Easter. (Sundays are not included in the count, as each Sunday is a little Easter, a weekly reminder of the Resurrection.)

The number 40 was chosen for its significance in the Bible-most notably because Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days – but also recalling the 40 days and nights of rain the flood story, the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, the 40 days

Moses spent fasting on the mountain before he received the Law, and the 40-day journey of Elijah to Mount Horeb.

Today, few members of Edwards Church observe a Lenten fast, using this important season instead as a period for Bible study and prayer. Often, members will give up something for Lent or take on a spiritual discipline or mission emphasis. This Lent we once again will be supporting Heifer Project International by raising funds for an animal to be sent to a family in another part of the world. We will be making milk shakes for your generous donation during the fellowship hour! The middler church school class will select the animal so be watching for this choice!

On Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> we'll serve pancakes for breakfast during church school as a late celebration of Shrove Tuesday. This celebration is also known as Pancake Day and is usually held the day prior to Ash Wednesday. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent.

The Adult Bible Study Class continues to meet at 9:00 AM each Sunday morning to read and reflect on the Bible passages from the lectionary. Please join us as you are able to prepare for worship, reading the scriptures that are usually reflected through Debbie's sermon and sharing. You are welcome each Sunday during Lent or as often as you are able to come.

Sue Dickerman

Director of Christian Education

## **QI-GONG CLASS**

Qi-gong continues throughout the month manipulating participants with spontaneous Yin-& Yang movements through 18 guided dreamscapes based on childhood game ideas. This set of movements entices participants to revisit childlike creativity with cyclical movements of water, moon and clouds. Classes continue on Saturdays in February and March at 8:30 a.m., in the Education Building hall.

No previous experience required. The cost is \$12 for each drop-in session. The instructor will once again be Hing-Lan Lo, Licensed Acupuncturist. For more information, answers to questions and registration: email [hinglanacupuncture@gmail.com](mailto:hinglanacupuncture@gmail.com)

For more information on our events...  
Check out the new calendar on the  
website!!

[www.edwardschurch.org](http://www.edwardschurch.org)

### **FROM OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR**

This month, I look forward to attending the Northeast Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Providence. I'll enjoy three days away from my day job, and spend time with people who do the same things I do, hopefully catching up with some old friends from school and past jobs. And, at the same time, I'll be serving as chaperone for the High School Honor Choir. The period leading into this event has been a very reflective one for me, as I remember fondly a few experiences from my teenage years, when I auditioned for district and all-state choirs. It was a very intimidating process, singing alone in front of a panel and then having to be adjudicated for my first time, but in both cases I was successful, and chosen to represent Hopkinton in these honor groups. I remember so well what it was like to attend my first rehearsal. From the first notes of the warm-up I was captivated by the size and quality of the choir. Well-balanced, full of energy, and more importantly, full of kids just like me; kids who may not have been the "coolest" in their respective schools, but who shared at least one passion, and who weren't afraid to sing out. What a thrill! I'm sure that "high" was pivotal in my life, pushing me to attend colleges where choral music was of the utmost importance. I remember feeling those same thoughts the first time I raised my arms to conduct an audition at Westminster Choir College, standing in front of the 80-voice sophomore choir. It's amazing how life leads us in different paths. In fact, I probably never would have auditioned if it weren't for my high school music teachers telling me I was good enough. Everything I am now has come from those moments, so brief they may never have had a chance to happen, were it not for courage and guidance. I look forward to the conference, and am very excited to be on the other side, watching as these students hear those glorious opening notes, which may be for them the same small step to a life-long love of music-making.

Thank you,  
Rick Seaholm



### **LITTLE CHURCH WOODEN BANKS**

I had the pleasure of meeting with David Eycleshymer in mid-January to learn the ins and outs of the Wooden Banks. It was clear from the details and humor in his stories that he loved every minute he spent being Wooden Banks Collector. Thank you, David. I know that we are all grateful for your service for the past decade!

For the month of January 2012, three families contributed \$36.50. We're off to a great start to the year! Thanks to all who participated.

Edwards Church started the Little Wooden Church Banks in 1958. Little Banks were purchased for use back then; the last set being made in 2003 by Phillip Dolliver. Most recently, folks have put a jar or glass on their supper table, and given thanks for their blessings with a prayer and a coin in the jar. On the last Sunday of the month, coins are put in a zip-lock bag with a name on a piece of paper (contributions are credited in the yearly tax records) and placed in the model of our church on a table in the Narthex. Money received is used for non-budgeted or unexpected expenses, as voted by the Church Council.

If you haven't participated in the past, consider starting a new tradition at your home. We started last year, and in a busy world it is nice to have the ritual of giving thanks together, and knowing our coins will have meaning and purpose here.

Respectfully,  
Kelly Lopez-Marcincavage  
Little Wooden Banks Committee

**EDWARDS CHURCH**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012**

**11:30 AM**

